



*Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department will develop, operate and maintain parks that enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, and preserve greenspace for future generations.*

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
**Johnson County Park Board of Directors**  
**Johnson County Park Department**  
Thursday, December 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board Vice President, Dannette Morgan. Penny Lee, Mike Weaver, and Jeri Thompson were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; John Young, Park Board Attorney; and Joe Hudson, Indiana Live Steamers.

**Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

**Penny Lee moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the November 7, 2024 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

Claims for December were presented for approval. **Mike Weaver moved and Jeri Thompson seconded to approve the December claims, as presented for \$161,859.90. Motion carried.**

**Vice President, Dannette Morgan, nominated Mike Weaver as Interim Secretary.**

**Legal Report:**

- John Young stated he spoke with Senator Walker about a bill for special immunity for the Gatling Gauntlet. John also spoke with State Representative Mayfield about a bill for the course. He is confident one or both of the bills will pass. If the bill passes, it would not guarantee insurance for the course but would make it much more likely.

**Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:**

- Events, sponsors, vendors, and grants for 2024 made \$44,628, this includes \$18,000 from the eclipse. Events in 2024 were \$29,283 higher than 2023 which was \$15,346. Tent camping on the eclipse weekend brought in \$1,498.
- Christy and Brad met with Allison Williams from Columbus Airport to discuss the Parks Annual Car Show. Allison reached out to Christy for advice on running their first car show.
- Christy mentioned some possible events for 2025, such as, renaissance faire, jousting show, Taiko drummers, circus, summer concert series and a winter wonderland at the Horse Park. There was a lot of discussion on future events at the Park.

**Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:**

- November had two horse shows. Central Indiana Ropers was the first show of the month followed by a barrel race event. The Central Ropers has used the Horse Park 4 times this year and this was their biggest event.
- The inside speakers of Baker Arena were going out during both of the shows in November. Brad had a tech come down to resolve the issue. Brad stated he will keep the Board informed on what will need to be done to the system.
- Brad has been working on the 2025 Horse Park schedule. There is currently 49 events scheduled with 25 contracts turned in. 2024 had 47 events.
- The horse park fence is scheduled to have 500 feet replaced next week by A Fence Security.



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- Brad gave all the Board members a spread sheet summarizing the 2024 Horse Park season. The information showed the growth of the Horse Park since 2021. The Horse Park invoices were \$31,975 higher than 2023 and since 2021 have increased by \$167,540. Stall night rentals were 924 higher than 2023 and have increased by 3,995 since 2021. Campsites rentals at the Horse Park has grown from 1,544 in 2021 to 3,006 in 2024.

#### **Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:**

- Kevin asked the Board to approve the Park being able to pay any remaining utilities that need to be paid before the next Board meeting in January. **Jeri Thompson moved and Mike Weaver seconded approving the Park to pay any remaining utilities out of the 2024 budget. Motion carried.**
- Kevin and Brad met with Representatives from JC Fiber and looked at all the possible locations that fiber would be ran to.
- The concrete that was left from the building demo in the maintenance shop has been processed. Denny Excavating did the work that was approved in November. The remaining crushed concrete will be used as a base for a gravel lot where the building used to stand.
- The installation for the playground expansion in the campground is scheduled for next week. Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> is the tentative start date.
- Indiana Live Steamers would like to have concrete poured in the shelter located by their shop. A licensed contractor would be doing the work. **Mike Weaver moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval for a licensed contractor to perform the concrete work at the Indiana Live Steamers Shelter. Motion carried.**
- In January the maintenance staff will be replacing the flooring in the Maples building and the Front Room. This project was approved earlier in the year by the Board and had to be postponed due to scheduling.
- Kevin and Brad met with a gentleman that is interested in utilizing the RC track. He discussed starting a new club to oversee the track and hold weekend events. The group would be willing to perform any work the track needed to get it back in shape. Kevin asked if this would be something the Board would be interested in. The group would be a new user group for the Park. The Board discussed and did want to hear more information on the group. Kevin said he would invite him to come to the January Board meeting to speak more about the group.
- Kevin presented to the Board the possible policy changes for 2025.
  - **Rental rooms will be available on Halloween**
  - **Room rentals will be from 9am to 9pm**
  - **Only Park patrons can use the dump station**
  - **All rentals will be required to pay a damage deposit for room rentals**
  - **No golf carts on trails except for golf cart specific trails**
  - **Credits will expire after 2 years**
  - **Converted campers will be allowed at the Superintendents' discretion****Mike Weaver moved and Jeri Thompson seconded to approve the policy changes for 2025. Motion Carried.**

#### **Presidents Report**

- N/A

#### **From the Floor and More:**

- **Jeri Thompson made a motion for the Park to send an arrangement for Mike Lists' funeral. Penny Lee seconded. Motion carried.**

**Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Jeri Thompson seconded. Motion carried.**

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Mike Weaver, Interim Secretary



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