



*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.*

---

REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
**Johnson County Park Board of Directors**  
**Johnson County Park Department**  
Thursday, August 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m by Park Board President, Michael List. Penny Lee, Mike Weaver, Dannette Morgan, Jeri Thompson and Gary Cooper were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; Hal Bossingham, Columbus Model Railroad; Dan Goins, Indiana Live Steamers and Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers. **Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

**Dannette Morgan moved and Gary Cooper seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the July 3, 2024 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

Claims for August were presented for approval. **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded to approve the August claims, as presented for \$43,907.67. Motion carried.**

**Legal Report:**

- N/A

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

- RecFest had a great turnout with over 30 vendors, \$400 in shirt sponsors and \$580 in shirt sales. Over 100 cars came to the cruise-in and \$137 was in the donation jar. The total cost for the event was \$8,400. The Park made \$3,827 from the event.
- This past weekend we held a game night at the campground. Everybody that attended had a good time.
- August 17<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Car Show. Christy invited all of the Board to attend if possible. Currently the event has a \$500 title sponsor, \$700 in t-shirt sponsors and \$500 in trophy sponsors.
- August 24<sup>th</sup> is the Movie in the Park event which will play Kung Fu Panda 4. Christy invited the Board to attend.
- Christy shared a screenshot of a message she received from a person at Festival Country. The message talked about how well the Park is doing and to keep up the good work.

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

- July had 6 events at the Horse Park. All of the shows had good turnouts and had good compliments for the Park.
- August has 6 events scheduled for the Horse Park. IEA Horse Trials was the first event of the month. This show uses multiple areas of the Horse Park and the Cross Country Course. Several people gave good compliments on how friendly the staff is and the quality of the grounds and facilities.
- Brad informed the Board that the Horse Park was \$23,036.50 ahead of where the Horse Park was at this time last year. The number should continue to grow since additional shows were booked this year.
- Farrier Fest took place in July. This was the first year for the event being hosted at Johnson County Park. The organizers were very pleased with the turnout and wanted to schedule the event at the Park in 2025.
- Brad informed the Board that the Amphitheater restrooms have been suffering from plumbing issues the last few years. After having a camera ran through the sewer, we realized they need to have the line replaced. Plumbing Solutions gave a quote of \$6,000 to replace approximately 150 feet of sewer line at 8 foot deep. This is the same company that did the same work for the Maples building and has done several repairs throughout the Park. Brad requested the Board's approval to have Plumbing Solutions make the repair.



*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.*

---

**Gary Cooper moved and Jeri Thompson seconded to allow Plumbing Solutions to make the appropriate repairs to the restrooms sewer line. Motion carried.**

**Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:**

- The construction on the new office should be starting soon. The current building is set to be torn down within 1 to 2 weeks and construction will start shortly after.
- We are on the agenda for the 8/12 Council meeting. We are transferring \$75,000 from 1178 equipment lease to building and land and also transferring \$20,000 from 1179 equipment lease to miscellaneous equipment. This is so we can move forward with purchasing a John Deere Utility Cart and move forward with the playground expansion at the campground. Once the transfer is approved we will send out the bid to at least 3 playground companies and work with them on cost and design.
- We received a quote from Koenig for a new John Deere Utility Cart. The cart is more heavy duty than anything we currently have and will come with a commercial grade sprayer which will be used primarily for weed control. The cost is \$17,657.58 and the Park has the funds to purchase it. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded the purchase of the new cart. Motion carried.**
- After receiving some feedback on low tree limbs in the campground we contacted Browns Tree Service. They will be coming out on August 13<sup>th</sup> to raise canopies on the campground trees. The cost will be \$1,500.
- We had a pre-bid meeting for the pickleball project at Independence Park last Thursday. Bids for the project will be opened at the August 26<sup>th</sup> Commissioners Meeting.
- Kevin was contacted by Jaila Phillips about getting permission to plant fruit trees in the Park for the public to utilize. Kevin recommended to allow the trees to be donated and for the Park staff to plant them. John Young recommended for Kevin to also check with Soil and Water.
- Kevin informed the Board that the Parks current master plan runs through 2025 and will need to be updated. Kevin stated he would be start looking into pricing and keep the Board informed. Penny Lee suggested increasing signage throughout the Park.
- The Board discussed in July about setting up a date for Board members to ride the Indiana Live Steamers train. After discussion the Board decided on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- Kevin welcomed Jeri Thompson as the new member of the Parks Board representing the Soil and Water Department.

**President's Report:**

- Nothing to Report

**From the Floor and More:**

- Peggy Racke requested for the signs at the Indiana Live Steamers to be updated to say May-October.
- Hal Bossingham asked if they could put new flooring in their utility room and asked If the Park could purchase new lights for their room. Kevin said the group could install the flooring and the lights would be dependent on the budget at the end of the year.

**Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:31 p.m. Gary Cooper seconded. Motion carried.**

---

Gary Cooper, Interim Secretary