



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
Wednesday, July 3, 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 and Gary Cooper were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; Dan Goins, Indiana Live Steamers. **Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the June 6, 2024 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Claims for July were presented for approval. **Mike Weaver moved and Penny Lee seconded to approve the July claims, as presented for \$61,501.65. Motion carried.**

Legal Report:

- N/A

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- June events went well. Wet-N-Wild had a great turn out. At Sparks in the Park there were around 2,000 people inside the Amphitheater. It was suggested that around 8,000 people were spread out throughout the Park. The event had several different food trucks, vendors, 2 breweries, 1 winery, and bounce houses. Meineke was a Sparkler Sponsor for \$250.
- JayKat Design gave \$100 to be a T-shirt sponsorship for RecFest.
- Christmas in July will be on Saturday the 13th. There will be cookie decorating, a golf cart parade and Santa will be in attendance.
- July 27th is the second annual RecFest. The event is free to the public. It will have a car cruise-in, a concert and several vendors.

Brad Wisner's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- June went well for the Horse Park. IEA was the first show of the month and was sold out on stalls. There was 5 other events in June. The last one was a new barrel show that had a lot of good comments and spoke about returning for the 2025 season.
- July has 7 events. The Indianapolis Charity Show as the first one this past weekend. In terms of stall rentals per night, bedding purchases, and the total invoice, it was the largest show the Horse Park has hosted in the last two decades. The show came in on the Monday following the new barrel show so the staff worked extremely hard to have everything cleaned and prepped. There was a total of 1,540 nights of stall rentals and 2,209 bags of shavings sold. The show does plan to come back in 2025.
- There is new event being held in the shelter area this month called Farrier Fest. It will be a 3 day event similar to the Antique Machinery Show. The event will host different farriers and vendors and host educational demonstrations on horse shoeing and forging. The organization running the event expects a large turnout with people attending from several different states.



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Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- Kevin and Christy went on June 14th to speak to a group of kids for the Autism Community Connection to discuss what the Park does and what the Park can offer.
- Kevin and Brad met with Penny and Greg Gerke on June 21st to discuss adding prairies to 6 different locations throughout the Park. Greg gave a cost of \$3,500 per acre for the company he works with to do the total install. The 6 locations is around 23.1 acres and would cost \$80,850. Kevin informed the Board they would continue to look into grants and other funding opportunities. Kevin confirmed with the Board about continuing to research pricing and funding options.
- Kevin and Christy met Ashley Allen with Fox 59/CBS 4 to discuss their Indy Now show. The Park can do either live segments or pre-recorded segments for \$2,000 per segment with a social media post. If the Park agrees to do 3 or more the cost would go down to \$1,750 per segment with a social media post. Kevin said they will probably do 3 or more and would continue to keep the Board updated.
- A student from Job Corps contacted the Park about parking his car at the Park starting next week for 3 months. Kevin spoke to John earlier in the week and his recommendation was not to allow it due to liability. Kevin said he would continue talking with John about it and get further clarification on any possible issues or liability.
- Duke Commercial was awarded the office/camp store project. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony on July 22nd at 1:30.
- The Park is moving forward with the pickle ball project at Independence Park. The project will go out to bid within a couple of months. After the final price comes in the Park will be able to look into other possible bond projects with the remaining funds.
- The County Highway Department informed the Park that they would be paving some streets in the Park this year. North Street and Harrison Street are two of the roads that should be paved.
- Kevin is on the August Council meeting to transfer \$75,000 in equipment lease to building and land. This is so the Park can move forward with adding to the playground in the campground. Kevin will also request to move \$20,000 in equipment lease to miscellaneous equipment to purchase some new golf carts and a new utility cart.
- Kevin went over the guidelines for the 2025 budget. The biggest ask will be for a new maintenance staff member. Kevin informed the Board that an additional staff member could be used now and will especially be needed with the Park continuing to grow. Kevin is also requesting an increase in contractual agreements so DOC can be used more. We currently are only able to afford them 3 days per week for 9 months. **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded the presented 2025 budget. Motion carried.**

President's Report:

- Nothing to Report

From the Floor and More:

- Dan Goins stated he would like to plan a day for the Board members and their families to ride on the Live Steamers. Kevin said he would add the discussion to the agenda for the August Board meeting.

Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:28 p.m. Gary Cooper seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Cooper, Interim Secretary