



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, March 6, 2025

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board President, Gary Cooper. Penny Lee, and Dan Cartwright were also in attendance. Dannette Morgan attended by phone. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; John Young, Park Board Attorney; Hal Bossingham, Columbus Model Railroad; and Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers.

Roll call was taken of those in attendance.

Dan Cartwright moved and Penny Lee seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.

Penny Lee moved and Dan Cartwright seconded that the February 6, 2024 minutes be approved as presented. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.

Claims for March were presented for approval. **Dan Cartwright moved and Penny Lee seconded to approve the March claims, as presented for \$42,723.16. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**

Legal Report:

- John informed the Board he spoke with Kevin about the Renaissance Fair and believes everything is good to go for the event.
- The legislative bill for the Gatling Gauntlet did not go through. The County Commissioners indicated to John that they are committed to getting the course opened and will be try again next year. The Board discussed the possibility of partnering with other counties to help get a bill passed that would give similar obstacle courses immunity.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- Bouncers-R-Us was approved by the County Commissioners to be used at Park events.
- Festival Country was approved by their Board to provide the Park \$24,300 for the new Deck the Stalls event. Christy is working on fliers and vendors for the event.
- On June 21-22 will be a Renaissance Fair at the Park. Christy has been working with the organization who is putting on the event. Once the group has sent in their flier, Christy will share the information with the Board.
- The Park has received \$950 in sponsorships for Park events.
- Christy and Kevin will be shooting the Parks third segment for Fox 59 on April 22nd. The show will air on April 24th.
- Christy is still continuing to pursue sponsorships and donations for the Park.

Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- Brad and Kevin attended a pre-construction meeting this week with Duke Commercial to discuss the new barns at the Horse Park. Construction is expected to begin the middle of this month. Brad will be working with the Duke to make sure scheduled horse shows are not affected by the construction.
- February had one event and March will have 3 events. The first event in March went well. Starting at the end of March the Horse Park will have one or more events every weekend until October. There is currently 51 shows with contracts in for the year.



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- Mission 22 is hosting an event at the Horse Park in September and will also have a 5k run. The organization requested permission to have a beer and wine vendor at the event. The Park allows this but does require Board approval. **Penny Lee moved and Dan Cartwright seconded to allow Mission 22 to have a beer and wine vendor at their event the weekend of September 12-14. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**
- Brad asked for the Board to approve allowing the Park to take a list of items to auction at the end of the month. **Dan Cartwright moved and Penny Lee seconded to liquidate the list equipment through public auction with Don Smock. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**

Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- The new office is getting final touches before staff can move in. Appliances have been installed and we received a shipment of supplies from Wilcor to sale in the camp store. The furniture for the building was also installed this week.
- Kevin and Brad will attend a pre-construction meeting on March 17th for the pickleball project at Independence Park. Construction is expected to start that same week.
- Kevin asked for Board approval to sign an agreement with Atterbury Job Corps. The agreement does not require anything from the Park but protects the Park from liability if Job Corp students work at the Park. John Young reviewed the document and did not see any issues. **Penny Lee moved and Dan Cartwright seconded the approval to move forward with the contract. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**
- The blacksmith group at the Park plans to start enclosing the porch on their building. This project was approved in 2024. The group would also like to extend a gravel drive near their building to help with parking. Kevin asked for the Board to approve this project and did not see any issues. **Dan Cartwright moved and Penny Lee seconded the approval of adding the gravel lane near the blacksmith building. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**
- Kevin and Brad met with Spotlight Strategies to discuss Park signage. Most of the main signs need replaced due to age and visibility of the signs. Kevin asked the Board for approval to purchase new signs once the quotes come in. **Dan Cartwright moved and Penny Lee seconded to allow the purchase of new Park signs and not to exceed \$10,000. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**
- Kevin informed the Board that the basketball goals at Independence Park need to be replaced and received a quote for \$13,539.18 to replace them. Dan Cartwright recommended getting more quotes before moving forward with the project. Kevin said he would keep the Board informed once he has more quotes.
- Every year the Board updates the Parks Trespass Resolution so that it includes the new camp hosts. **Dan Cartwright moved to update the Trespass Resolution to include Kevin Leonard, Brad Wiser, James Shields, Donna Shields, John Vaughn, and LouAnn Vaughn. Roll call was taken: Dan Cartwright – yes, Penny Lee – yes, Dannette Morgan – yes, Gary Cooper - yes. Motion carried.**
- Kevin and Brad have been conducting interviews the last several weeks and have hired three part-time employees and hired someone to fill the new full-time position.
- Kevin informed the Board that our maintenance staff is currently working on replacing the sign at the Indiana Live Steamers loading area.

Presidents Report

- Nothing to report.



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From the Floor and More:

- The Board discussed the Eagle Scout project at Independence Park. Kevin informed the Board that the benches would be placed on stone but no other details have been finalized and he would keep them informed as he gets more information.
- Peggy Racke asked if the Park could burn a small hillside near their tracks. Kevin and Brad said they would put that on the list and would be dependent upon weather.
- Hal Bossingham asked what would be done with the old office once the new one is complete and stated that Columbus Model Railroad is interested in it. Kevin said no decisions have been made yet and it will be discussed more once staff is in the new building.

Penny Lee moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:01 p.m. Dan Cartwright seconded. Motion carried.

Penny Lee, Secretary