



*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, March 5, 2026

- A.** The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board President, Dan Cartwright. Gary Cooper, Penny Lee, Scott Jamieson, and Jeri Thompson were also in attendance. Park staff in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wisner, Assistant Superintendent; and Christy Howe, Recreation Director; and John Young, Park Attorney.
- B. Roll call: Kevin Leonard took roll call of those in attendance.**
- C. Minutes: Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded that February 5, 2026 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**
- D. Other Business: From Floor**
- 1. User Groups:** Peggy Racke Presented the Board with a quote for an 20ft x 24ft shelter and asked for the Board to approve the drawing. **Jeri Thompson moved and Penny Lee seconded the approval of the rendering as presented. Motion carried.** The board discussed with Penny how to get proper signatures for necessary permits.
- E. Opening of Sealed Quotes for Independence Park Trail**
- 1.** All Star Paving quote was \$149,658. Smith Paving and Excavating was \$124,950.
  - 2.** Dan Cartwright stated the quotes would be reviewed and awarded to the lowest price. Dan asked John Young to review the documents.
- F. Financial Report: Kevin Leonard, Scott Jamieson, and Dan Cartwright**
- 1. Claims:** Kevin discussed the Claims with the Board. **Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried.**
  - 2. Collections Report:** Kevin went over the Report of Collections and explained that February is typically one of the lower months.
  - 3. Year to Date vs Budget:** Kevin discussed the cash-balance with the Board. Kevin discussed what the options are if the Parks Equipment Repair line gets too low.
  - 4. Other Business:** Dan asked Kevin what all was included in the \$11,000 spent out of Building and Land. Kevin said he would email specifics to the Board.
- G. Campground Report: Kevin Leonard and Jeri Thompson**
- 1. Occupancy:** Kevin went over occupancy in the Campground in the previous month.
  - 2. Reservations:** 32 campsites in February.
  - 3. Revenue and Expenditures:** \$856 in revenue for February.
  - 4. Needs/Issues:** Kevin said the full hook-up site road expansion should begin soon. Jeri stated the Park Camp Store should be open for more hours during the weekend. The board discussed this and asked Kevin to update the Board on changes to the store hours for the next Board meeting.
- H. Hoosier Horse Park: Kevin Leonard, Brad Wisner and Gary Cooper**
- 1. Schedule of Events:** The first show is this weekend, it is the Central Indiana Little Ropers Association.
  - 2. New Events:** The Outlaws Drill Team, and Hendricks County Horseman Club have both committed to showing at the Horse Park this year.
  - 3. Revenue and Expenditures:** Nothing to report.
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4. **Needs/Issues:** Brad informed the Board that the Park approved Sexson Mechanical to install two submeters for at the Horse Park. This will help reduce the sewer cost at the Horse Park.
5. **Other Business:** The fans were installed in Baker Arena this week. Brad informed the Board that \$9,500 in donations has been committed toward the Park purchasing a Aggravator for the Cross-Country Course.

**I. Independence Park: Kevin Leonard and Penny Lee**

1. **Planned Events:** Nothing to Report.
2. **Improvement:** Kevin informed the Board that signs, with QR codes to promote Johnson County Park, are in and will be installed soon. The Board discussed other signs that may be necessary, such as signs for the west fence.
3. **Reservations:** Nothing to report.
4. **Needs/Issus:** Dan discussed that around \$250,000 is being spent to improve Independence Park and the Park should have a re-dedication ceremony for the Park. Penny Lee recommended bringing groups in to honor the accessibility of the Park for people with special needs. The Board had lots of discussion about the ceremony.

**J. Programs: Christy Howe and Jeri Thompson**

1. April 18<sup>th</sup> is the Scrambled Eggs event. 2025 had around 125 people attend. So far, 27 companies have committed to donating for the event.
2. Christy discussed details of the Military Appreciation Day event. Christy and Jeri met with Jennifer Buchannon and discussed partnership with Camp Atterbury Military Base. The Board discussed several different amenities for the event. The Board discussed different groups to contact.
3. Contracts were received from Bouncers R Us for \$28,559, Blonde Entertainment for \$5,300, and DJ Medic for \$3,325.
4. The Park has received \$2,340 in sponsorships and vendor fees in 2026.
5. Christy will attend the Festival Country Board meeting to discuss grants for 5 events. The events are the Vintage Camper Rally, Military Appreciation, Summer Concert Series, Autumn in the Park, and Deck the Stalls.
6. Christy is currently working on gaining more vendors, donations, and sponsorships. She will be meeting with Bish's RV this month to discuss possible sponsorships. The Board discussed details of hanging sponsorship signs.
7. Christy informed the Board that she is looking into audio upgrades for different locations of the Park to help with events.
8. Christy, Shalee Bradley, Jeri Thompson, and Rachel Noel met with Angela Umphrey to discuss programming at Franklin Cove Apartments. Christy stated the Park would not be able to assist with the programs after meeting and discussing them.
9. Christy informed the Board that the Park's gaming license was denied. The Board discussed the topic.

**K. Capital Improvements: Kevin Leonard Dan Cartwright**

1. **Maintenance Concerns:** Nothing to report
2. **Equipment Concerns:** Kevin informed the Board that soon he will be presenting a skid steer lease for approval. The Park has \$18,705 available in the 1157 equipment lease line. Brad informed the Board we are looking into getting two new John Deere gators for the Park from Koenig Equipment. Koenig is looking into discounted pricing for the Park.



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- 3. Capital Improvements Projects/Funding:** Brad informed the Board that all the projects approved last month have quote request forms and specification sheets put together, except for the Amphitheater drainage. The current drainage plan will require an engineer. Brad stated that the campground expansion should be held off for now. Brad and Jeri agreed to not rush the project and explore the best options to expand the campground.
- i. The dock quote is being worked on. One quote was already provided for \$41,100.
  - ii. The kayak rental station is going through legal right now.
  - iii. The Trail Renovation project was opened tonight and is waiting for contract approval.
  - iv. The Campground shelter came in under the approved amount at \$27,533 by CW Sneed Construction.
  - v. The Park is working with Duke Commercial on the projects taking place at Independence Park.

The Board discussed all the project updates. **Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve the Trail Renovation contract to the lowest and most responsive company and to give Kevin Leonard Authorization to execute contract. Motion carried.**

- 4. Master Plan:** Kevin informed the Board he is working on a rough draft for the Master Plan and will be presenting that to the Board soon.
- 5. Other Business:** Brad informed the Board that Dunn Renovations will be starting soon. The contract for the roof has been approved and the bids for the paint were opened at the last Commissioners' meeting.

**L. Superintendent Report: Kevin Leonard**

The Park has hired two new part-time employees. One will be for the weekend cleaning shift and the other will run the office on weekends and assist Christy with events.

Tails for Trails Rescue: Maureen Hayes reached out to Kevin to utilize the park as a stopping point again for the Tails for Trails Rescue Charity Ride. They are looking at June 13 and using the Fireside Shelter again. Last year we waived the fee for them, and I would like to do that again this year. **Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded to waive the fee for the Tails for Trails Rescue. Motion carried.**

**M. Legal Report: John Young**

Nothing to report

**N. President's Report: Dan Cartwright**

Dan mentioned the Board he is meeting with some Commissioners to discuss bond projects. Dan informed the Board that the Park is planning to meet with three architects about Amphitheater improvements and designs for a stage. There were discussions on possible donations for the Amphitheater. Penny stated that the project should include lighting for the Amphitheater and consider ADA accessibility. The Board discussed different options regarding the Amphitheater. Dan shared with the Board that March 16th is the scheduled tour date to visit Brown County to see their pump track, and Ceraland to tour their cabins. Penny recommended scheduling a tour to see Fort Ben. March 31<sup>st</sup> is the scheduled date for Board members to tour the Park.

**Jeri Thompson moved the meeting to be adjourned at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Penny Lee, Secretary