



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, February 1, 2024

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:02p.m by Park Board President, Michael List. Mike Weaver, Dannette Morgan and Gary Cooper were also in attendance. Park staff and audience in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Christy Howe, Recreation Director; John Young, Park Board Attorney; Peggy Racke, Indiana Live Steamers and George Produkin, Tuesday AA Group. **Roll call was taken of those in attendance.**

Park Board President, Michael List designated Gary Cooper as Interim Secretary.

Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Dannette Morgan moved and Gary Cooper seconded that the January 4, 2024 minutes be approved pending changes to dates and discussions from the floor. Motion carried.

Claims for February were presented for approval. **Mike Weaver moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve the February claims, as presented for \$33,952.72. Motion carried.**

John Young's Legal Report:

- John reviewed contracts for the summer events at the Park and the contract for the easement for Duke Energy. John said there were no problems.
- John informed the Board that he has had a discussion with Senator Mike Young and others about the possibility of passing legislative to help with the opening of the Gatling Gauntlet.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- The weekend of the Solar Eclipse now has 40 reservations.
- The Vintage Camper Rally has 42 campers.
- Christy asked the Board to approve the allowance of one tent per vintage camper during the Vintage Camper Rally event. Gary Cooper asked for the original purpose of not allowing tents. Kevin Leonard stated tents were no longer allowed after the closure of the dedicated tent camping spots due to disruptions to the Park and other campers. After discussion amongst the Board **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded that the Park Superintendent could make an administrative decision on allowing tent camping during the Vintage Camper Rally event. Motion carried.**
- Christy asked for the Boards' approval to seek grants from Festival Country Indiana. The grants would be for \$1,500 for Pours in the Park, Sparks in the Park, and Recfest. Christy is also seeking \$2,500 for the Vintage Campers Rally. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded approving Christy to seek the grants. Motion carried.**

Brad Wisner's Assistant Superintendent Report Read by Kevin Leonard:

- Brad has been working with a group wanting to host a Farrier Festival and is seeking approval for the event on July 18th through July 21st. **Mike Weaver moved and Dannette Morgan seconded the approval of the event. Motion carried.**
- The easement required for the new campsites at the Horse Park has been approved and signed by both the Commissioners and Soil & Water. Duke has put us on their schedule for the project to be completed.



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- After discussion with the maintenance staff and Koenig Equipment, we have decided to go with a 5075E tractor with a cab instead of the larger 5090 tractor with no cab. The smaller tractor is a little cheaper and offers more flexibility to drag arenas in the cold months.
- There will be a rodeo show on the 10th and 11th of February. The rodeo that was supposed to be in January had to postpone due to the extreme weather.

Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- Maintenance staff has finished remodeling the Scout Building. The buildings wood walls were replaced with drywall. The staff has also started to OSB the interior walls of the different buildings in the shop area. Security Fence and Gate has started the fence installation around the perimeter of the brown building that was demoed.
- Kevin and Brad have been getting quotes for new flooring in the Maples and the Front Room. Instead of doing both floors, the plan is to get a price to have the Maples floor installed by a company, since it is in the worse shape, and wait for the fall or winter to do the Front Room. Between events and reservations there is not enough time for the Park staff to complete this project.
- The Park will be hiring a part-time office position and part-time maintenance workers. Kevin asked the Board to let him know if they know of anyone interested.
- Leeann's Animal Rescue reached out to Kevin about placing a pet donation box at Independence Park. They have the box and would be responsible for stocking and maintaining the box. After discussion the Board decided it would be best for Kevin to seek Commissioners approval first before the Boards approval.
- DNR performed a survey on Lake Cottonwood and determined it was very low on Largemouth Bass and was in also in need of Grass Carp. DNR plans to stock the lake this fall with the Largemouth Bass and the Park has received the permit from DNR to stock 30 Grass Carp. Kevin will be reaching out to suppliers soon about stocking the Carp since DNR does not provide them.
- Aquatic Control treated Lake Cottonwood in 2023 and recommended more treatments for 2024. The cost is \$5,750 to inspect the lake every other week from April-September and treat as necessary. **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded the approval of the Aquatic Control to treat Lake Cottonwood. Motion Carried.**
- Kevin and Brad met with members from Indiana Fruit and Nut Growers Association. Kevin presented the Board with the plan the organization put together that would involve planting new fruit and nut trees and better maintain the existing trees to help revitalize the area. Kevin stated that the Park would make sure the new tree locations would not affect Indiana Live Steamers tracks. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded to move forward with working with the Indiana Nut Growers Association. Motion carried.**
- The Blacksmith group would like to enclose the front open portion of their shop and run electric to the building. They have funds that were donated through JCCF that are to be used for the group. Kevin stated the Board would have to approve this first and then he would ask for Commissioners approval as well. **Mike Weaver moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve the project. Motion carried.**
- Kevin presented some pricing to have the Park maps professionally done. Mader Design estimated \$6,000 to \$6,500 and Caryn Atkinson quoted the Park \$3,150. The maps included in the price was the Johnson County Park map, Independence Park map, Hoosier Horse Park map, Hoosier Horse Park Campground map and the Johnson County Campground map. **Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded to move forward with Caryn Atkinson. Motion carried.**
- Kevin asked the Board for approval to renew the Parks advertising contract with White River Broadcasting for the cost of \$755 per month. The Park has had the same plan for 3 years and it has worked well for the Park. The plan enables the Park to advertise events through radio. **Mike Weaver moved and Dannette Morgan seconded the approval of the contract. Motion carried.**



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- Kevin asked the Board for approval to seek formal bids for adding a new playground to the shelter area and for expanding the playground at the campground. John Young informed the Board and Kevin on the formal process of how to handle the project. John stated that the Board should also vote to make a bid committee to be in charge of putting the spec sheets together and opening and receiving bids. Both projects are expected to be a combined price of around \$200,000. After some discussion on the project **Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded to move forward with seeking formal bids for the playground project. Motion carried. Dannette Morgan moved and Mike Weaver seconded for Kevin Leonard and John Young to be the bid committee. Motion carried.**
- Kevin informed the Board that an individual reached out to him about receiving a refund their camping reservations on the eclipse weekend. The Board decided to take no action on the request.

President's Report:

- Nothing to report.

The Board decided to table the election of officers for the Board until the remaining seats have been filled.

From the Floor and More:

- Peggy Racke with Indiana Live Steamers requested clarification from the Board on the group's ability to camp at their area of the Park. There are currently 4 RV sites near their building that they would like to use during the eclipse weekend for the members running the trains. Gary Cooper confirmed these sites were only used by ILS members. John Young asked Kevin if he had any recommendation on the request. Kevin stated there has not been any issues in the past with the campsites. John stated the Board could motion for ILS to get Superintendent approval prior to each event the group wishes to use the campsites. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded to allow the group to use the campsites with the Superintendents prior notification approval. Motion carried.**

Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:07 p.m. Gary Cooper seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Cooper, Interim Secretary