



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, October 3, 2024

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:02p.m by Park Board President, Michael List. Penny Lee, Mike Weaver, Dannette Morgan, 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.**

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

Dannette Morgan moved and Gary Cooper seconded that the September 5, 2024 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Claims for October were presented for approval. **Gary Cooper moved and Dannette Morgan seconded to approve the October claims, as presented for \$51,607.55. Motion carried.**

Legal Report:

- John informed the Board he is working on making changes to the construction contract template from the state that will be used for the playground expansion project.

Christy Howe's Recreation Director Report:

- September events went well. The bingo event went well with several people attending. The movie at Independence Park had over 250 people attend. Touch-a-Truck had a great turnout with over 50 vehicles and equipment at the event. The event had \$800 worth of sponsorships.
- The dates for the 2025 community events have been set. Christy is still finalizing which campground events will take place next year.
- Christy and Kevin will be attending the IPRA conference in November. Christy is looking forward to the conference and hopes she will gain some new knowledge to help with events.
- The Annual Camp-O-Ween event will be on October 12th and the Annual Carni-Fall event will be on October 26th at Independence Park. The library will be partnering with Park for the Carni-Fall. Christy handed out flyers for both events.

Brad Wiser's Assistant Superintendent Report:

- September was a busy month with seven Horse Park events. The total number of stall rentals was 2,139. Indiana Barrel Racing Futurity had 1,072 stall rentals during their event and 262 total nights of camping.
 - The Horse Park typically winds down in October. There are three events scheduled this month. The second week of October is the National Drive. It is one of the larger events that takes place at the Horse Park and is the largest recreational carriage event that takes places in the United States.
 - On October 30th Kevin and Brad will be attending the Edinburgh Fall Community Advisory Meeting at the Department of Corrections. This is a yearly meeting that the DOC holds to share information on what they have done for the community and to go over rules for the crew.
 - Brad spoke with the Department of Corrections this past month to coordinate the crews schedule at the Park. The facility said they will be able to accommodate more days a week if it fits in the Parks budget.
 - Brad asked for the Board to approve the 2025 Horse Park contract. Brad said no changes were made to the contract after him and Kevin reviewed it. Once it is approved, Brad will begin sending the contracts out to shows for the 2025 season. **Dannette Morgan moved and Gary Cooper seconded the approval of the 2025 contract. Motion carried.**
-



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.

Kevin Leonard's Superintendent Report:

- The framing for the new office is going well. Framing is scheduled to be done soon and they hope to have the parking lot paved and start working inside the building by the end of the month.
- The Commissioners accepted a bid from All Star Paving for the Independence Park pickleball courts. They will begin on the courts once the weather breaks in the spring.
- The story walk displays were recently replaced by the library at Independence Park. Kevin told the Board he was appreciative for the Partnership the Park has with the library.
- Volunteers from REMC will be coming to the Park on October 6th. They have been coming to the Park for the last few years.
- Kevin and Brad had a meeting with the County about the possibility of JC Fiber coming to the Park. Locations were looked at that the Park would like to have internet service. Kevin said he would keep the Board informed as the process continues.
- The submitted 2025 budget was approved by the Council at the second reading. Budgets will officially be adopted by the Council at the October 14th council meeting.
- Kevin had a meeting with Commissioner Walls and Senator Walker to discuss the Gatling Gauntlet. They toured and discussed the course. They also discussed the possibility of getting an immunity law for obstacle courses passed at the state level. John Young stated he spoke with Representative Michelle Davis and other representatives about the immunity law and is confident that it moves forward.
- Kevin and Brad selected the playground design they would like to proceed with for the campground. Kevin asked the Board ratify the motion from the September meeting to officially select the design and company.
Gary Cooper moved and Mike Weaver seconded the approval of Midstates Recreation for the price of \$71,210. Motion carried.

Presidents Report

- Nothing to report

From the Floor and More:

- Dan Goins asked how many people would be attending the train ride for the Board. The Board discussed who would be able to attend.
- Dan Goins asked permission to cover the G-scale loading area with a carport. There was lots of discussion on what type of cover would be suitable for the Park. John Young recommended to Kevin to get permission from the Soil and Water Department and the Commissioners.
- Hal Bossingham asked the Board if exceptions could be made for Columbus Model Railroad when using the Front Room. The current policy is every user group gets rental buildings for half off. The board had lots of discussion and made no change to the current policy.

Mike Weaver moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:58 p.m. Gary Cooper seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Cooper, Interim Secretary