



Kendallville Park and Recreation Department

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2026

6:30PM

Present: Tracy Tipton, President, Kevin Jansen, Vice President, Dave Button, Jeni Ekovich, Dennis Nartker, Dawn McGahen, Park Director, Mayor Lance Waters, Brian Brennan, and Sheila Needham.

Public Comments: Brian shared information he received from IDNR regarding shoreline erosion. He also mentioned that there appears to be more trash and possible runoff near the GFL plant on Allen Chapel Road.

Lance shared that the city has been doing water testing on Bixler Lake and Bixler Ditch and the water quality is very good.

Minutes of the September 14, 2026, meeting was approved. (Jansen, Ekovich)

Claims were reviewed and approved as presented. (Jansen, Nartker)

Directors Report:

1. We are working on Apple Festival invoices and contracts.
2. Purchasing the property on the north side of the Youth Center has been finalized.
3. Starting to think about year end purchases. We know we will get two mowers again this year.
4. Have several requests for memorial benches in the park. The board would like to have guidelines drawn up regarding these.
5. The park was invited to apply for a Lilly grant and Dawn, Tracy and Lance have met regarding this opportunity.

Maintenance Report:

1. Continue mowing and starting to mulch as well.
2. Helped set up and take down Apple Festival.
3. Working on home run fence tubing at the complex.
4. Doing maintenance on vehicles and equipment.

Recreation Report:

1. Working on the Christmas Greetings Drive-thru.
2. Next weekend is the Halloween event in the campground. We are working on activities for that.

Kendallville Outdoor Recreation Complex:

1. Saturday we are hosting the Pumpkin Bowl, flag football event.
2. We have scheduled our first USSSA girls' softball tournament.

Acceptance of Donations: (Nartker, Button)

- General Use: Tri Kappa, Alpha Chapter \$50.00
- General Use: Mobile Stage, Birdie Barn \$500.00
- General Use: Mobile Stage, Experience the Heart of Kendallville \$500.00
- Disc Golf: Logan Conley \$114.00
- Christmas Greetings Drive-thru: Don Gura \$100.00, Erica Dekko \$100.00, Quick Tanks \$200.00, LouAnne & Bob Pillars \$200.00

Board Input: Kevin mentioned that the grant is a great opportunity to focus on areas that generate revenue for the park such as completing campground upgrades. Jeni asked that we reach out to the library and collaborate with them on programs, etc. Dave mentioned that the shoreline around the boat ramp is disappearing and should be addressed with all the people walking in that area. Dennis asked about weeds in the channel and also areas that flood and how we could improve those areas.

Adjournment: 6:38pm (Jansen, Ekovich)