Kendallville Park and Recreation Department

211 Iddings StreetKendallville, Indiana 46755 Phone (260)347-1064

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2026

6:30PM

Present: Kevin Jansen, Vice President, Jen Blackman, Jeni Ekovich, Dennis Nartker, Dawn McGahen, Park Director, and Brian Brennan.

Public Comments: Brian showed the board pictures of trash he has picked up along the ditch bank and in the water. He also showed how much trash was in the high school lot that was probably blowing into the waterway. He was thanked for cleaning up the area.

Minutes of the October 13, 2026, meeting was approved. (Nartker, Ekovich)

Claims were reviewed and approved as presented. (Blackman, Ekovich)

Directors Report:

1. The board was informed that Phase 1 of the Lilly grant was completed and submitted.
2. Jason is off on medical leave and is doing well.
3. The bathroom at Sunset Park had extensive vandalism and the police department are investigating it.
4. The appropriation report looks good as our budget is in good order.
5. We are working on end of the year purchases and have already purchased trees, pitching mounds, paint, and fertilizer.
6. Campground income is down this year. We also noticed team numbers for tournaments were down as well.
7. Staff met with representatives from IDNR to discuss expanding the Sunset Park Prairie as well as doing work on the Bixler Lake channel and west shoreline.

Maintenance Report:

1. Mowing and mulching continue throughout the park system.
2. Staff formed and poured two concrete slabs for memorial benches.
3. Assisted Strawser Brothers with preparation and pouring of a retaining wall along the tennis courts.
4. Started winterizing bathrooms and turning water off.
5. Painted lines on the basketball courts that were resurfaced.
6. Helped deliver boards for the Christmas Greetings Drive-thru.
7. Picked up picnic tables and fire rings for storage.
8. Mowed and cleaned up the Sunset Park gardens.

Recreation Report:

1. The campground Halloween event turned out very nice and we received a lot of positive comments.
2. Working on the Community Christmas Greetings Drive-thru.
3. Made treat bags for the euchre group that play at the Youth Center.
4. Working on ideas for the Kendallville Christmas Parade.

Kendallville Outdoor Recreation Complex:

1. We are winterizing the concessions and bathrooms.
2. The season went very well, some numbers were down but field rental was really good and helped with income.
3. The girls' softball tournament went very well and we hope to have more next year.
4. Have power washed the pavilion and around concessions.

Acceptance of Donations: (Nartker, Blackman)

- General Use: Noble REMC $500.00, Kappa Kappa Kappa Beta Chapter $50.00
- Christmas Greetings Drive-thru: Wible's U-Pick Hardwoods $100.00, Orchard Hill Farms $100.00, Max Platt Ford Lincoln $100.00, Jansen Family Chiropractic $100.00, Dana Clark $25.00, Tom Jansen $75.00

Board Input: Dennis would like to change the meeting times to 6:00pm, the board agreed that would work.

Adjournment: 6:55pm (Blackman, Ekovich)