

# Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 26, 2026

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Location:** Conference Room – Jennings County Government Center

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## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Kristin Wiley.

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## Roll Call

### Present Board Members:

- Emily Thompson (ET)
- Elizabeth Eaken (EE)
- Kristin Wiley (KW)
- Johnathan Garrett (JG)

### Present Staff:

- Seth Jones (SJ)

### Absent:

- Bill Ertel (BE)
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## Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by ET to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026, meeting. KW seconded the motion.

ET, EE, and KW signed the approval form.

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## **Old Business**

### **Master Plan Update:**

The first Steering Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 4, 2026. A schedule for mobile information displays has been established at several locations and events. SJ is awaiting the next steps from Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group.

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## **New Business**

### **Active Transportation Committee Endorsement Letter:**

Jeff Walker from the Jennings County Active Transportation Committee (ATC) contacted SJ requesting that JCPR submit a letter endorsing an INDOT scoping study for a pedestrian path between North Vernon and Vernon that would pass in front of the park entrance. A template letter was provided.

A motion to approve the template letter was made by JG and seconded by EE. Vote: JG, EE, ET, and KW – yes. Motion carried.

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## **Director's Report**

### **Personnel:**

- Introduction of new Board member Johnathan Garrett.

### **Office and Administrative:**

- Master Plan update (see Old Business).
- Active Transportation Committee request for INDOT pedestrian path endorsement letter approved (see New Business).
- Dining hall will be used for a benefit ride event on May 30 where alcohol will be served. SJ confirmed MCP requirements with the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission, and all requirements have been met. The event is open to the public.

## **Grounds – Muscatatuck Park:**

- Public restroom renovation completed and reopened to the public.
- Campground bathhouse hot water issue: mixer unit on water heaters replaced. \$603.78 paid to Harris Plumbing from the General Building and Grounds Account (30804).

## **Walnut Grove School:**

- Roof replacement completed; gutter replacement pending scheduling.

## **Vinegar Mill:**

- Graffiti removal was successful on the building; removal from rock faces is still needed.
- Concrete has been poured for a new bench at the riverfront.

## **Splash Pad:**

- Opened Friday, May 22, and will remain open through Labor Day.
- UV water cleaning component no longer appears to be leaking; May service appointment canceled.
- “Hours of Operation” sign installed.
- Remaining to-do items include power washing.

## **Liability and Signage Updates:**

- Details submitted to Imagination Graphics.
- Plan to replace three signs (2 at Muscatatuck, 1 at Eco Lake).
- May request use of non-reverting funds pending final pricing.

## **Grounds – Eco Lake:**

### **Campground Bathhouses:**

- Hot water issues persist.
- Completed repairs include replacement of motherboard and fan (\$900).
- Planned additional repair includes replacement of gas valve (\$400).

### **Culverts/Lake Inlets:**

- Work scheduled to be completed during the week of June 7.
- Campground reservations will be blacked out for five days during construction.
- \$6,250 from non-reverting funds previously approved for culvert replacement.

## **Equipment:**

- No issues reported.

## **Financial Report:**

- Bank Balance: \$15,781.52 (as of May 26, 2026)
- Non-Reverting Fund: \$229,992.97 (as of May 19, 2026)
- 2026 Outlook: projected income \$100,000; projected year-end balance \$305,667.97
- Year-over-year income and monthly transactions reviewed.

Additional discussion included the distinction between County budget funds and non-reverting funds.

## **Events**

- Sassafras Festival – April 25–26
- Day of Caring / United Way – June 4 (FC Tucker volunteering; potential projects include painting bathroom doors or cleaning graffiti from rock faces at Vinegar Mill)
- Library WoW Bus – June 11, June 24, July 9, July 22 (12:30 PM)
- DINO – July 10–12 (trail running/mountain biking)
- INDOT Company Picnic – September 23 (new event; approximately 300–400 attendees expected)
- Hoosier Beemers – September 24–27
- JCMS Cross Country – August 20; September 10, 14, and 28
- JCHS Cross Country – TBD
- NICA – October 2–4

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## **Comments from Guests**

No comments were recorded.

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## **Board Discussion**

- KW suggested brainstorming for the upcoming budget approval process. SJ confirmed that the current Tire and Tube budget (\$449 annually) is inadequate to cover all park equipment.
- Discussion included ongoing internet reliability issues at the park office, possible wireless hotspot options, and potentially switching providers.
- The Board also discussed possible campground reservation system upgrades and technology needs at Eco Lake Park due to limited Wi-Fi and cellular reception.
- SJ is requesting quotes from Otero for the removal of dead trees that may pose a risk to park infrastructure.

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## **Next Meeting**

June 16, 2026

Note: The June meeting date was moved from the fourth week to the third week of the month to accommodate Board member schedules. SJ confirmed the room is available.

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## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by JG and seconded by ET.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

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