

## Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting minutes for Oct.28, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by President Avis McGovern.

Present:

Board Members: Jennifer Sanders, Avis McGovern, Kristin Wiley, Bill Ertel, Sam Wilder.

Staff: Seth Jones, Isaac Fry, Alex Wallace

Guests: Pat Dickerson, Linda Dickerson

1. Approve Minutes - Bill Ertel made a motion to approve the minutes. Jennifer seconded. All approved the minutes.
  
2. Old Business -
  - Seth had the waiver for the stipend payment for Isaac and Paul to sign. Avis asked if we need to have a claim written up. We discussed if that was necessary and decided it would be better to have it just in case. Avis said that she would get a copy of the claim to Seth so he can get that written up just so that we have a paper trail. Avis said that we could get that approved over email so that it could be done before the next meeting.
  
3. New Business
  - What are the stipulations if someone wants to donate a bench to the park? Seth said that they probably would need to submit a plan and discuss with the people so that location, aesthetic, price, were all taken into account. There are some composite benches around the park already. It might be nice to have all the benches match.
  
4. Director's Report
  - Personnel: Isaac did fracture his heel. It is getting better and they are finding things for him to do.
  - Budget proposal: They denied the pay increase for Isaac. They did approve the request for a separate line item for the Splash Pad with \$10,000. 4% raise across the board for all the staff.
  - Insurance claim: ECO Lake camper window was struck by a rock or walnut while mowing. It has been submitted to insurance and they have already been paid.
  - NLT: Vernon will give ownership of the easements to JCPR and begin that Nov./Dec.
  - Park Board Member Terms on website: Some info like dates, is incorrect.

- Master Plan: We submit our plans to Greg Beilfuss with IDNR. Deadline is Nov. 15, 2026 so we don't know if we will make that because it takes 6-9 months to get a master plan going. Seth thinks we should contract this out because the staff has too much to do with two parks. Avis suggested that we look into grants for getting this done. There was a discussion if there was any progress on the Master plan, Seth said that he didn't think he could take that on. He took it to HWC but they needed specific bullet points to work on.
  - We need a new printer. It will take \$800-900 to repair.
  - Office plaster on ceiling has been fixed and all it needs is to be painted. That will happen this winter.
  - Walnut Grove School House has developed a Major leak. Seth is getting some quotes. He contacted JC Historical Society. They said that the Historical Society said the council should fund this. If they don't we will have to take it out of non reverting. Avis suggested that we apply for grants for that also.
  - Water Shutoff will happen this next week.
  - ECO Lake: Campground will be closed by Nov. 3-April 1, 2026.
  - Beavers have been removed by Aquatic Control. Bill has been paid.
  - Equipment:
    - i. Donnie Miller has said that he will donate the money to update the old restroom. Seth is working with them to get plans. Thank you Donnie!
    - ii. Air Compressor had to be purchased for \$500 due to the old one not working.
    - iii. Dodge Ram still does not have the plates.
    - iv. Scags: Blade Spindle broke. That will be replaced. Scag 29 cost to repair is \$4,000 so they think it would be better to buy a new one in the spring.
  - Winter Projects: Repair kiosks, ECO bathhouse, trim trees, build and repair picnic tables, paint ceiling, year end reports, sign for splash pad, new reservation system, update website.
5. Events:
- All done for this year.
6. Comments from Guests: Isaac wanted to reiterate that he just wanted to make sure we were working on raises so it didn't drag out too long. Isaac defended the reasons for wanting his raise, the board agreed with him. Avis said she will go to the county council with this issue.
7. Next Meeting - Nov. 25, 2025 at the government center
8. Adjournment - Kristin moved to adjourn. Sam seconded. All in favor of adjournment.

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Bill Ertel

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Avis McGovern

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Samantha Wilder

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Kristin Wiley

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Jennifer Sanders

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