



- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES
 - a. Approve the minutes from the July 6, 2026 meeting
- III. DISCUSSION
 - a. Park and Zoo Staff Update
 - b. Past and Upcoming Events
- IV. ADJOURNMENT



**REQUEST FOR PARK BOARD ACTION
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
AUGUST 3, 2026**

Department Park, Zoo & Cemetery

Prepared By Scott Patton

AGENDA ITEM Approve the minutes from the July 6, 2026 meeting

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND

SUGGESTED MOTION I move to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2026 meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Park Board Meeting July 2026

PARK BOARD MINUTES

Date: July 6, 2026

Place: Tennis Clubhouse

Time: Called to order at 5:30pm by chairman Steve McBride

In Attendance:

Steve McBride (Chairperson), Melinda Miller, Barb Beurskens, Brea Sanford, Leslie Coder, Angie Musgrove, Ed Epp, David Fritzmeier and Matt Housel

Advisors In Attendance:

Andy Taylor, Lions Club Representative
Scott Patton, Director
DeeDee Swanson, Park and Zoo

Agenda: Provided to all board members at meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes of June 1, 2026, were provided to all board members via email as well as at the meeting. A motion to approve minutes as written was made by Barb Beurskens and seconded by Brea Sanford. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- a) Andy Taylor, on behalf of the Lions Club, spoke about the replacement of the lion head drinking fountain located in Kiddy Land. The current drinking fountain has had issues for years and has become inoperable. The club is requesting permission to replace the drinking fountain with a new Lion's Head fountain that also has a refillable bottle option. The new lion is also ADA accessible. The fountain will be 100% funded through the club. Once ordered, the fountain will take four to six months to arrive. The new fountain should be ready for placement in November. Andy also updated the board regarding other future projects. A four-seat bouncer ride was removed during the ADA update and has been stored since. Nicholas Seal may restore the bouncer as his Eagle Scout project. Andy noted that the hickory clock statue is beyond repair and they are wanting to remove it. He also pointed out that two of the old fiberglass figures are damaged and will eventually be replaced with new concrete items. ***A motion to approve all discussed improvements the Lion's Club wants to implement in Kiddy Land was made by Brea Sanford and seconded by Leslie Coder. The motion carried unanimously.***
- b) An RFP has been made available for the replacement of the collapsed 4H restroom sewer line. This is going to entail the removal of concrete from the parking lot. Two bids have been received so far, and the RFP expires on July 17th.
- c) A 400 amp underground electrical service is being installed just East of the park office. The new service will provide underground service to the office, and the improved service will provide power to all existing buildings, rides, the new lighting and provide enough service for future additions.
- d) The park office lost internet for the previous three weeks following a windstorm that blew the internet tower from Memorial Hall, which provided internet to the park. DeeDee worked from City Hall and tried to keep up with phone calls, but frustration was felt when they couldn't reach the office.

Old Business:

- a) Scott provided an update on the progress of the playground renovation. Indigo design has been sub-contracted for the design work of the new equipment. He said that new bid packets will be issued August 15th. Demolition of the old equipment should start just after Neewollah with a completion date by April 2027.
- b) The lighting and exhaust fan have been replaced in the zoo shop. The roof will be replaced as a 2027 capital improvement.
- c) Materials have been ordered for the roof replacement of the Shelter House and Park Office. The projects will begin early August.
- d) Swamp coolers have been placed in the Shelter House and Enclosed 4H buildings. The hope is to make the summer temperatures more tolerable when the buildings are rented. The coolers rent for an additional \$25.00 per day.
- e) Brea asked for an update on the bench removal at the band shell. Scott is wanting commission approval to avoid any later controversies.

Park and Zoo Updates:

- a) Tink, our cougar, has started having full body seizures which is affecting her quality of life. A video of her having a seizure was provided by a visitor of the zoo. She is currently being monitored in her run and no longer allowed on exhibit. Tink is 15 years old and has had to be treated for kidney failure for a few years. The kidney disease continues to progress as well. A decision on her future will be made in the next week.

Upcoming and Past Activities:

- a) Miss Ables Blast Off, sponsored by the Chamber and FORPZ, has had to be scheduled multiple times due to the weather. A new date has not been established.
- b) The Montgomery County 4H fair will take place July 22nd to the 27th. 4H is going to tint the fiberglass panels on the ceilings to block out some of the sun. The panels allow considerable sun and heat into the building.
- c) Indy Goes Back to School is scheduled for August 14th. This is an annual event put on by the school district.
- d) The Yona Julian 5K/10K run is scheduled for September 12th.
- e) Jelly Jam and Zoolloween are scheduled for October.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Melinda Miller and seconded by Brea Sanford. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by DeeDee Swanson

Approval: _____
Chairman: Steve McBride

Date: _____



Park Board
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
August 3, 2026

Department Park, Zoo & Cemetery

Director Approval Scott Patton

AGENDA ITEM Park and Zoo Staff Update

BACKGROUND

- Passing away of Tink, the cougar at 16 years of age.
- Acquisition of a new male bobcat named Scooter. Scooter will occupy Tink's former enclosure. Scooter's Coffee has sponsored the exhibit
- CDBG playground renovation project update.
- Duck Pond electrical RFP results
- Park Office Electrical service update
- Stich Shelter House & Park Office roofing update
- Stich Shelter House water line replacement
- 4H Restroom sewer line replacement update
- 19th & Poplar Pocket Park Refresh
- Cemetery Sexton position vacancy

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



Park Board
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
August 3, 2026

Department Park, Zoo & Cemetery

Director Approval Scott Patton

AGENDA ITEM Past and Upcoming Events

BACKGROUND Miss Able's Summer Blastoff - June 6th

Indy Goes Back to School - August 13th

Yona Julian Memorial Run - September 19th

Zoolloween - October 10th

Neewollah Chili Cookoff - October 24th

Neewollah Band Competition - October 31st

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS