

OCTOBER 7, 2025 BRISTOL PARK BOARD REPORT

Attendance: Mikel Ropp, Scott Dreamer, Andrew Medford, Linda Powell, Rosemary McDaniel, Mike Yoder, Jill Swartz, and Eric Funkhouser, (Zoom)

Jill's Report: Jill said Truck and Treat will be held November 25 at 5 to 7pm in Congdon Park. Hopefully the Bridge will be open by then. Foot traffic will be allowed if the bridge is still closed. and Event Trucks and Vehicles will be allowed to go through together.

Bristol's Christmas Tree Lighting will be on Friday, Dec. 5 at 6pm at the Fire Station. The Park Board will again fund the refreshments. It was moved by Linda and seconded by Mikel to fund up to \$400 for refreshments. Jill is looking into having carolers from local schools to come to the event and sing. Santa Mail box will be available, and Rosemary will help Santa answer the letters.

Jill handed out an event schedule that she had put together for the Park Board for 2026. Some of the events are building snow men, events that will support local businesses in Town. A possible free Fishing Days events. We will start small with events and add to them as they develop.

There was a discussion on how the Park Board should be involved in events. Andrew said "We can be facilitators, but not directly involved in events." If a Board Member wants to be involved in the event, they can join the group that is putting on the event, or attend their planning meeting.

Congdon Park: tree removal. Eric has targeted four trees that need to be taken down, including a Mulberry tree in Cummins Park. He will be replacing these trees with five trees, at an approximate cost of \$200 each. Eric has been talking to Emma, a certified arborist in Goshen, Indiana for suggestions on tree types. Mike Ropp suggested that we use native trees. Mike then made a motion that if we cut down a tree in the park, we need to replace it with another tree, somewhere in the parks. Andrew seconded the motion, and the Board approved. Gator bags will be used on all new trees planted.

Mike Yoder gave a report on the Corn Dog Festival. There was very good attendance with an estimated of approximately 12,000 people. ADEC said they transported more than 4,000 people to the Festival. However the festival was a "break-even", because the Committee had to start all over again without Monogram's help. Next year will be much better. 5 to 6,000 dollars were given to local non-for-profit. Next year, they are hoping for a Pickel Ball Tournament and a Bridge to Bridge Race.

October 14 and 15th is the date for the Basket Ball Court to be reconstructed. The cost will be \$31,000, which is less than our quote from John Young Contracting. The court will be closed for a week, and the painting will be done in the Spring.

We received a letter of Notification from the Elkhart Community Foundation, informing us that the Park Board will be receiving an yearly endowment from a local Bristol family to put in the Park's donation fund. A letter of Thank You will be sent to the Armstrong family for their kind yearly donation to our parks.

Mike Yoder said that the Pickle Ball asphalt courts are cracking, and Scott suggested we look into the warranty that we received when the courts were built. Mike and Jill will be looking into that situation. The Splash Pad is now winterized. Next meeting will be Nov. 4, 2025 at 6pm at the Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Reporting Secretary, Rosemary McDaniel.

