

TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS PARK & REC BOARD
Special Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

The Santa Claus Park Board met for a special joint with the Town Council on March 2, 2026, at the Santa Claus Town Hall at 90 N Holiday Blvd, Santa Claus, IN. The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Goldsberry at 5:00pm.

Park Board Members present: Jonathan Goldsberry, Jonathon Kincaid, Eileen Farmer and Jennifer Rich

Also present, Park and Recreation Director Zach Tischendorf, Town Council members, Nick Schwartz from CHA, Clint Roos from Midwestern, Jessi Mullen Administrative Assistant,

Kevin Burke, Mike Johannes, Brian Warren town council

Zach introduced Nick Schwartz from CHA and Clint Roos from Midwestern to share the Yellig Park plan.

Nick discussed how they have phased it out into five separate priorities to determine next steps. The priorities are broken down as listed below:

- Priority 1: Playground, estimated timeline for completion would be about 8 months with an estimated cost of \$1.6million
- Priority 2: Event Lawn, estimated timeline for completion would be about 8 months with an estimated cost of \$286,000
- Priority 3: Concessions, estimated timeline for completion would be about 9-12 months with an estimated cost of \$3.2million
- Priority 4: Pavilions, estimated timeline for completion would be about 4 months with an estimated cost of \$782,000
- Priority 5: Street Parking, estimated timeline for completion would be about 4 months with an estimated cost of \$1.6million

Zach spoke about priorities that have been represented in previous surveys. The playground is a top priority, upgraded field space, upgraded courts for basketball and pickleball are also priorities.

Zach shared possible funding sources that could include the A&C TIF and the CEDIT The Park and Rec fund is our operating account for the year; this only covers minor repairs or replacements at the park. This could repair/update lights on the ball field over the course of the next few years. We could also use our donation funds to help pay for smaller park projects. He thinks that the CumCap Development Account should be reserved for the trail resurfacing and maintenance.

Zach actively checks into grants to see what projects could be covered. With the development of our 5-year plan, we are more able to obtain grants.

Zach posed the question of what it could look like if we proceeded with the playground first. Nick confirmed that it could be done, but to keep in mind that breaking it into phases prolongs the amount of construction and the impact at the park. Clint mentioned that we need to make sure that we look at the projects holistically, as far as utilities and drainage, etc go.

Zach shared the idea to keep the existing footprint of the playground and put the concessions where the existing playground is in the future.

Jon Goldsberry discussed the thoughts of doing all the phases at one time.

Clint shared what he has been working on with the town of Booneville and the Build Operate Transfer option. A BOT is an option to help fund the project, we would establish a maximum cost that the town wants to spend on the project, an RFPQ would be established. From there, there would be offers from financiers based on 30% design plans and selection would be made based on qualifications and our maximum price.

Jon Goldsberry asked what the cost could look like for the playground if we absorbed the space that was designated for the event lawn. Nick and Clint said that it would depend on what equipment selections were made.

Clint mentioned the Community Crossings grant to help supplement the street parking on Ashburn. The grant period is typically over the summer, if awarded the grant there is a 3-month window from design to starting the project. There is a financial commitment letter that has to be included in the grant submission, funds would have to be appropriated to pay for the town's portion. This would put construction in the Spring of 2027.

Zach asked Clint what the next steps would be. Clint shared that meeting again to discuss a BOT could be helpful. The numbers presented are mid-high numbers and there are options within the design that can be focused on based on our funds available and the usage of the facilities.

Zach summarized that playground is priority 1, parking could be priority 2, with keeping the drainage and utilities in mind with the design. Jon shared that if we could merge the pavilions, event lawn, and playground as one project.

To design only the playground, that is a 3-month design. If street parking is included, the whole design will need to be done. For the whole project design, it would likely take about 5-6 months.

Nick and Clint will get us estimates on what it will take to get a design completed. Zach will provide a summary and share with CHA.

Next Park Board meeting will be held, April 6, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Santa Claus Town Hall.

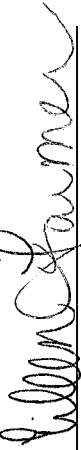
Eileen Farmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26pm. Jennifer Rich seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Approved on April 6, 2026.

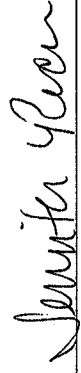


Jonathan Goldsberry, President



Eileen Farmer, Secretary

Jonathon Kincaid, Vice President



Jennifer Rich, Member