



Town of North Judson
Redevelopment Commission Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street, North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Commissioner Rowe, Commissioner Vice President Brown, Commissioner Banks, Lewandowski and Windbigler were able to attend. Town Manager Leszek and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe were also able to attend as well.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commission President Rowe asked for approval of the agenda. Commission Vice President Brown moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Commission President Rowe asked for approval of the Minutes from the Meeting Minutes on April 30, 2025. Commission Vice President Brown moved to approve those Minutes. Commissioner Banks seconded the motion, and all Commission members present concurred.

Business

Town Park Improvements Project Phase II: LWCF Grant Application, Schematic Design

A walk-through of the park was held with Mike Reese from Troyer Group last week to discuss Phase 2 concepts. Reese provided early draft drawings reflecting previous Commission/Council input. The skate area was to be scaled back within the project. There was a suggestion to replace it with a multi-use concrete pad, garden area, or seating zone. They could also add a small ramp and hill feature that could serve as a low-intensity skate element. This would cost a fraction of a full skatepark, and the concrete pad could be repurposed later on. It was discussed that disc golf should remain in the plans. It will tie in well with the walking trail and offers both active and passive recreation. Disc golf has minimal interference with other features and adds more value even for non-disc-golf users. It was also mentioned that the tree removal is moderate, making installation manageable. They discussed that they would continue to expand and integrate disc golf. The trail provides a loop experience and encourages foot traffic across the entire park.

Leszek stated that the parking lot at the park would need to be carefully planned, especially if fields and activities expand. Tree removal and grading for a parking lot would be costly – disc golf requires much less disruption. The Council agreed that the design needs to reflect community demand and usage, not just ideas that sound appealing. They want to avoid underused, high-maintenance features. Leszek also mentioned that they could widen and improve the main access drive to allow for two-way traffic on Arloa Lane. There was also discussion about clearing select trees to create additional parking rows beside the path. This would help open up the area visually while making it more usable and accessible. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that they could also add another rentable shelter near the back field or trail loop to increase usage.

The Commission went on to discuss the realistic usage of the baseball and softball fields. Even with a new field, schedule expansion is modest – just one extra game per night is expected. Current teams will still have a home/away game balance. Tournaments or adult leagues could help increase usage. Peak parking would also be during the spring/summer sport season. It was mentioned that they could provide 8-10 gravel or compacted grass spots near the pickleball court. The overflow would be able to park in the grass during the busy days. They also considered adding handicap-accessible spots by hard surface zones. If Shelter No.3 becomes heavily used, they could consider extending gravel or formal parking down the road. Most shelter users can park across the street if needed, especially with electricity added to No.3. They would like to add power/electric access to newer shelters to support reunions, birthdays and other events. There has also been strong interest in local or adult softball leagues, and they could use the added fields for adult co-ed or one-off events.

2025 Redevelopment Master Plan & Spending Plan Projects

It was reminded that once the grant is submitted and approved, major amenities cannot be changed without risking funding loss (LWCF). Core elements must be finalized before submission. Alternates can be included for flexibility. The Commission must finalize the amenity list and submit it to the DNR with the supporting plan. There was a general consensus on the importance of driving foot traffic deeper into the park. Disc golf is still favored due to low development cost and broad regional interest. They also want to explore a two-field layout, one for softball and one for multi-use. This would allow for improved access for practices and events. The major league field can include a portable mound while the other could remain flat for flexibility. Most line items are already included within the budget. They will be reviewed by the members of the Commission.

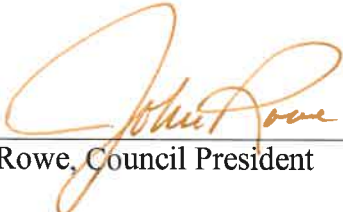
Additional Business Deemed Necessary by the Council:

Nothing Presented.

Adjournment

Commissioner Lewandowski moved to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice President Brown seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.



John Rowe, Council President

Attest:


Andrew J. Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer

