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New commissioner for Anderson Park District

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ANDERSON TWP. - Lisa Klancher is the new Anderson Township Park District commissioner and took office in June.

Klancher, an Anderson resident for nine years, said the township has some of the best parks in the region and often spends time in the parks with her children, so being on the Board of Park Commissioners was a perfect fit.

"I do represent a different demographic as a mother with young children, and I can keep an eye out for new opportunities for families with young children," she said about what she will bring to the Board.

The development of Johnson Hills Park is another endeavor Klancher said she is excited about because it is a unique property with horse stables and a house from the early 1900s.

In the plans to develop Johnson Hills Park, Klancher said the park board is looking into renovating the home so it can be used for special events, and utilizing the greenspace for trails, camping and gardens.

Klancher is an accredited medical illustrator, and she said her work with marketing and branding agencies prepared her to think outside the box and come up with creative ways to do everything from generating more revenue to acquiring new parkland.

"The whole point is looking at better ways to communicate with residents of the community to (convey) our ideas and visions for the park," she said.

Her favorite parks in Anderson are Juilfs Park for her children and Johnson Hills Park for its greenspace and possibilities for exploration.

Ken Kushner, executive director of the park district, said it has been great to work with Klancher so far, especially since she and her family are avid park users.

"She's enthusiastic about the parks and what we do and wanted to help move the park system forward," Kushner said. "It's nice to have somebody who brings a fresh perspective to what's going on (in the parks)."

Klancher replaced Gail Wright, who served as a park commissioner since 2005. Wright did not seek reappointment at the end of her three-year term, and she continues as an attorney with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The board of park commissioners are appointed by the Anderson Township trustees.