

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
320 SOUTH MAIN ST, JEFFERSON WI 53549
ROOM 202
July 6, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland-Chairman, Paul Babcock, Amy Kramer, Rick Kuhlman,
Steve Nass

1. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Borland at 1:03 p.m.

2. Committee members present included: Borland, Kuhlman, Nass, Babcock. Others present: Nehmer, Stanger, Milbrath, Grabow. Absent Kramer.
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law – In Compliance
4. Approval of the Agenda – Approved
5. Approval of June 1, 2009 meeting minutes

Motion to approve the June 1, 2009 minutes. Babcock/Nass, carried 4-0.

6. Public Comment –

Milbrath noted they have seen quite a dramatic drop in vandalism in the parks, Kanow County Park will be targeted with increased patrol provided by the Sheriff's Department and the JCEC (Jefferson County Emergency Communications). With new technology the Sheriff's Department can pinpoint the problem areas by data compiled, seeing vandalism happening in late evening hours and will be stepping up late evening patrols.

Nehmer commented on the plaque from Rick Kuhlman that will be placed under the oak tree donated in memory of his late wife.

7. Review of and Possible Action on Glacial Heritage Area Resolution

Nehmer reported the resolution is working its way through the county; Supervisor Nass has been supporting and spear heading this effort and participated in the many meetings for Glacial Heritage Area. The Planning and Zoning Committee approved it unanimously, now before this group for your consideration, it will go to Finance Committee as well. The resolution will be brought before the County

Board Tuesday, July 14, 2009. This has overwhelming support by the public and a number of people are expecting to speak at the County Board meeting. The DNR will be giving a brief power point presentation also.

Motion to adopt the resolution supporting the establishment of the State of Wisconsin Glacial Heritage Area (GHA). Nass/Babcock, carried 4-0.

8. Discussion and possible recommendation on Bicentennial Park, STH 26 real estate offer from the Department of Transportation

Nehmer discussed the appraisal submitted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for damages to Bicentennial Park as a result of closing off the public access on State Highway 26. The DOT will pay for a second appraisal. The committee recommended having the second appraisal done.

9. Discussion and possible decision on Capstone Project at the Mason Farm component of the Dorothy Carnes County Park through the School of Landscape Architecture at UW Madison

Nehmer reported on information he received from the UW School of Landscape Architecture at UW Madison, on hiring a Capstone student to fine tune the Mason Farm component. We have used their students very successfully on a number of projects in the past at a tremendous dollar savings. There are incidental costs, to cover transportation and supplies etc. Kuhlman asked if the funds could come out of the Carnes fund? Nehmer replied yes, it would come out of the Carnes fund.

A motion to pursue the Capstone Student Nass/Kuhlman, carried 4-0

10. Discussion and possible decision on paddling contractor for the completion of a water trails map and guide for proposed GHA project

Nehmer reported he and others wished there would have been a little more emphasis and effort given to the paddling portion of Glacial Heritage Area, river based conservation. The subject was brought up with the advisory team and they agreed it would be good to have a professional work on the project. The team pointed out what deliverables the project might entail and communicated that to the DNR and we received \$5,000 from the Department of Natural Resources to pursue this. The contractor we have been dealing with did some of this work in a more limited scope as part of her project through UW Madison, now it is going to be expanded within the boundaries of the Glacial Heritage Area so it has spilled over to other counties a little bit. The project deliverables are established. We are seeking your approval to complete the project and contract with this individual for \$5,000. The Park Committee recommended endorsing the project – all members present in agreement.

11. Theo Garman donation discussion and possible decision on resolution to accept a \$25,000 cash gift from Theo Garman

Nehmer reported the Parks Department has received a gift donation of \$25,000 from Theo Garman; a resolution to accept the donation will be presented at the next County Board meeting.

12. Discussion and possible decision for Jefferson County Board Picnic Planning

Picnic will be held on August 13, 2009 at 5:30 pm at Carnes Park the committee discussed the food menu.

13. Discussion and possible decision on disc golf at county parks

Nehmer discussed the possibility of disc golf at the county parks, more research will be done and brought back to the Parks Committee for further comment.

14. Discussion and possible decision on dog park development

Discussion on 2009 budgeted development projects at the dog park were discussed. Asphalt paving was discussed. Dallman reported the current gravel roads and parking lots are labor intensive and recommended building a smaller storage building and using the balance of the funds to start the paving project. If it is agreeable to the committee the parks department would look into trying to get both projects accomplished in 2009. The committee agreed to have the Parks Department to the projects.

15. Discussion on Cooperative Weed Management Association – Chad Dallman

Dallman reported he is on this committee for the Midwest Invasive Plant Network with the cooperative weed management area. The organization's main goal is to help educate the public on treating invasive weeds throughout wood lots and prairies, bringing back the natural landscape to these areas. Dodge, Jefferson and Rock counties are getting together and are looking at Dorothy Carnes County Park to be a demonstration site for people to learn how to deal with these issues because of its diversity with the wood lots, prairies and some wetland areas. The group will be applying for grants. The ultimate plan is to pursue a \$50,000-\$150,000 grant for the park. This will enable the group to make this an education site for people to reference and come out and help with, for example, doing prairie burns, invasive removal in the wood lots. This will be a good service for people to come out and learn and hopefully benefit the park.

16. Discussion on 2010 Budget

Nehmer reported on the 2010 budget. The County Administrator has instructed us to come up with two budgets, one with 0% growth and one with a 14% reduction for operations. A lot is contingent on ultimately what the County Board does as far as the referendum and then what the voters say.

17. Cost Savings Options update

Nehmer reported we received \$5,000 from the Department of Natural Resources and \$25,000 from Mrs. Theo Garman for the month. We are in the process of installing donation boxes at Rock River Park and Burnt Village boat launches.

18. Update on funding for site planning at Dorothy Carnes County Park Farmstead

Nehmer noted there was a question at the June meeting whether Carol Liddle money could be used for planning at the farmstead. The answer to that is no. We plan to use services from the University of Wisconsin as discussed in Item 9.

19. Update on Hubbleton Snowmobile Bridge

Nehmer reported the project is moving ahead. We are using direct purchase on the bridge and bridge related components to save about \$14,000 to \$15,000 which requires a lot of time and coordination from our office. The bridge is being built as we speak. The goal is completion by the end of August.

20. Update on Parks Huber Program

Dallman reported that the two Huber staff people are working well and appreciate the help. They are working on tree removal and cleaning up Kanow Park. Milbrath commented if the Parks Department would want more help to let him know and he will try and find the right candidate.

21. Update on Dog Park Grand Opening

Nehmer reported 250 – 300 people attended the event and felt it was very successful. We received very heartwarming comments.

22. Update on County Bike Plan development process

Nehmer reported the planning is moving along; the developer had personnel changes but we are on track and moving along.

23. Correspondence

Stanger reported on correspondence and newspaper articles from the past month related to the Parks Department activities. Nehmer reported on police reports on park damages and restitution paid, and commented on Dog Park donations received, and emails.

24. Set Tentative next meeting date/time: August 3, 2009, 1:00pm – Room 202

Babcock noted he will not be attending the August 3, 2009 meeting.

25. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 2:00pm by Kuhlman/Babcock carried 4-0.