

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**320 SOUTH MAIN ST, JEFFERSON WI 53549**  
**ROOM 202**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.**

Committee: Glen Borland-Chairman, Paul Babcock, Rick Kuhlman, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Glen Borland, Chairman at 1p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee members present included: Borland, Babcock, Kuhlman, Tietz. Others present: Nehmer, Stanger, Ristow, Wiesmann, Buchholz, Molinaro, Rouu, Haugom.

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law – In Compliance

4. Review of the Agenda – Approved

5. Approval of July 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

**Motion to approve the August 1, 2011 meeting minutes, Tietz/Babcock, carried 4-0.**

6. Public Comment

There were many individuals present for public comment. The majority of the comments were from individuals regarding the installation of a parking lot at N327 Oxbow Bend, a flood mitigation property that is owned by the County. The majority of attendees were property owners in the neighborhood who were opposed to the project. There were a few in attendance that were in favor of the project that also spoke.

Representatives from the Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance were also present. Jeff Draeger spoke on behalf of the alliance stating that they are opposed to the County charging an administrative fee to the program. He distributed snowmobile facts and information to the committee.

Attached are the sign-in sheets for the meeting. There were many more individuals present and that spoke than signed the sheet.

7. Discussion and possible decision on department charging administrative fees to the Snowmobile Program Grant

Jeff Draeger and Jeff Ziebel spoke that the Snowmobile Alliance is opposed to the administrative fee. A packet of information on snowmobile facts and figures was distributed to the committee. Buchholz explained that the Parks Department was proposing that the County charge the grant an administrative fee that is no more than 5% of the grant or \$2,275. Discussion occurred.

**Motion made by Kuhlman, seconded by Nass to charge an administrative fee to the snowmobile grant for actual costs not to exceed 5% of the grant. Roll call vote was taken; Babcock-yes; Tietz-yes; Nass-yes; Kuhlman-yes; Borland-yes. Motion passed, 5-0.**

8. Discussion and possible decision on raising rental rates at community gardens in the Jefferson County Parks system – Josie Gobel

Josie recommended to the committee that the garden rental rates at Hearty Gardens, the community gardens located at Carnes Park East, be increased to \$12.50 from \$10 for the smaller plot and \$25 from \$15 for the larger plot. Discussion occurred.

**Motion made by Nass, seconded by Tietz, to raise the rates as suggested by Josie at Hearty Gardens only.**

9. Discussion and possible decision on John Rinehart proposal to use flood mitigation property located on N327 Oxbow Bend for parking lot/fishing access to Lake Koshkonong

John Rinehart addressed the committee with his proposal. He distributed the information that is attached. He reviewed his proposal to install a 28 car parking lot on N327 Oxbow Bend for fishing access to Lake Koshkonong. The parking lot would meet regulations for the 75' setback. The estimate he received would cost around \$15,000. John suggested that if the parking lot was installed, that the county consider charging a fee of \$5 to cover the costs of maintenance. Rinehart also gave the committee a petition signed by 473 people in favor of the project. Discussion occurred. (Note: a petition from the local property owners was also given to the committee earlier with 93% opposed to the project.)

Haugom commented that the intent for the property upon acquisition is for the property to return to its natural state. She has discussed the proposal with Roxanne Gray of the State and the state has determined that this project would be an acceptable use of the property under the grant guidelines.

Nehmer distributed pictures of N327 and the town's current public access site to the committee. He also distributed and reviewed a sheet on the "Criteria to Consider for Public Water Access" to the committee. Buchholz explained that the department had conducted its own survey of local property owners according to the Zoning Departments policy for residential rezoning and conditional use permit. A survey was sent to all property owners within 500 feet of the property. 25 surveys were distributed that included the Town of Koshkonong and Rock-Koshkonong Lake District. The department received 27 surveys back; all surveys received were opposed to the project. Discussion occurred.

**Motion made by Kuhlman, seconded by Babcock, to not open this property up to public access by installing a parking lot. Roll call vote was taken; Babcock-yes; Tietz-yes; Nass-yes; Kuhlman-yes; Borland-yes. Motion passed, 5-0.**

A short break was taken after this agenda item where most of the individuals in attendance from the public left the meeting.

10. Discussion and possible decision on method to vary hours of operation within the Parks system

Nehmer stated that current policy is to give the authority to the Parks Director for uses outside the current policy yet in line with the departmental mission. We request to change the ordinance to have it be formally addressed. Nehmer explained that the majority of the requests are for special events such as star gazing, Moonlight Dog walk, candlelight cross-county skiing.

**Motion made by Nass, seconded by Tietz, to empower the Parks Director the ability to extend the hours of use for special parks purposes for uses that are consistent with the departmental mission and park use. Motion approved, 5-0.**

11. Discussion and possible decision on request to use a 22 blank launcher to launch dummies at the Jefferson County Dog Park

Nehmer stated that the department has received a request from an individual to use a 22 blank launcher to launch dummies to his dog at the Jefferson County Dog Park. Discussion occurred.

**Motion made by Nass, seconded by Babcock, to deny the request to use a 22 blank launcher to launch dummies at the dog park. Motion approved, 5-0.**

The committee wishes the department to continue to look at other properties such as the new shooting range being purchased by the Sheriff's Department for activities/request such as this. Buchholz stated that the department continues to receive numerous requests for events/training. The department will continue to investigate opportunities.

12. Discussion and possible decision on use of motorized vehicles off the road-way for handicap hunting

Nehmer stated that with a handicap hunting opportunity being provided on the new Kemmeter property, the committee needs to discuss the use of motorized vehicles off the road-way for that specific hunt. Currently, the Parks Ordinance prohibits the use of motorized vehicles within the park. Wiesmann explained that our hunt would be for Class A handicapped individuals. Ristow stated that there needs to be a review of the rules, limitations, etc. Discussion occurred.

**Motion made by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman, to approve the use of motorized vehicles off the road-way for the portion of Dorothy Carnes Park formerly known as the Kemmeter property with the exact details of allowable vehicles, etc. to be worked out per staff. Motion approved, 5-0.**

13. Discussion and possible decision on 2012 Parks Department budget

Nehmer reviewed the 2012 proposed budget with the committee. He stated that if no money was utilized from the Carol Liddle fund to reroof the barn, the department would be \$20 over the 2011 budget. The current Carol Liddle fund is \$112,133 of which \$25,000 is spoken for a project at Garman and then the barn roof at Carnes. Discussion occurred.

Committee recommended that no money be used from the Carol Liddle fund. Nehmer to take the request to finance committee.

#### 14. Rock River Trail Initiative Update

Nehmer reported that he has received an email from Greg Farnham that every unit of government that he has spoken with has been in support of the initiative. Nehmer will continue to update the committee on the progress.

#### 15. Mason Farm Implementation Update

Wiesmann stated that the staff has continued their work on the farmstead buildings at Carnes Park East. Pictures of the progress were distributed. Wiesmann has received an asbestos removal quote for the house. The two campsites have been graded. Wiesmann will keep the committee posted on the progress.

#### 16. Discussion and possible decision on Glacial Heritage Area

- a. Memorandum of Understanding: Ristow gave an update of where we are at. Recommended waiting until after the budget season is behind us to take the agreement to county board.
- b. Recreational Map: Buchholz is working with a sub-group to develop a recreational map for GHA.
- c. Website & Brochure: Mead and Hunt has volunteered their staff to develop a website as well as a brochure for GHA. They are both very close to being finished.
- d. Friends Group Establishment: Matt Carlson, an attorney from rural Cambridge, has volunteered to take the lead in establishing a friends group for the Glacial Heritage Area with the focus on fundraising.
- e. Quirk Foundation Grant: Tietz updated the committee that he has applied for a \$10,000 grant for GHA through the Quirk Foundation to support the brochure, interurban project, etc.

#### 17. Discussion and possible decision on bike system updates

- a. Highway 26 Bike Trail Opening
  - i. Committee members are invited to attend the grand opening celebration on Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m. Borland and Molinaro will cut the ribbon.
- b. Interurban Line Update
  - i. Grant Application: The department in coordination with Steve Grabow and Josh Clements are working to submit a TIGER grant for the project.
  - ii. Interurban License Agreement: Yaggy-Colby has been hired to conduct the pre-engineering feasibility study for the project. Nehmer and Ristow gave a brief overview of the agreement. Currently, as the agreement stands, DNR does not agree with the wording but that would only be applicable if we applied for stewardship funding. Motion made by Kuhlman, seconded by Nass, that the department proceed with the license agreement without the stewardship agreement language. Motion approved, 5-0.

#### 18. Correspondence

- a. Wausau Daily Herald (Construction Begins on New River Trail) – article distributed

- b. Dog Dayz of Summer Event report – Buchholz reported that there were 150 dogs and 300 people at the event. Pictures of the event were distributed.
  - c. Pictures of Cross-county meet at Carlin Weld – pictures distributed.
  - d. Shelter rental summary/comparison: Stanger reported that we have 122 rentals as of 9/6/11.
  - e. Dog tag update: Stanger reported that we have sold 1,163 tags as of 9/6/11.
  - f. Wally Miller sign: Buchholz showed the committee the sign that was donated by the Wally Miller family that will be installed on the overlook deck at Carnes Park.
19. Set Tentative Meeting Date/Time for: Monday, October 3, 2011, 1:00pm – Room 202  
Babcock will be absent.

20. Adjourn

**Motion made by Kuhlman, seconded by Nass, to adjourn at 3:17 pm. Approved, 5-0.**