

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
320 S Main Street, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549

September 2, 2013 @1:00 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland, Mike Kelly, Rick Kuhlman, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Borland at 1:04 p.m.
2. **Committee members present:** Borland, Kelly, Kuhlman, Nass and Tietz. **Others present:** Joe Nehmer, Jane Stanger, Kevin Wiesmann, Kim Buchholz, Ben Wehmeier, John Molinaro, Lydia Statz.
3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – In compliance
4. **Review of the Agenda** – No changes to the agenda.
5. **Public Comment** - None
6. **Approval of the August 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the August 5, 2013 meeting minutes by Nass, seconded by Tietz. Carried 4-0, Kuhlman abstained.

7. **Communications**

- a. Emerald Ash Borer Arrives in Dodge County
- b. Bicycle Trails Main Focus of County Economic Plan
- c. Youth Donation – Daily Jefferson County Union
- d. Friends of Glacial Heritage Area Open House – Jefferson County Living
- e. Morning Magazine & GHA Picnic – Email, Clare Carlson
- f. The Rock River Trail Brochure
- g. Mason Jar Jamboree
- h. Dog Days of Summer in Jefferson
- i. Modern Woodmen providing \$10,000 for Korth Playground

8. **Discussion and possible decision on Waterloo-Watertown Recreational Trail Plan**

Nehmer noted that the committee has discussed this subject the last two months. At the last meeting, the department was instructed to develop a phased approach. Tietz stated that we are looking at a two phase project. The entire project is probably way too much for one grant application. At this time, it is unknown as to the exact funds that are available from DOT and DNR. Buchholz stated she had received an email from DOT informing that information regarding the WI TAP grant will be forthcoming in early October.

Tietz and Nehmer explained that the first phase would actually be two steps. The first step would come east out of Waterloo to Hwy 89, stopping where Island Road heads east off 89. The second step would proceed west out of Watertown to the east

intersection with Island Road. This incorporates a change in the route to no longer utilize West Road. The route would utilize County Hwy T.

To summarize, there are two phases, 1A and 1B; working from both directions towards the middle. The second phase would involve Island Rd. Nehmer spoke with Dale Neupert, Town of Watertown Chair. Neupert indicated that this may provide an opportunity for the township to have Island Road engineered to make the road better. Island Road has a history of sinking going through the marsh.

Nehmer explained why County T is being recommended. Tietz and Nehmer attended the last Town of Watertown board meeting. At the meeting, citizens from West Road presented a petition to the Town Board asking that the bike trail not go on West Road. Jefferson County was not aware of this petition; only receiving a copy when at the meeting. Tietz and Nehmer were asked to comment. Nehmer mentioned that Supervisor Greg David asked the Town of Watertown to not vote for no bike trail on any town road citing that he thought that was short sighted. The Town of Watertown also agreed to allow signage on High Road going south out of the City of Watertown to connect with the Glacial River Trail. Further discussion occurred.

Motion to approve the phased approach from Watertown to Waterloo while holding open the possibility of an alternate route on Hwy 19 made by Tietz.

Motion amended to move forward with the phased approach; starting from Watertown coming out to Hwy T to Hwy Q, north to Highway 19, West to Highway G, south to Island Road that could be 1B and 1A would be coming through Waterloo to Hwy 89 east to Island Road by Tietz. Motion seconded by Nass. Motion carried, 5-0

9. Discussion and possible decision on 2014 Budget

Nehmer discussed the 2014 budget. He read an email dealing with Capital Requests from Administrator Wehmeier. The Administrator has included the 2014 Capital Requests within the 2014 budget. This includes: \$15,000 for a UTV, \$40,000 for a groomer, \$49,800 for a handicap fishing wharf, \$45,000 recreational equipment, \$10,900 for 9 hole disc golf course, \$75,000 for a parking lot at Carnes Park, \$13,000 for a well at Garman Nature Preserve, \$22,000 for a mower and \$5,000 for a mower trailer. Wehmeyer stated that we have been working through the 2014 budget finalization and were able to get a little more capital carry over request. Therefore, we were able to include most of the Parks Departments Capital requests. Discussion occurred.

10. Discussion and possible decision on Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for Jefferson County Owned Property

Nehmer stated that the County Administration convened a meeting to discuss Emerald Ash Borer in Jefferson County. The borer has been identified immediately North and South of Jefferson County's borders. So, we probably have it in Jefferson County as

well; it just has not been positively identified yet. Wiesmann and staff completed an inventory of the 17 parks and county facilities and put together recommendations for the group to discuss.

Wiesmann stated that the group discussed the treatment options (no treatment, total removal and replacement of all Ash trees in our system or treatment with insecticide of select trees or a combination of all of the above.) Our management for Emerald Ash Borer includes the 17 County Parks as well as all county facilities. The consensus was that in some places like the Fair Park there are a lot of ash trees in decline. They are very susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer so we are going start removing and replacing with trees. Then there are trees that are younger and might not be as susceptible now. This will be an ongoing issue long after the initial wave comes through. Some of the trees are small and need to be removed. Those we will start removing and replacing. The overall plan is a phased approach to start removing and replacing trees throughout, prioritizing the county facilities and those places that were immediately adjacent to shelters and putting the oldest trees and some of the trees that are in decline at the top of that list to be removed.

Wiesmann is also working with the Highway Department to identify a countywide disposal site. Discussion occurred. Wiesmann has also spoken with Cyndi Keller in Jefferson and Scott Lustusky in Fort Atkinson on how their respective municipalities are handling it.

Wiesmann explained that treatment is around 70% effective for the long term 7 years. There is a possibility that even with treatment, the trees will die. Borland asked about budget for control. Wiesmann stated that it is not technically identified within our budget as a line item but would be paid through park improvement and maintenance line items. Tietz asked if we had an inventory. Wiesmann stated that yes, there are a total of 188 trees located within the maintained area of the County Parks and Facilities that have been identified by diameter and size. Nehmer stated that the property where there will be the most dramatic change will be at Kanow Park; all the trees along the river are ash trees. Wiesmann stated that we are looking at \$100-\$180 per tree for replacement trees. Further discussion occurred.

11. Discussion and action on Resolution to Authorize Application for and Acceptance of WI DNR and DOT Grants to Fund construction of Bike Trails from Waterloo to Watertown and Watertown to Oconomowoc

Today, we are asking the committee to take action on the draft resolution. The resolution gives the Parks Department permission to apply for the grants and accept the grant awards if received. The resolution will move from the committee to the County Board for approval. Stanger distributed the resolution to committee members. Ristow addressed the committee stating that this process is a little bit different due to the size of the grant application; \$15 million. Buchholz stated that we anticipate at least two grant applications, WI TAP and Stewardship. Discussion occurred.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Kuhlman, to approve the resolution as written and forward it to the County Board for approval. Motion carried, 5-0.

12. August 15, 2013 Parks Department Acceptance of \$325 from the Dorothy Dash

Motion by Tietz, seconded by Nass, to accept the \$325 donation from the Dorothy Dash to utilize at Dorothy Carnes Park. Stanger will send a thank you for the donation received.

13. Discussion on Parks Department Financial Update

Stanger passed out the Budget Summary through August 31, 2013 to committee members. Budget is on track. Nehmer will continue to keep the committee informed of anything that comes up that is unexpected or cannot be handled within the budget.

14. Update on Rock River Shoreline Restoration Project

Buchholz reported that the Rock River Shoreline Restoration Project has been completed. Before and after pictures were passed around. We are currently awaiting final bills to come in to close out the grant.

15. Update on Pohlman Shelter Completion and Park Improvements

Wiesmann reported that the Pohlman Park Shelter capital project as well as playground improvements have been completed. Before and after pictures were passed around.

16. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project

Nehmer reported that the Annual GHA Picnic was well attended and a nice event for all that attended. Tietz reported that we are continuing to work on the Watertown to Waterloo (Interurban) trail with the WI DNR and We Energy. Also, the Watertown Boat Club property has not yet closed due to waiting on soil test results. The next Horse Trails Committee meeting will be held on September 4 at the Jefferson County Fair Park.

17. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO S.1986(1)(E). Statutes, to deliberate the potential purchase of public property

Motion by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman, to convene in closed session pursuant to S.1986 statutes, to deliberate the potential purchase of a public property. Roll call vote taken. Nass, yes; Kuhlman, yes; Borland, yes; Kelly, yes; Tietz, yes.

18. Reconvene in open session to take possible action on the items discussed in closed session

Motion by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman, to reconvene in open session pursuant to S.1986 statutes. Roll call vote taken. Nass, yes; Kuhlman, yes; Borland, yes; Kelly, yes; Tietz, yes.

Motion made by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman to make an offer on the discussed property for the price offered by the WI DOT. Motion carried, 5-0.

19. **Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for:** October 7, 2013 at 1:00 pm

20. **Adjourn** - Nass motioned to adjourn meeting at 2:53 p.m.