

# JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

## JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 311 South Center Avenue, Room 202 Jefferson WI 53549

May 5, 2014 @1:00 p.m.

Committee: Walt Christensen, Matt Foelker, Mike Kelly, Laura Payne, Augie Tietz

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Tietz at 1:00 p.m.

2. Welcome new Park Committee Members

3. Roll Call: Committee members present: Tietz, Christensen, Foelker, Kelly, and Payne. Others present: Joe Nehmer, Jane Stanger, Ben Wehmeier, Jim Schroeder, Phil Ristow, Mary Edwards, Lydia Statz, Frankie Fuller.

4. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law: - In compliance.

5. Election of Parks Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary

**Motion was made by Kelly to nominate Augie Tietz for Parks Committee Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Foelker to nominate Mike Kelly for Parks Committee Vice-Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Christensen to nominate Matt Foelker for Parks Committee Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Review of the Agenda – Approved as written.

7. Public Comment – None.

8. Approval of the April 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion to approve the April 7, 2014 minutes by Kelly, seconded by Christensen. Motion carried, 5-0.**

9. Communications:

- a. Jefferson County Parks Committee Ponders Future of Outboarders Site – Watertown Daily Times
- b. Discover – The Four Lakes Area – Daily Union
- c. Letter from Mr. Richard Harthun
- d. Funding Sought for Bike Trail – Waterloo Courier

10. Discussion and Possible Decision on Mary Edwards, Lake Mills Arts Alliance project proposal for Korth Park

Mary Edwards, from the Lake Mills Arts Alliance discussed the possibility of a labyrinth at Korth County Park. The committee discussed areas of the park where the labyrinth could be placed.

**Motion by Foelker, seconded by Christensen, to go ahead with planning the labyrinth, working with Wiesmann and Christensen and report back to the committee with preliminary plans. Carried 5-0.**

11. Discussion 2014-15 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Grants, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Grants, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants

Nehmer discussed the grants the Parks Department has submitted in April for snowmobile trails and bike trails. 8 Snowmobile grants, one regular maintenance grant for the 182.7 miles of public snowmobile trails and 7 new grant applications. Two DOT transportation assistance program grants for bike trails, one to connect Watertown with Oconomowoc on the old electric trolley or inter urban line and the other a separated grade proposal connecting Watertown with Waterloo. We prioritized the old inter urban line number one because it is ready to go, we have a feasibility study done on it and feel it would be the most heavily used bike trail to date in the County Park System. We have 4 stewardship grants, to match the 2 DOT TAP grants and then a stewardship grant for the farm area of Dorothy Carnes Park and another one for the boat launch and handicap fishing pier at Rock River Park.

12. Discussion and Possible Decision on Watertown Outboarders Property

Tietz updated the committee on the Watertown Outboarders Property. There is a lot of discussion going on between the Parks Department and the DNR on

development of the park. We have more meetings scheduled and we will update the committee as to development of the park as it is determined in the meetings. The club house has to be removed because it is in a flood plain. Nehmer informed the committee the boat launch will be open this summer when the water level goes down.

**Motion by Kelly, seconded by Payne to inform DNR that Jefferson County is interested in negotiating an agreement for development of the Watertown Outboarders Property. Carried 5-0.**

13. Discussion and Possible Decision on Stewardship Grant Application for Crawfish River Park

Nehmer discussed the grant application, and after talking to the DOT and receiving guidance from Wehmeier and Ristow it was decided not to send in the application at this time, due to the fact that we have 36 months from January 2014 to file a Stewardship Grant Application.

14. Walk with Walker – Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Nature Walk with Mrs. Walker at Dorothy Carnes County Park, N3220 Radloff Lane, Fort Atkinson with reception to follow at 2 Rivers Bike Shop, 33 Sherman Avenue W, Fort Atkinson

15. Update on 2014 Parks Department Budget

Nehmer updated the committee on the 2014 Parks Department budget. Wiesmann discussed capital expenditures made to date.

16. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project

Nehmer said DNR has requested a meeting with Jim Schroeder. We will be talking about GHA opportunities going forward, and economic development opportunities of interest in Jefferson County. The meeting is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> in room 202. They have also requested Mr. Schroeder and the DNR Secretary meet subsequent to this meeting to develop a strong working relationship.

17. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times June 2, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Payne requested we think about changing the meeting time. The morning would be better or later in the afternoon. Tietz suggested we give it some thought and discuss it at the next meeting. We will put this on the June Agenda.

18. Change September 1, 2014 Meeting Date at 1:00 p.m. due to Labor Day

The committee changed the date of the September meeting to September 8, 2014.

19. Adjourn:

**Motion to adjourn at 2:20 pm by Foelker, seconded by Christensen. Carried 5-0.**