

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

July 7, 2014 @ 9:30 A.M..

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tietz at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call: Committee members present: Tietz, Christensen, Foelker, Kelly, and Payne. Others present: Joe Nehmer, Jane Stanger, Mary Nimm, Kevin Wiesmann, Ben Wehmeier, Andy Didion, Lydia Statz, Amy Smith, Paul Magnussen, Cyndi Magnussen, Bob Bennett, Mike O'Reilly and Tom Miller. .

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

4. Review of the Agenda – Approved as written.

5. Public Comment

Andy Didion commented on the “No Parking” signs the DOT put on Hwy 18 by the Crawfish River Park.

6. Approval of the June 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the June 2, 2014 minutes by Christensen, seconded by Foelker. Motion carried, 5-0.

7. Communications:

- a. Maranatha Grads Complete 15-day Rock River Journey – Watertown Daily Times
- b. Concealed-Carry Mishap Leads to Woman's Injury at County Dog Park
- c. Wildlife Thrives at Dorothy Carnes Park – The Edgerton Reporter
- d. Email from Clare Carlson regarding Glacial Heritage Events
- e. Email from John McKenzie on 2014 GHA Paddling Schedules

8. Discussion and Possible Decision on park areas for special needs individuals

- a. Kathi Cauley – Dementia and Autism Friendly Parks

Cauley spoke about safe park areas for special needs individuals in Jefferson County. After further discussion the committee recommended we research this item more and discuss further where possible locations might work for this type of area.

Motion made by Christensen, seconded by Foelker to do more research on suitable areas and bring findings back to August Parks Committee Meeting. Carried 5-0.

9. Discussion and Possible Decision on ATV's on roads in Jefferson County

Discussion on ATV's on roads in Jefferson County. Townships have established their own rules regarding ATV's, and inquiries for availability of roads should be sent to the townships town clerks.

10. Discussion and Possible Decision on resolution for the Blackhawk Island Handicap Fishing Wharf

Wiesmann presented a resolution draft for the Handicap Fishing Wharf. An 80%/20% Sport Fish Restoration grant has been obtained from The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for this grant. .

Motion by Foelker, seconded by Christensen to approve the grant and move to the County Board for approval. Carried 5-0

11. Discussion and Possible Decision on Transferring Smaller County Parks to Other Units of Government

Nehmer discussed the Parks and Open Space Plan. Previous Park Committees have sought to transfer smaller neighborhood type parks to units of government that are smaller than Jefferson County. Nehmer is requesting we look potentially at transferring Altpeter Park to the Town of Sumner.

Motion made by Foelker, seconded by Christensen to offer Altpeter Park to the Town of Sumner. Carried 5-0.

12. Discussion and Possible Decision on Dog Park Registration Fees

The subject of raising the Dog Park Registration Fees was discussed by the committee.

**Motion by Christensen, seconded by Foelker to raise the Annual Dog Park Registration Fees to \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents.
Carried 5-0**

13. Update on June 23, 2014 meeting with Ben Wehmeier, Genevieve Borich and Cindy Polzin, Office of the Governor of WI, Senior Director of Legislative and Local Affairs.

Wehmeier commented on the meeting held with Ms. Polzin which highlighted Economic Development, Jefferson County Parks, and GHA.

14. Update on Watertown Outboarders

Nehmer discussed the progress made with the DNR, and that the DNR would look at redoing the shoreline, boat launch, raising all the buildings and redoing the parking lot. Nehmer forwarded a copy of that letter after communicating with the Quirk Foundation to the DNR and they discussed it and are in agreement with what is proposed. They will be putting together what is proposed and will put together a draft, and will bring that back to the committee as we move forward.

15. Update on Park Closures due to flooding

Wiesmann updated the Committee on closures due to flooding. The parks closed at this time are Kanow Park and Rock River Park.

16. Update on Fair Park Booth

Nehmer discussed the Parks Department booth at the Fair and noted we are attempting to have it staffed as much as possible for the 5 days of the fair and there are opportunities for committee members to sign up. The Friends of GHA will be signing up also.

17. Update on potential Master Plan Models for Crawfish River County Park

Nehmer discussed options to have a Master Plan done for the Crawfish River County Park. We could utilize a graduate student, a consultant or a hybrid model.

18. Update on Andrew Nicholson's Eagle Scout Project

Wiesmann noted the project has been completed and wanted the committee to know the Eagle Scouts and local groups have done lots of projects for us in the past and felt this was an exceptional project.

19. Update on 2013-2014 Jefferson County Snowmobile Grant Closeout

Nehmer reported total bill from the Snowmobile Alliance was \$61,261.02. The total grant amount is \$45,675.00, less county administrative charges of \$1,137.26. We mailed a check to the Snowmobile Alliance about a month ago for \$44,537.75. As soon as we have the cancelled check back we will do the closeout with WI DNR.

20. Update on Paddling Maps and Bike Maps

Nehmer commented we are running low on bike maps. We have gone through almost 20,000 in 17-18 months.

21. Update on 2014 Parks Department Budget

Nehmer updated the Committee on the 2014 Parks Department Budget

22. Update on Korth Playground Project

Wiesmann reported the playground has been completed and opened. We are seeing about a 50% increase in park usage just by putting the playground up.

23. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project

Nehmer reported a meeting is scheduled for July. Supervisor Schroeder will be a new member of the GHA.

Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times August 4, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

24. Adjourn:

**Motion to adjourn at 11:20 am by Foelker, seconded by Christensen.
Carried 5-0.**