

## MINUTES

### JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE

Jefferson County Courthouse  
311 South Center Avenue, Rm 202  
Jefferson WI 53549

August 4, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.

Committee: Augie Tietz - Chairman, Mike Kelly - Vice Chairman, Matthew Foelker - Secretary, Walt Christensen, Laura Payne

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Tietz called the meeting or order at 9:31am

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Payne, Kelly

Other: Nehmer, Stanger, Weismann, Nimm, Wehmeier

**3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law**

In compliance

**4. Review of the Agenda**

**5. Public Comment**

Schumer – Thanked DOT for parking on HWY 18 near Crawfish River Park

Woods – Thanked DOT for parking on HWY 18 near Crawfish River Park

Donnellan – Thanked DOT for support and access to park and trail

Ganzer – Thanked DOT for support and access to park and trail

**6. Approval of the July 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Christensen, seconded by Payne to approve the July 7, 2014 minutes.

Carried 5-0.

**7. Communications**

a. Upcoming Glacial Heritage Area Events – Clare Carlson

b. County Parks Panel Considers Projects

c. DNR Park and Open Space Plan Grant Eligibility Notice

d. County Parks Shelters for Rent Available – Daily Union

e. Lincoln Logs – Daily Union

f. Ash Borer in Town of Palmyra – Daily Union

g. Rock River Trail Initiative – Council Gets Update on Efforts – Watertown Daily Times

h. Log Home – Daily Union

**8. EAB Carlin Weld**

Wiesmann stated there are 100's of Ash trees in the Parks. The department has

treated many tree's, using different methods, with the hopes to save as many trees as possible.

Foelker questioned what the department does with wood from the dead trees. Weismann indicated the intention is to sell the wood.

**9. Discussion and Possible Decision on Arts Alliance of Greater Lake Mills Food Cart Request in Korth Park**

Nehmer noted that Mary Ann Jackson has requested a food cart/vendor at an upcoming event in Korth Park. Per County Ordinance, Ms. Jackson has indicated in writing, that all vendor licenses are up-to-date.

Kelly moved to approve the food cart during the event as noted. Christensen seconded. Carried 5-0.

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

Nehmer noted the known number of individuals with autism, dementia, Alzheimer's, etc.

Sue Torum – noted the numbers indicated were children under services in Jefferson County and distributed an article on Dementia Friendly Gardens and Parks.

Christensen stated that he has calls into physicians and is looking into acceptable recommendations for park facilities.

P. Chamberlin stated that there are existing facilities that are currently used, but there are safety issues with those facilities. He noted “dog park idea” with fenced-in trails is nice. Chamberlin also noted the design of *Imagination Station* in Oconomowoc is recommended.

Payne – promote other municipal parks that are safe?

Wehmeier – check with other parks for current inventory and possibilities

Sue Torum – will research grant opportunities

**11. Discussion and Possible Decision on shelter reservation policy as it relates to the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Waterloo Regional Trailhead facility in Waterloo**

Nehmer noted the \$900,000 facility is part of the GHA and that the City of Waterloo would appreciate assistance with marketing the site for rental.

Wehmeier stated that the County and City has questioned how to help off-set the maintenance fees and does Jefferson County help market and/or add as a rental opportunity on the JC Parks reservations page? It was noted that the facility is next to and connects to the Garman Nature Preserve.

Kelly questioned ownership and how it relates to GHA as a City of Waterloo facility

Christensen – motioned to allow the Jefferson County Parks department webpage to direct and promote traffic to Waterloo trailhead facility. Foelker seconded. Carried 5-0.

**12. Discussion and Possible Decision on 2015 Jefferson County Parks Budget**

Nehmer noted that the County Administrator directed the Parks Department to propose a 2% reduction in operations @ \$766,843. After careful consideration and review, Parks proposes the 2015 operations budget @ \$762,246.

Wehmeier stated he will meet with dept. heads in August. Public hearings scheduled in September. Full budget to County Board in October with November 10<sup>th</sup> as final budget approval.

**13. Update on Korth Playground Ribbon Cutting, August 22, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**

Nehmer noted that field staff has completed the playground and have been planning, with Rick Olson of Modern Woodmen, the ribbon cutting. Nehmer invited the Parks Committee to attend the ribbon cutting.

**14. Update on Transferring Smaller County Parks to Other Units of Government**

Christensen noted the township of Sumner did not show an interest in acquiring the property of Altpeter Park and the adjoining flood mitigation properties.

**15. Update on Watertown Outboarders**

Nehmer noted that in principle, there is an agreement. The DNR has acquired the property and will re-do shoreline, restore current lagoon to wetland, remove electricity, outbuildings and clubhouse as well as re-do the boat launch and parking lot. County will install remote paddle-in campsites, water and toilet. County funding could be from Quirk Foundation (\$30,000). Tietz will assemble the grant application. The MOU will be brought forth to the Parks Committee at a later date.

**16. Update on Crawfish River Park Parking on Hwy 18**

Nehmer introduced the WisDOT staff Mark Vesperman and Daniel Pruess. Nehmer asked for a background on the Crawfish River Park regarding questions on access to/from the park and trail.

Vesperman stated that as a part of the interchange construction, the DOT acquired remnant parcel property and offered the parcels to the County with a 1,300' no access policy.

Pruess noted the situation is not ideal (site, traffic volume, etc.) and asked if there was a "plan" for the property.

Nehmer noted desire for driveway access into the property as the bike trail is heavily used.

Wehmeier suggested/requested temporary parking during the Master Planning process.

Vesperman indicated the slopes (next to the parking/HWY) are too steep and there are issues, even with temporary parking. From the centerline, standard is: 12' drive lane | 5' paved shoulder bike lane | 8' parking gravel lane | 4:1 slope max

Kelly noted a need to address the problem to avoid compromising safety.

JCBC stated it is their hope/plan that the park is for beginning mountain biking trails, walking trails and family use within the park. The club also noted a plan to fundraise for property acquisition and a pedestrian bridge connection to the park.

**17. Update on Mason Log Home Restoration**

Wiesmann noted the structure up and the crew is now working on roof rafters. 4-6 volunteers each work day. There are approximately 500 volunteer build hours

to-date. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Mason Jar Jamboree is set for Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and as a fund-raiser.

18. **Update on potential Master Plan Models for Crawfish River County Park**  
Nehmer and Professor Grabow are working together to find cost-effective ways to approach the Master Planning process.
19. **Update on 2014 Parks Department Budget**  
Nehmer noted the 2014 department budget is on schedule.
20. **Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project**  
Nehmer noted there was a meeting last week at the Waterloo Trailhead facility with 22 attendees. There were updates on (previously submitted) grant applications. No official grant award announcements were made.
21. **Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for: September 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**  
Set – Monday moved to second Monday due to Holiday
22. **Adjourn**  
Kelly moved 11:03am, Foelker seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Nimm  
Program Assistant, Jefferson County Parks Department