

MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE

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

December 1, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.

Committee: Augie Tietz, Chairman, Mike Kelly, Vice Chair, Matt Foelker, Secretary,
Walt Christensen, Laura Payne

1. **Call to Order**
Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Kelly, Payne (@ 9:31 a.m.)
Others: Nehmer, Nimm, Wiesmann, Ward
3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
Meeting posted according to Open Meetings Law
4. **Review of the Agenda**
Agenda approved as written
5. **Public Comment**
No public comment
6. **Approval of the November 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes**
Kelly/Christenson, passes on a 5-0 voice vote
7. **Approval of the November 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes**
Foelker/Christenson, passes on a 5-0 voice vote
8. **Communications**
 - a. Fishing Pier Lot Hits Snag – Daily Jefferson County Union
 - b. Crawfish River Park Planning Input Sought – Daily County Union
 - c. Trees for the future in Endowment Fund Check
 - d. Watertown Outboarders Club House
 - e. County Dog Park Annual Tags Available – Daily Jefferson County Union
 - f. Doggy Donation – Jefferson County Living
9. **Discussion and Possible Decision on Implementation Plan for Watertown Outboarders Property**
G Matthews, Wisconsin DNR, noted – the Implementation Plan is co-written by DNR and Jeff Co Parks. Plan needs approval from the Division Administrator for Land and Natural Resources at the WiDNR.
Christensen/Kelly, passes on a 5-0 voice vote

10. **Update on Quirk Foundation grant for the Watertown Outboarders Property**
Nehmer indicated the committee received a copy of the letter with check for \$28k and that the Parks Department is thankful for the partnership with the Quirk Foundation.
Kelly asked if there is an official name for the park/property
Nehmer stated that there no official name yet. Must work with the WiDNR on naming.
11. **Discussion and Possible Decision on License Agreement with We Energies**
Nehmer indicated that B. Ward has been working with Julie Simmons (We Energies) to finalize the License Agreement necessary to place bike trail improvements along the 'line' ROW.
Ward – trying to work in “more time” for project completion, noting that funding and grant awarding is conditional.
Kelly – questioned if the agreement is for one segment or for the entire trail.
Ward – stated that the agreement is for the first segment of the trail, with the ability to amend as the trail is extended.
Foelker – questioned timing of the trail project(s).
Nehmer – stated that if we are able to secure funding, the engineering for the first segment will start Fall 2015.
Christensen – questioned the history of similar agreements and the ability to renew after the 15 years expire.
Nehmer – stated that history has not shown any inability to renew.
Foelker /Payne Seconded, passes on a 5-0 voice vote
12. **Update on County Conservation Aids for Dorothy Carnes Park/Rose Lake State Natural Area.**
Nehmer – Grant agreement announced for habitat improvement at Dorothy Carnes Park totaling \$5,350 which is 50% cost sharing and traditionally from force account labor.
13. **Update on 2014 Dog Park Registrations**
Nimm stated she prepared a chart illustrating which community the dog tag registrations come from. The community with the most registered tags is Watertown.
14. **Update on Handicapped Fishing Warf (Blackhawk Island)**
Wiesmann – met with DNR to reapply for recreation permit category versus the original Chapter 30 Permit. Have requested a grant extension. If/when the grant extension notice arrives, and the newest application is approved, we will proceed with the project.
15. **Update on Rock River Park Boat Landing and Pier**
Nehmer – DNR award \$30k, total project cost of \$60k, matched by a gift from the Watertown Outboarders to re-do boat launch at Rock River Park.
16. **Update on Crawfish River Park Planning Session**
Nehmer – proceedings report provided. Moving through the park planning process after a charrette and visioning session. WisDOT has noted the need for a “Parking Plan” at the north end of the park for consideration.

17. **Update on Holzhueter Implementation Plan Process**

Nehmer – trying to complete the Master (Implementation) Plan. Margaret Burlingham is now under contract to complete the plan per DNR requirements. Hope to complete the plan in early 2015.

Kelly – questioned if the plan would be brought to the Parks Committee for approval.

Nehmer – the design process has to be worked through, to include parking opportunities. The agreement and MOU with the DNR for the GHA has to be approved through the DNR Head of Facilities and Lands.
18. **Update on Annual Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance Meeting**

Wiesmann – annual meeting held on November 19, 2014. Met with trail coordinator, members of the Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance, WiDNR and the highway department. The group talked about lines of communication. Waiting on Verbal Easements (certifying that they have spoken with all property owners allowing property for trail use) and other required documents (liability and worker's comp insurance, grooming agreement).

Ward – reviewed the need for the alliance to carry the required Worker's Comp Insurance. The standing is that JCSA will need to provide the County with the required insurance.
19. **Update on Enbridge Violation, Jefferson County Glacial River Bike Trail**

Wiesmann – there is a written agreement that states that Enbridge is to notify the County 72 hour notification prior to working and they did not. They did have flags and markers. The flaggers were out and trail protection was down, but they did not notify us in advance of the work.

Nehmer – took the incident to B. Ward.

Ward – requested assurances from Enbridge on how and why it happened with suggestions on how to prevent it from happening again.
20. **Update on Glacial River Trail**
 - a. **City of Jefferson Connection**

Nehmer noted - Meeting was held by B. Udovich (Jeff Co Highway) to discuss safe opportunities for connecting to the trail from the City of Jefferson (HWY W) to include proposed parking opportunities (for GRT and the proposed mountain biking at UW-Ex) along with other amenities (restroom, water, etc.).

Christensen – questioned if the trees will be at risk of being removed? Reason for access on the east side of W? Next step?

Kelly – noted 2 or 3 houses once stood there
 - b. **Cost Over-run Release**

Nehmer – received a bill in January from WisDOT (from Highway Department) on a cost overrun at J & 18 as a percentage of putting in the bike trail. The \$10,700 bill has been “released.”
21. **Update on Flying Drones over County Parks**

Nehmer – Eric Compass at UW-W wanted to fly a drone over Carnes, Burnt Village and Rome to study natural resources and work on spatial analysis.

Ward – UW-W wanted permission to fly over park (open to the public). Nothing in ordinance addresses drone usage. County had no objection to the fly over as long as conducted in a responsible way.

Christensen – questioned noise impact and if the wing is fixed or rotary. Expressed concern for bird injury.

22. Update on Youth Hunt

Wiesmann has not heard from the hunters.

23. Update on 2014 Parks Department Budget

Nehmer – still in good shape, still \$298k in 1801. Bike trail has a small amount. Dog Park has more funds than “wanted” as the paving of parking lot is moving to next spring (2015). Grounds keeping is getting close. Gutters may be installed at Human Services to help with grounds maintenance.

24. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project

Nehmer – trying to find ways for the Waterloo Trailhead Facility to be more of an asset.

Matthews – Regional Director accepted new position as Head of Science and Business.

25. Parks Committee Tour of Crawfish River Park

- a. Parks Committee departed the Jefferson County Courthouse at approximately 10:55 a.m.
- b. Parks Committee will arrive at the Crawfish River Park at approximately 10:45 a.m. The committee stopped at the park entrance off Hwy 18, walked that area of the park and discussed the primary purpose of that section of the park to include drainage features, the 5 year flooding possibilities, vegetation and possible park opportunities for the north section of the park such as parking, fishing, canoe/kayak put in/take out and trails. The committee then drove to the south end of the park where they walked the grounds and again discussed the history, vegetation and opportunities for park improvements such as camping, river overlook(s) and trails.
- c. Parks Committee returned to the Jefferson County Courthouse at approximately 11:38 a.m.

26. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for: January 5, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

27. Adjourn

Christian/Kelly motioned to adjourn at 11:38 a.m. passes on a 5-0 voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary Nimm
Program Assistant*

