

MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Avenue, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549
March 2, 2015 @ 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 9:30 a.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Kelly, Payne
Others: Nehmer, Wiesmann, Nimm, B Wehmeier, B Ward, P Milbrath, J Morrow, G Jaeckel
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 (members of the Public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)**
6. **Approval of the February 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes**
Kelly motioned to approve the February 2, 2015 Minutes. Christensen seconded. Passes on a 5/0 voice vote.
7. **Communications**
 - a. Friends of Rose Lake Bird Count, Saturday May 9, 2015
 - b. County Waives Fee for Snowmobile Alliance – Daily Jefferson County Union
 - c. Dog Park Donation – Bruce Whitmore
 - d. County Parks Great Places to Play in Snow – Daily Jefferson County Union
 - e. Natural Resources Foundation Investment Update
 - f. Bark River Paddle – Daily Jefferson County Union
 - g. County OK's Licensing Pact for Interurban Trail – Daily Jefferson County Union
 - h. Board Takes Next Step Down Trail – Watertown Daily Times
8. **Discussion and Possible Decision on Purchase of Skid Steer**
Wiesmann noted that the Skid Steer was in the 2015 budget for a replacement @ \$20,000. It was stated that with trade-in value and the municipal discount the winning bid is \$13,739 and that the proposed replacement costs are in-line. The department wanted a 2-speed skid steer for work done on facilities and bike trails. The department will continue to use other equipment (bucket/teeth, etc.)
Foelker motioned to approve the bid, Christensen seconded. Motion carries on a 5/0 voice vote.
9. **Update on Illegal Hunting at Dorothy Carnes Park – Sheriff Milbrath (item discussed after item #10)**
Sheriff Milbrath stated that Nehmer brought to his attention a citizen complaint regarding hunting in Dorothy Carnes. He stated that based on tracks and other visuals, the DNR Warden thought it might have been “older” than the citizen caller indicated. As a result, Milbrath patrolled the park for a few Thursday's. Sheriff noted that there is a group that hunts the area on a regular basis. The Sheriff and Warden are trying to work out a system and mark calendars for the beginning of the next year's hunting season and stated that the problem is, if there are fox/coyote hunters on adjacent lands, wounded animals should be removed from the park however hunting straight through the park is an issue. Sheriff stated it is a good idea to put a Press Release for no hunting and dogs running at large prior to the start of the next season. Proactive approach next year, Press Release, work with the Warden have a squad presence and patrol the area earlier in the season.
10. **Update on Indian Mounds Park & Koshkonong Lake Road – Morrow & Ward**
Nehmer – included in the packet is an email from the County Surveyor Morrow, on Koshkonong Road adjacent to the Indian Mounds Park. Surveyor questioned his participation in the work representing both county and township.

Wehmeier noted the township will utilize county surveyor, saving the township money and bringing revenue to the department. Wehmeier is ok with the perceived salary conflict. The existing township road is possibly on county property. The surveyor will mark the right-of-way, showing if the road is on county property.

Jaeckel indicated the potential conflict of interest. He noted that the township has received a TRIP Grant to repair roads. In the first year, relocate utilities and find out where culverts (etc.) are needed. There is a section of the (Koshkonong Lake) road that does not shed water. In heavy rain, all water runs onto the road. The township wants to use the County surveyor to mark/stake the road.

Nehmer – distributed maps indicating the asphaltic portion of the road cuts through the NW corner of the Indian Mounds Park.

Wiesmann – questioned how much of the road is being worked on.

Jaeckel – noted the residents to the north are encroaching on the road ROW.

Wiesmann – asked about the road profile.

Jaeckel – indicated 22ft width and 2ft shoulders and that the road must meet state regulations for grant (+\$300k)

Payne – questioned if there is a need for ditches and questioned if the road would go onto park property.

Jaeckel – indicated that they must mark the ROW first. The intention is to not disturb the park. Park access at the corner, water comes out and runs into and fills the neighbor's garage.

Tietz – questioned the potential legal conflicts.

Ward – no legal conflict of interest

Morrow – ROW depends on portion of the road. Some is 33ft wide but more research needs to be done as it's not very clear. Historical records show 49.5ft and also state it's a 4 rod road (50's records).

Nehmer – either side of center line?

Morrow – people north of parkland – 33ft north of section line – co land is section line.

Christensen – noted that property lines not entirely clear along road line and questioned if the road will be placed in center of ROW or replaced where it is. Will we lose parkland?

Morrow – survey showing existing road and boundary of where the road is. Boundary will go to engineering company designing road.

Jaeckel – stated that Indian Mounds Park has only been a park since 1991 and that private citizens are allowed to own a road and questioned how could the road be deeded to the park/county? When engineer looks at the road, curves vary because of safety and grade engineering.

Nehmer – unsure what will happen if the engineer suggests encroachment into the park as the park is cemetery/sacred land

Ward – plans would have to be reviewed by the state

Nehmer – noted there are 11 intact Indian Mounds in park as well as a native peoples walking trail

Wehmeier – if the road is moved onto county park, this item will come back to the Parks Committee

Morrow – hard to tell how much road is on county land at this time

Jaeckel – thanked the committee for their time.

11. Update on Parks and County Website

Nimm indicated that she has been working with Tammie Jaeger on the County web home page. The home page now includes a section for the Interurban Trail with a link to the parks page. The parks page shows the trail along with the associated costs, has an informational flyer and also has a donation form.

12. Update on Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show & Canoecopia

Nimm noted that Greg Matthews is coordinating the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports show and the show is fully staffed and that she is working the show on Sunday, March 8. Nimm also stated that Canoecopia has been fully staffed, and mostly with volunteers. The Nimm's are working Friday and the Wiesmann's are working on Sunday,

13. Update on Group Permits

- a. Friends of Rose Lake
- b. Husky Group, Cheryl Stegman
- c. Trek 100
- d. 2 Rivers Night Event

14. Update on Parks Donation(s)

Nimm mentioned that a generous donor gave \$215 to the Dog Park with their 2015 annual registration.

15. Update on Watertown Outboarders Implementation Plan

Nehmer – noted that the Implementation plan has been approved and forwarded with some changes by the

DNR. The changes are very good, expansive, but not more restrictive. Nehmer noted that he has offered comments and hopes to have the plan in front of the committee at the next meeting.

Matthews – stated that the department staff has until Friday to comment, and on Monday the plan will be on website for public comment.

Nehmer – minor adjustments, land division leader Kurt Thiede and James Schroeder have yet to approve. Very consistent. One item in question is the naming of the property – Rock River name should be present and the Quirk foundation has an interest in appropriate naming given the numerous donations to the parks system.

16. Update on Holzhueter Implementation Plan Process

Wiesmann – working with Margaret Burlingham, restoration part of plan, we have a general outline for land management and restoration. A group toured property. Had narrative from DNR on trails portion and will be meeting with TREK to walk the property for placement of boundaries for the mountain biking portion. TREK capacity to help with trail construction will be minimal as their time is limited. They will be able to help more with design and layout.

Nehmer – noted that TREK shared optimism on ability to help with grooming, but they are limited with trail building opportunities. Met at TREK and talked about the property with initial analysis at maybe 6 miles of mountain biking trails. TREK compared our park to other area/regional parks and complimented our terrain, relief, woods/tree cover, etc.

Tietz – questioned if there is ample tree coverage?

Wiesmann – stated that is approximately 20 acres of “trees”, tree lines, other items/obstacles to incorporate that run into the prairies, etc.

Nehmer – stated that the acquisition of Holzhueter was 170 acres, 100 designated for park and the remaining as Wildlife. Recently the Wildlife Bureau has indicated it can all be managed as park.

17. Update on Crawfish River Park Plan Process

Nehmer – waiting for initial proposal from Tom Jennings.

18. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project – Greg Matthews

Matthews noted the educational committee outreach group met few weeks ago. Looking at ways increase visibility and outreach. Dropped Economic Development portion from the group in light of what the Economic Development Consortium is about and working on. Matthews indicated that in a message from Dave Borsechnik it was stated that the Watertown Outboarders property has 3 projects- widen road down to the wetland to 2 lanes, filling/restoring lagoon, rip-rapping the shoreline, removing the last building, finalizing the floating pier, boundary postings of River Based Conservation Areas, working with the state archeologist for soil testing prior to well and toilet, remove concrete slabs from beer garden and clubhouse. Next GHA meeting is on 3/18 in Waterloo.

Wehmeier – indicated that Genevieve Borich prepared an analysis and marketing plan for the region for the March 23 meeting.

Wiesmann – questioned if the park will be open in spring to public.

Tietz – asked if the funding will be available.

19. Update on Fundraising for Interurban Trail

Nehmer – have had a combined effort with MK Cellular as MK Cellular has a strong desire to help build the trail. We have made an internal decision to work hard on fundraising. DNR rec trail funds can be matched against stewardship. The project is \$1.4m, will apply for \$700k stewardship funds, also apply for \$200k rec trails funds, leaving a fundraising balance of \$420k. Nehmer indicated that People for Bikes liked the Letter of Interest that Nimm wrote and have invited the department to complete the application for the \$10k grant.

Nehmer also stated that the department has submitted a \$25k grant application with We Energies. We Energies have been easy to work with regarding signage and naming donors.

Wehmeier – noted he and Nehmer are meeting with the City of Oconomowoc and Waukesha County on Wednesday afternoon.

Tietz – MK Cellular has good contacts. Hope he can sway donors.

20. Update on 2014 Parks Department Budget/2014 Carry-Over Requests

Nehmer noted the 1801 business acct shows items that the department could not get completed in 2014 and showed the Carol Liddle funds have been forwarded. He also noted that he has had conversations with the Liddle family regarding using the funds for the bike trail as opposed to Carnes Park. Initially the family had concerns, and now seem to understand. The Carlin-Weld funds for disc golf have been forwarded. Carnes park farmland rental proceeds, mason log home gifts, and the \$75 funds for the parking lot have

been forwarded. The Garman funds forwarded were a gift for the sign. GHA funds were forwarded. Bike donations and poster sales forwarded (the department is trying to replicate former parking area). Remaining dog park funds forwarded for parking lot asphalt in spring 2015.

21. Update on 2015 Parks Department Budget

Nehmer – no updates.

22. Set next meeting date April 6, 2015 @ 9:30am and possible agenda items.

23. Adjourn

Foelker motioned to at 10:26 am. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Mary S Nimm, Program Assistant**