

MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Avenue, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549
May 29, 2015 @ 9:00 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 9:05am
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Tietz, Matt Foelker, Walt Christensen, Laura Payne
Absent: Mike Kelly
Others Present: Kevin Wiesmann, Joe Nehmer, Mary Nimm, Blair Ward Corporation Counsel for Jefferson County; Yelena Zarwell, Assistant Corporation Counsel for Jefferson County
3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
Meeting posted as required.
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)**
No public comment.
6. Parks Tour – estimated time of arrival
The Parks Committee visited each of the following parks:
 - 9:10 a.m.: Human Services Mountain Biking Project and Glacial River Trail Connector, Jefferson**
Nehmer noted there is a separated grade connection to the Glacial River Trail and the GRT extends from Rock County through Jefferson County to the north. It was also noted that parking will be available at the new highway facility with connections to the GRT and the proposed mountain biking project and trail system on the Human Services property.
Christensen questioned plantings in the parking area at the Highway Department around the parking area for the GRT.
 - 9:20 a.m.: Crawfish River Park, Jefferson**
Nehmer indicated that the department took title in January, 2014 with funds donated by Friends of Jefferson County Parks for the purchase. A draft plan for property will be brought to the committee in early summer. The plan will include two remote camping sites, hiking trails, fishing areas, canoe/kayak put-in/take-outs and a possible parking area.
Wiesmann noted that the area is known as wetland. The department has met with Ducks Unlimited and with WisDOT for restoration planning of the wet area.
 - 9:50 a.m.: Jefferson County Dog Park**
Nehmer stated that the park is 109 acres. It was a former solid waste site acquired in 1976. Pre-engineering studies indicated only 6-8 acres would work as solid waste site. In 2003 property was converted and the original area opened as a dog park with expansions to follow. This park is ranked #1 in Wisconsin and 34th in the country. This is a regional facility and there are in excess of 1,800 annual permits. The 1000hr dog park attendant helps to monitor and screen park activities.
Christensen questioned maintenance needs of park.
 - 10:10 a.m.: Rock River Park, Johnson Creek**
Nehmer noted the park is a former dump site.
Wiesmann noted that the park includes a shoreline restoration project. The park will require continued maintenance per DNR project requirements.

10:25 a.m.: Water Trails Put-in Take-Out, Johnson Creek

Nehmer noted that the put-in/take-out is one of a part many and part of the Natural Watertrail system and part of the Glacial Heritage Area system.

10:40 a.m.: Rock River Access Cappie's Landing, Watertown

Nehmer noted that the property is the former Watertown Outboarders Site. Overnight camping, fishing and canoeing/kayaking are proposed as part of the plan.

11:05 a.m.: Hubbleton Bridge

Nehmer noted the bridge is parallel to Hwy 19 and was built with snowmobile funds, for approximately \$435,000. The bridge supports snowmobile trail system and is owned by Jefferson County.

11:30 a.m.: Garman Nature Preserve & Waterloo Trail Head Facility, Waterloo

Wiesmann noted the former mounds had been pillaged. With a management plan, the mounds have been restored and reshaped.

12:00-12:45: Lunch, Lake Mills

Lunch break at Sportsman Pub from 12:00-12:45.

12:55 p.m.: Rock Lake Park(s), Lake Mills

Nehmer noted the park is divided between the upper and lower levels. The lower level is separated from Rock Lake by a town road and a town boat launch. It was also noted that the large parking lot between the two portions of the park is often full on summer weekends.

1:20 p.m. Korth Park, Lake Mills

Nehmer noted that since it's installation in 2014, the playground has been very successful and is heavily used. The pavilion is the most rented in our Park System. The park has is 1300ft of shoreline on Rock Lake.

2:15 p.m.: Dorothy Carnes Park, Fort Atkinson

Nehmer noted that Carnes Park is the largest park in the system with 515 acres. Six different parcels have been acquired comprising the majority of land around rose lake.

2:45 p.m. Indian Mounds Park, Fort Atkinson

The park was given to Jeff Co by Mr. Highsmith in 1993. It contains 11 rare effigy mounds and remnants of a walking trail.

3:00 p.m.: Return to Jefferson County Court House & Adjourn

Christensen motioned to adjourn at 3:04pm. Foelker seconded. Motion passes 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Nimm, Program Assistant