

MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Avenue, Room 112
Jefferson WI 53549
June 8, 2015 @ 9:30 a.m.

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

1. Call to Order

Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:30am

2. Roll Call

Present: Foelker, Christensen, Kelly, Payne

Absent: Tietz

Others: Nehmer, Stanger, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Watkins, Margaret Burlingham, Holly Hisel, Julie Engel, Amy Smith, Alexa Zoellner, Bob Bennet (Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance)

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law

Meeting was posted in compliance with the 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)

No Public Comment

6. Approval of the May 4, 2015 and May 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Christensen motioned/Foelker seconded to approve the May 4, 2015 minutes. 4/0 voice vote, motion passes.

May 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes will be revisited at the July 6, 2015 Parks Committee Meeting.

7. Communications

- a. The Bank of Lake Mills Donation for the Interurban Trail – Daily Jefferson County Union, Watertown Daily Times
- b. Rock Lake Improvement Association

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Notice of Noncompliance Nitrate Level at Carlin Weld County Park

Holly Hisel, Jefferson County Health Department discussed the high nitrate levels at Carlin Weld County Park. She noted there wasn't a lot of information regarding this well which has been in the parks system since the 1970's. A discussion of options and facts were noted to make a decision on the well.

- a. How deep is the well
- b. Consider replacing
- c. Reconstruction, retrofitting and digging the well deeper
- d. Closing up well

Mark Watkins, Land and Water Conservation Department noted there is a program for well abandonment with cost share dollars which would pay 70% of the abandonment.

Christensen motioned/Foelker seconded to continue posting and keep testing annually. 4/0 voice vote, motion passed.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2016 Park Fees

Nehmer discussed changing the shelter rental fee structure by rounding fees to the next \$5, making it easier for payment of Park Fees.

Christensen Motioned/Foelker seconded to round 2016 Park Shelter Fees to the nearest \$5 amount. 4/0 voice vote, motion passed.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Rotational Grazing Field at Dorothy Carnes Park.**
Julie Engel proposed rotational grazing of cattle, sheep or goats on the 70 acres of leased cropland. She noted that grazing promotes plant growth and the manure fertilizes. Questions were asked regarding liability, need for electricity, how grazing will affect birdwatching and bird nesting, who will monitor the grazing, etc. Ms. Engel noted this would be an education tool for the public on rotational grazing. Ms. Engel will return to discuss more in-depth information.
11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Holzhueter Park Implementation Plan**
Margaret Burlingham presented a conceptual plan for the Holzhueter Park. Burlingham also presented a visual plan showing trails, prairies, parking and rest areas. The parking areas are situated in different areas to accommodate riders and walkers and site seeing. Burlingham noted one homeowner in the center of the project and the need to buffer the homeowner's property. Burlingham also noted that Trek's Mountain Biking Trail Planner has stated this could be a premiere mountain biking facility in the southern part of the state. The mountain biking trail would be about 5-6 miles in length.
The committee commented they are satisfied with the direction the plan is going.
Greg Matthews will set up a meeting with DNR and will report back to the committee.
12. **Discussion and Possible Action on letter received regarding Watertown Outboarders Property.**
Nehmer discussed the letter of concern received from Mr. & Mrs. Halvorson. The letter stated their concerns about overnight camping, trespassing and excess garbage on their property.
Matthews noted the implementation plan needs to be approved by the Division Administrator for Land from the DNR. It does not have to go before the Natural Resources Board. The Natural Resources Board's policy is not to name properties after donors, but an exception should be made for this particular property. Matthews will work on the naming.
13. **Discussion and Possible Action on Rain Check Policy for Camping at Dorothy Carnes**
No changes.
14. **Update on State Budget and Stewardship.**
Nehmer discussed the State Budget and noted it appears dollars have been put back into the budget for the Department to have acquisition authority in Wisconsin, however, it will be a little bit less available.
15. **Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project – Greg Mathews.**
Matthews stated he reported on the naming of Watertown Outboarders Property in Item 12.
16. **Update on Fundraising for Interurban Trail**
Nehmer reported we are starting to talk to the service clubs, most notably here in Jefferson to see if they are interested in joining us. Notification of Stewardship dollars is pending with the hope that an award will generate additional local contributions. Nehmer has contacted Supervisor Rinard for the Ixonia area. Watertown and Oconomowoc Rotary's are writing a shared grant.
17. **Update on 2015 Parks Department Budget**
Nehmer reported expenditures to date are a little over 24%, the budget is on track. The capital items have been purchased. Mr. Wehmeier has approved replacing the deck at Dorothy Carnes Park.
18. **Set next meeting date July 6, 2015 @ 9:30am and possible agenda items.**
Meeting set.
19. **Adjourn**
Motion to adjourn at 11:20am by Christensen motioned/Foelker seconded, passed 4/0, motion passed.