

**MINUTES**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Jefferson County Courthouse**  
**311 South Center Avenue, Rm 202**  
**Jefferson WI 53549**  
**July 6, 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: Kelly, Foelker, Christensen, Payne (@ 9:36am)

Absent: Tietz

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, B. Wehmeier, Bob Bennett (Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance), Frankie Fuller, J. Schroeder (@ 10:31am)

**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)**

No Public Comment

**6. Approval of the May 29, 2015 and June 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Christensen motioned to approve the minutes. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 3/0 voice vote.

**7. Communications**

- a. Thank You from Austin Messerschmidt
- b. Mountain Bike Park Plan Eyed – Daily Jefferson County Union
- c. Email from Jennifer Hamann regarding Jefferson County Dog Park
- d. Natural Resources Summer School Class Fishing @ Rock River Park
- e. Clearing a Watertrail – Friends of Glacial Heritage Area – Daily Jefferson County Union – Jefferson County LIVING
- f. Husky Huddle Malamute Mingle – Daily Jefferson County Union
- g. Shelter reservations June 12 – June 14
- h. Shelter reservations June 23 – June 30
- i. Understanding Dog Body Language – Daily Jefferson County Union – Jefferson County LIVING
- j. Email from Clare Carlson – Coming Events of GHA
- k. Letter and donation from Kathleen Gallagher
- l. “Picnics are One of The More Popular Activities in the Parks. It has Always Been That Way” Joe Nehmer – Dine in Dine Out

- m. Surveying Koshkonong Area's Sacred Grounds – The Edgerton Reporter
- n. Four on the Floor Workshop at Dog Park – Daily Jefferson County Union
- o. Ride the River – Jefferson County Living
- p. Paddle Down the Bark River July 11 – Daily Jefferson County Union
- q. Fun Family Float – Daily Jefferson County Union
- r. Camp Close to Home This Summer – Jefferson County Living
- s. Campsites Available at Dorothy Carnes Park

## **8. Discussion and Possible Action on 2016 Park Fees**

- a. Dog Park Tag Fees -
- b. Park Shelter Rental Fees

Nehmer stated that at the June meeting the committee moved to round up rental fees to the nearest \$5.

Nehmer also stated that the department agrees it is time to raise fees for the dog park as follows:

1. senior rate from \$10 to \$15
2. Additional dog fee from \$10 to \$15

It has been noted that the fees are still compatible with other parks.

Christensen motioned to increase the fees. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

Payne questioned if the fees represent a good discount for seniors.

## **9. Discussion and Possible Action on Holzhueter Park Implementation Plan**

Nehmer noted that a group to include DNR Wildlife Manager, DNR Parks, Greg Matthews, Margaret Burlingame, Nehmer and Nimm met in Lake Mills last week. At the meeting, DNR officials made a recommendation to revert the eastern portion of the park back to a Wildlife Designation (managed by Jefferson County) with said section open to all hunting during all hunting seasons.

Suspected hurdles in the second MOU may include changes to these items (resulting in a third revision to the MOU):

- "State Park Properties" – now being asked to maintain State Wildlife Area
- "Jefferson County will manage..."
- "Parks trails and river access sites" no wildlife areas
- "Hunting, Fishing & Trapping" seasons

Foelker – questioned if Jefferson County Parks currently manages wildlife areas and if we have the expertise and/or ability to do so.

Christensen – questioned the drive to change the park management structure.

Payne – asked how the department purchased/ acquired the land and if the funds might be the driving force behind the changes.

Nehmer – the Parks started as a "unit concept approach" with natural resource parks connecting with each other and connecting the communities. History has shown changes to include 'Providing Outdoor Recreation' next to where people live. Nature based parks connected by trails. Holzhueter, state park purchased to be managed by Jefferson County.

Foelker – suggested that the Jefferson County Parks Committee wait to see how the proposed changes play out.

Nehmer – noted that the concept of hunting in the parks is very controversial.

Christensen – noted the Parks were acquired with Stewardship funds. Parks without Stewardship funds are operated by Parks under Parks rules. Park land acquired under Stewardship is open to hunting, fishing, trapping and cross country skiing.

Kelly – would like to move the item forward without delay and asked Nehmer to facilitate a meeting working out the terms of any potential swap, bringing the item back to Parks as quickly as possible and to County Board on August 11, 2015.

Wehmeier – noted the importance of working-out potential long term policy changes and objectives of the

DNR.

**10. Update on WI DNR Grant Payment Request for Jefferson County Snowmobile Trail Maintenance 2014-2015**

Nehmer noted the request for grant payment has been submitted and full payment will be made to the Alliance once approved by Finance Committee. It was noted that in a very poor snow year, the total grant funds have been spent.

Christensen noted that the trails were open 7 days during the snowmobile 2014-2015 season and asked if the number of days opened affect the amount of grooming charges.

**11. Update on Proposal(s) for Mountain Biking at Human Services**

Nehmer noted the department issued a Request for Proposals with 4 firms responding. \$10,000 has been designated for this project from the 2015 budget. The four proposals came in at \$9,949, \$9,950, \$9,990 and \$26,650. The lowest bidder, IMBA, has been selected. Work on the trails and training will start in August. Unless there is an overwhelming show of volunteers, the project will take several years to complete.

Kelly – questioned how we publicize to get volunteers.

Fuller – the Friends of GHA can also help with publicity and volunteer recruitment. Fuller also questioned if there is a plan to have the “scrub brushes” for shoes to minimize the spread of invasive species.

Christensen – suggested crowd funding as a way of helping to pay development costs.

Payne – suggested that after IMBA has started, volunteers and donations should be more prevalent.

**12. Update on Watertown Outboarders Property**

Nehmer stated the property naming (Rock River Public Access Cappie’s Landing) is moving forward to the Natural Resources Board on August 12, 2015 in Horicon. Implementation Plan approval is anticipated after park naming is approved.

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

Greg Matthews was not in attendance – no updates.

Nehmer noted that Matthews has been GHA Coordinator for 3+ years. DNR has funded this Project Position for 5 years (out of the Wildlife Budget), however the position will no longer be funded as of July 31, 2015. Jefferson County plans to continue GHA with DNR partnership.

**14. Update on Fundraising for Interurban Trail**

No new updates. Nehmer and Nimm will be meeting with a HOA in Ixonia next week.

**15. Update on 2015 Parks Department Budget (May)**

Nehmer noted department expenses are in alignment with projections. Potential budget issue with the budget is an increasing number of concerns relative to the Flood Mitigation Program. The department manages 130 properties; however management is difficult with limited time and staff.

Christensen – requested a map of the Flood Mitigation properties

**16. Set next meeting date August 3, 2015 @ 9:30am and possible agenda items**

Meeting was scheduled for August 3, 2015.

**17. Adjourn**

Foelker motioned to adjourn at 10:45am. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 vote.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mary Nimm, Program Assistant**