

Parks Committee Minutes  
Jefferson County  
Jefferson County Courthouse  
311 S. Center Avenue  
Room 202  
Jefferson, WI 53549

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m.

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

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:33am

2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Payne

Absent: Kelly

Others: Nehmer, Nimm, Wehmeier, Grabow, Wiesmann, Clare Carlson (Friends of GHA)

3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**

Meeting has been posted according to the Open Meetings Law

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for August 3, 2015**

Christensen motioned to approve the August 3, 2015 minutes. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

6. **Communications**

- a. Historic Landmark Designation – Mason Farm in the Town of Jefferson
- b. County Parks Teams with Tyranaena for a Fundraiser – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/4/15
- c. ‘Brew with a View’ to support county parks – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/7/2015
- d. County to Buy Land for Road, Park – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/12/15
- e. County Seeks Donations to Endowment for Parks – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/14/15
- f. Envision the Trail – Jefferson County Living 8/14/15
- g. Make it a Dog Day Afternoon at Jefferson Pool – Jefferson County Living 8/14/15
- h. Plans Told for Holzhueter Farm Conservation Park in Waterloo – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/18/15
- i. Park Name to Honor Local Philanthropist – Watertown Daily Times 8/17/15
- j. Holzhueter Farm Park Subject of Open House – Watertown Daily Times 8/18/15
- k. Donation from Carl Glassford
- l. Carnes Park Walk-In Campsites Available – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/27/15
- m. Camp Into the Fall Season – Jefferson County Living 8/28/15
- n. C/D Girls, Linse First at P-E Invite – Daily Jefferson County Union 8/28/15

7. **Public comment (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)**

Christensen – read a note received by resident near Dorothy Carnes Park

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on County Conservation Aids Grant Application, Garman Nature Preserve Restoration**

Christensen motioned that the department shall prepare a resolution for October County Board consideration and

approval. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

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

Nehmer – indicated that there was an Open House on xxx at the WRTF to discuss the draft plan. A request has been made to extend the public comment period to October 9, 2015. The draft plan is included in the agenda packet.

Wehmeier noted that there are two county board meetings in October, the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>. Parks could bring the plan to October 27 County Board with a special Parks Committee meeting prior to the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to review and/or approve prior to County Board.

Payne – questioned the process and if there are any public comments.

Grabow – indicated a 2009 study was done on benefits of parks in Jefferson County by graduate class at UW. The study showed that parks add considerable premium value to neighboring private property suggesting this information could be communicated to the in-holding property owner.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Rock River Public Access – Cappie’s Landing (Watertown Outboarders) Implementation Plan**

Nehmer – noted that the Natural Resources Board approved naming the park Rock River Public Access – Cappie’s Landing, in honor of the donors. The implementation plan is ready for approval.

Christensen motioned to move the Imp Plan to the County Board. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on Future Direction of GHA**

Nehmer stated that he is looking for ways to transition and move forward the GHA, given the GHA coordinator position no longer is funded by the DNR. The GHA Coordinator was responsible for coordination, grants, branding, marketing, etc.

Grabow noted that he has been asked to help define a strategy on how to go about finding a point person to coordinate the roles of the GHA position and GHA purpose. Grabow offered his services in helping to identify who might be the key representatives with a background, passion, and the capability in handling complex organizational issues.

Claire (Friends of GHA) noted that the properties still exist, that there is a strategic team and the functional components still exist. Need to strategize and market. Need to address on how best to promote and how best to get people to enjoy the properties we have. We need a team to help with this.

Tietz noted the GHA is a major part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Grabow – noted that the GHA momentum shall continue, and he is willing to host a workshop to address the organizational coordination and fill the gap which the GHA Coordinator position no longer fills.

Wehmeier – noted that a recent meeting with the DNR was positive in relation to the GHA and the sharing of the GHA Coordinator position.

Grabow – assumptions are made about the importance of the GHA and the number of motivated individuals. The issue in front of us is how to deal with the position loss and what are our alternatives?

Christensen – motioned that the Parks Committee and Parks Department continue to support the GHA effort.

Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

Claire – questioned if there are GHA signs in each of the County Parks.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on Crawfish River Park Plan**

Nehmer noted the “plan” is in the packet. Final touches are taking place and should be back in about a month.

Grabow – three Charrette workshops were held to design a park master plan. The designers have been working on the initial design, the action workshop, new version of the Master Plan brought forward and the mountain biking component be removed from the initial plan. Drawing needs a few clarity adjustments. A report to include the process and drawing will be brought forward.

Grabow – noted that the Parks Department paid (in honorariums) \$1,350 for services that would have otherwise been billed at \$30,000.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on Date for Fall Park Tour**

Nehmer noted the need to complete the second half of the parks tour. The next park tour will be Wednesday, October 21 @ 8:30am – 4:00pm

**14. Discussion on Carnes Park East, Parking Lot Construction Documents**

Wiesmann – Construction documents are out for bid.

Christensen – comments received on the size of the project and that the lot will be a detraction to the primitive feel of this section of the park. Questions received regarding the maintenance of the parking lot and how the size of the lot was determined.

Wiesmann – design was guided by the Charrette. Current events and event requests with a large number of attendees also led to the design of the parking lot.

Wehmeier – this project has been in the 5 Year Capital Plan.

Grabow – there is seldom unanimity of agreeance when planning parks and public spaces. The plan is sensitive, but a realistic notion of accommodating park users.

Wiesmann – parking area is restricted by WRP regulations. When the gardens are fully rented, parking spaces are limited and necessary.

**15. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) –Friends of GHA**

Claire – taking this as a new challenge. Upcoming prairie seeding in Dane Co. at Camrock. The Friends are selecting and scheduling a fall walk.

**16. Review of Financial Statements (July 2015) and Department Update – Parks Department**

Nehmer noted that expenses are creeping up. Budget at 54.2% through July.

**17. Discussion on Surplus Wood Bid/Sale**

Wiesmann – wood removed from parks, ten lots were made available for blind bids on the wood. Bids totaled \$1,085 for the ten lots.

**18. Discussion on August 20, 2015 Bier Garten Event at Korth Park**

Nehmer noted this was a successful event. Net proceeds, after sales tax, was \$2686.47. Very thankful for Tyranena and their help with the event.

Christensen – agenda item for planning of the next one?

Payne – resolution for future events?

Foelker – how many would we host?

Christensen – music was quiet, but that didn't interfere with the conversation.

Wehmeier – this is an example of public private partnerships and how they work and how they are built.

**19. Discussion on August 23, 2015 Dog Dayz of Summer Swim Event**

Nimm noted there were 90 dogs in attendance and \$452 was raised for the dog park.

**20. Discussion on September 12, 2015 Mason Farm Jamboree**

Wiesmann – this Saturday, is the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mason Farm Jamboree, starting at 10am with an educational walk through the prairies. There will also be a number of family activities and music. There will be food for sale as well as the pie sale. Funds raised have been designated for the log home and the barn restoration.

**21. Discussion on Fundraising for Interurban Trail**

Nimm noted there has been no word from the WI DNR regarding Stewardship funding.

**22. Discussion on Mountain Bike Park at Human Services**

Wiesmann – noted that he is receiving daily requests to help with the Trail Building and participate in the Training (2 day class).

**23. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO S.19.85(1)(E), Statutes, to deliberate the potential purchase of public properties**

Christensen motioned to convene into closed session at 11:11am. Foelker seconded.

Ayes: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Payne

Nays: None

Absent: Kelly

**24. Reconvene in open session to take possible action on items discussed in closed session**

Foelker motioned to reconvene into open session at 11:47am. Christensen seconded.

No action taken

**25. Adjourn**

Christensen motioned to adjourn at 11:48am. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

Next scheduled meetings:       Monday, October 5, 2015  
  Monday, November 2, 2015  
  Monday, December 7, 2015  
  Monday, January 4, 2016

*A Quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Board, Commission or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting.*

*Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the County Administrator 24 hours prior to the meeting at 920-674-7101 so appropriate arrangements can be made.*