

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

Date: Monday, October 5, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m.

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:31am

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

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Kelly, Payne (@ 9:51am)

Absent: None

Others Present: Nehmer, Wiesmann, Nimm, Wehmeier, Ward, Cheryl Housley (WI DNR), Bob Bennett (JCSA), Clare Carlson & Frankie Fuller (Friends of GHA)

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

Meeting posted according to Open Meetings Law.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for September 9, 2015**

Foelker motioned to approve the September 9, 2015 minutes. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 voice vote.

6. **Communications**

- a. Kohls Makes Dream Come True
- b. In with the Old

7. **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

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Interurban Trail Grant Award**

Nehmer introduced Cheryl Housley as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grants Program Specialist and stated that Cheryl is in attendance to answer questions regarding the Stewardship Application for the Interurban Recreation Trail.

Nehmer noted that he and the parks staff are looking for direction from the committee.

The committee asked the following questions:

Q: Is there a 'start' deadline?

A: 18 months from acceptance.

Q: Can we reapply?

A: Can apply for the Rec trails if no ICE TEA and LAWCON funds are awarded. Cannot combine federal funds for matching purposes

Q: What is the TEA Grant?

A: Transportation Enhancement funds through the WisDOT

Q: If we obtained all three grants, how much would that be?

Q: Can we see scoring and plan adjustments?

A: Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>. The application submitted by Jefferson County Park's was 1 point away from 1<sup>st</sup> place. Didn't get point for "interdepartmental cooperation" and other criteria that are unique to our trail project.

Q: another partner to qualify with?

A: Waukesha Co and Oconomowoc could apply to begin the section east to west.

Nehmer – if we go back next year, we have to give up this grant award and possibly score lower and/or not qualify.

Housley – two enumerated projects in the budget that reduced the funds available. Waukesha could apply without competing with Jefferson County.

Christensen – what are we competing against? If we don't get one or two of these grants, is that the end of the idea?

Tietz – could take Stewardship award, go after TEA and keep fundraising.

Foelker - if we accept the \$178,805 award and if we have a problem getting the funds, what happens?

Housley – DNR does not like to get the funds back.

Wehmeier – can the funds be reallocated to segment 3 or are we locked into segment 1?

**Christensen** motioned to accept the grant award and move forward while continuing with the fundraising process. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

Housley noted:

- 99 applications
- \$18.6m in requests
- 37 apps received funding
- top 1/3 got top funding this year

#### 9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Korth Lane Complaint**

An email dated 10/2/15 from neighbors to Korth Lane/Korth Park and maps of Korth Lane was distributed for review and discussion.

Nehmer noted there may be room to relocate the road further south. Korth Lane has been a long-time topic of discussion with Town of Lake Mills. Korth Lane is an old road and needs to be re-done. Majority of the traffic on the road goes to the park. Nehmer questioned the opportunities to widen Korth Lane as well as the option of acquiring a fraction of an acre from an adjoining property owner noting the problems are clearly explained in the email dated 10/2/15. Nehmer asked the committee what they want to do to address the concerns and if part of the solution is to talk with the complainants and/or the Highway Dept. as well as the Township.

Kelly – maybe the park isn't suitable for cross country meets until the road is improved?

Payne – is there another entrance into the park?

Tietz – bring in Lake Mills schools into the discussion.

Foelker – the problem won't go away with increased use and we want to see park use. We should fix the road.

Kelly – could we limit the use/discourage this type of use until we fix the road?

Wiesmann – parking is an issue at other parks during large events. Do we stop at a threshold? Do we require a bus service and limit parking?

Payne – can we increase the parking elsewhere to prevent road parking?

Christensen – need to have width and shoulder, this road doesn't provide enough space. Perhaps limit attendance, offer lawn parking when possible, request off-site parking with a bus-in option until we can improve the roadway parking.

Tietz – can we offer no parking in the area of concern?

Christensen – request to go to Highway for their consideration?

Fuller – can you create extra spots along Elm Point?

Kelly – continue to communicate with Township and event organizers. Also cap the number of people at an event.

Christensen – no limits to the people, but limits on cars?

Wehmeier – security, safety, etc. also needed for larger events.

**Tietz** – bring back to next meeting with more information.

Payne – October 17<sup>th</sup> meet, can we talk with the event organizer prior to?

Wehmeier – the staff will look into safety for the large events.

#### 10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Carnes Park East, Parking Lot Bid Proposals**

Wiesmann – the parking lot build was a little higher than estimated. Recommend to move forward with low

bidder, Wolf Paving.

**Kelly** motioned to accept the low bid of \$126,483.20 from Wolf Paving. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on 2016 Budget**

Nehmer noted the budget information is included in the packet. Overall, the proposed budget is less than 2015 and less than 2014. The Capital requests are tentatively approved.

Tietz questioned if the budget should list the project at Rock River Public Access – Cappie’s Landing.

**Christensen** motioned to accept draft budget with Rock River Public Access – Cappie’s Landing amendment. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on 2015-2016 Grooming Services Contract with the Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance**

Nehmer – noted this is a contract that can automatically renew yearly and it was in front of the committee for one last review prior to it being signed by JCSA.

Payne – questioned if we need to include the payment for Workman’s Comp. Insurance.

Wehmeier – indicated that it is a budgetary item and not required to be included in the contract language.

**Foelker** motioned to accept moving forward with the 2015-2016 Grooming Services Contract. Kelly second. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

Christensen – noted that there were seven days of snowmobiling available in the 2014-2015 season and questioned if the charges remain the same with such few days of actual use.

Bennett – stated tasks include brushing, sign install and take-down and the hours accumulate regardless of snowfall.

Christensen – if the total amount of grant was used with only 7 days available, how would there be enough money to pay for grooming?

Foelker – does anyone donate time?

Bennett – everyone is a volunteer and donates time.

Christensen – questioned where the payment for labor goes if everyone is a volunteer?

Wehmeier – stated that only the County can get the grant. Historical option for contracting is with the JCSA. The numbers are subject to review of DNR and DNR may ask questions.

Christensen – stated there was a “Letter to the Editor” stating that the County doesn’t provide funding and does nothing for any of the trails – is this correct? Don’t we have administrative costs?

Nehmer – the department absorbs the administrative costs as well as trail inspection, etc.

Kelly – any change in mileage?

Bennett – 350 total miles to maintain and care for.

Kelly – any opportunity to increase state funded trail mileage?

Wiesmann – state did an audit with requests submitted, but no additional funding has become available.

Bennett – trail pass, previously CAP Step program, all snowmobiles now need a trail pass in the state of the Wisconsin as many do not belong to a club. Trail pass is \$10 for club members or \$30 for non-members. Money will go into a separate fund. The JCSA is hopeful for extra funded trails and hopeful the \$250 per mile is raised as it covers approximately 60% of the costs to groom and drag.

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

Carlson – board met and has agreed to continue moving forward. The WIDNR has agreed to let the Friends of GHA manage the website. The Friends will try to make the page more visitor friendly. Community outreach is also a priority for the Friends.

**14. Discussion on Brew with a View**

Nehmer – reported on the event.

Tietz – requested that Nehmer prepare package for future events and bring back to the committee.

**15. Discussion on Holzhueter Implementation Plan**

Nehmer – public comment period open until 10/9/2015.

David Wise (W7666 Island Road, Waterloo, WI) – listed complaints with communication (Co/State). Definite confusion about driveway easement and who owns.

Nehmer – easement drawn-up by private owner and not state.

Wise – have concerns about large events at the park. Very nervous. Neighbor will be calling to express their concerns as well.

Tietz – next meeting will vote to accept and move forward or not.

Kelly – can we look at easement situation?

Ward –will review with Nehmer.

Christensen – November agenda, then the plan to CO. Board and any remaining comments for review.

Wise – main question is access and easements as to where the road can come in.

Wehmeier – DNR also has to come to the consensus.

Nehmer – believe the Wise's are good people. The park has been owned by DNR for a long time. Plan from UW Student has been out for a long time with park identified for park purposes showing mountain biking. Nehmer tried to acquire the inholding property for public ownership, preventing the stated concerns as expressed by the Wise's.

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

Nehmer – budget is consistent. Expenditures have increased at 62%. Hoping there are no unexpected costs.

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

Wiesmann – stated that it was an excellent event. The log cabin was there for building by the kids, George was there with tracks and Dick Wanie was there. Kids love the activities. Schweitzer also demonstrated wood turning. Approximately 300 attendees. \$1700 raised. Marked walking trails through the park.

Christensen – liked nature and bird walk.

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

Nimm noted that People for Bikes invited the department to reapply, requesting \$10,000.

Nehmer noted that the Quirk Foundation – will monitor progress and revisit in 2016. The department will submit TEA Grant with DOT app.

Wehmeier – Rotary Meeting?

Nehmer – we met with the Watertown Oconomowoc Rotary's in Ixonia to talk about the trail. We are hopeful to get an east side (Waukesha County) application in addition to ours.

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

Wiesmann – meeting tomorrow morning with IMBA to start design and layout and will host a Sat/Sun 2-day trails training. We have a great volunteer base. Each person to participate in the training must commit to a 2-day trail lead/building. Site does have challenges that we are working to avoid.

Wehmeier – Human Services is very appreciative.

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

**Foelker** motioned to adjourn into closed session at 10:22am. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

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

**Kelly** motioned to reconvene into open session at 11:33 am. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

**Foelker** motioned to accept donation and approve as discussed for the land purchase price discussed in closed session. Christensen. 5/0

**22. Adjourn**

**Foelker** motioned to adjourn at 11:35am. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Nimm, Program Assistant*