

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

Date: Monday, April 4, 2016

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 9:30am.

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

Present: Tietz, Christensen, Schroeder out @ 9:54am, Payne @ 9:35am

Absent: Foelker, Kelly

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward, Schroeder, Frankie Fuller – Friends of GHA

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

Meeting posted and in compliance.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for March 7, 2016**

Christensen motioned to approve. Schroeder seconded. Motion passes 3/0 voice vote.

6. **Communications**

Communications were reviewed.

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 – Koshkonong Mounds Road at Indian Mounds and Trail Park**

Nehmer called Koshkonong Town Chair and reported there is no new information.

Burlingame also noted there is no new information and the project is under committee review.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Flood Mitigation Property Requests**

Nehmer noted the department received requests from Koshkonong Township that Flood Mitigation Properties (FMP) be considered open space, but not open to the public.

Burlingame stated that ‘not open to the public’ is not the intent and the Town Board addressed. He noted that individuals were crossing the properties with four-wheelers and snowmobiles this last winter season. Residents would like “all to follow the rules.” Burlingame asked if the FMP may be purchased by adjacent property owners.

Ward stated FMP is purchased with federal money. There are strict requirements and the property is designated as Open Space, however it doesn’t mean that anyone can use. We can prevent usage. We cannot sell. County could lease the property – with limited exceptions. Use has to be consistent with Open Space/Park Use.

Christensen asked about removing the boat launch.

Burlingame noted a launch which opened for one year. Users made a mess. Access chained off.

Schroeder questioned the downside of leasing.

Nehmer noted the neighbors mow and perform minimal maintenance.

Wehmeier directed the department to review guidance for future opportunities and develop policy.

Nehmer stated it may be beneficial to hire a planner to do a comprehensive plan. Many properties are unique.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Pohlmann Park Silo & Parking Lot

Nehmer stated that there is a remnant silo at Pohlmann Park. The department took possession of the park in 1981. Parking lot improvements are desired. New parking lot does not function well if silo is there. 2/3 of silo in Right-of-Way. Do we want to remove the silo for parking and safety?
Ward questioned the costs to demo (test materials)? Look at safety and demolition costs.
Christensen noted the need to consult with Historical Society (Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission).

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Request to Camp at Kanow Park

Tim Brown, Farmington – Historical Re-Enactment group (approx. 10-20 individuals) wish to canoe in “period” (1770’s-1812) on the Rock River. Looking for a Friday night camp site, paddle Saturday, and camp on Saturday. May 13-May 14, 2016.
Tietz – encourage paddling and camping could be done by permit.
Christensen – motion to accept request. Department set rules. Payne second. Motion passes on a 3/0 voice vote.

12. Discussion on Carnes Park East Parking Lot Project

Wiesmann – Town of Jefferson has permanent weight restrictions on Township roads. Town of Koshkonong suggested an alternative route. Both Townships have road agreements for hauling materials that exceed weight limits. Trucks are estimated at 66,000 pounds full and 24,000 pounds empty – empty trucks are over weight limit.
Ward - will review Township Ordinances and discuss with Townships.
Burlingame – Koshkonong road agreement – process is to inspect and video road, periodic inspections, video after – validate cause of damage.
Project scheduled for April and has been delayed until after June. Extra funds may be necessary.

13. Discussion on Milford Motors

Nehmer – Milford Motors on Crawfish River and HWY A. Property is in a serious state of deterioration. Town Chair of Milford has asked the County to partner, removing the structure and improving the put-in/take-out. PECFA site, former car dealer/gas station. In-kind trucking/razing/removing could be potential grant match at the cost to the county. Meeting with WIDNR to see if Stewardship funds can be matched with WEDC funds for property improvement.

14. Discussion on Fundraising for Interurban Trail

No new funds received.
Tietz - Request to City of Watertown for \$3,400 for safety fencing required by WeEnergies.

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

Fuller – Spring events: Gardening with Native Plants workshop on 4/16 @ 12:45-3pm in Lake Mills at the VFW
Put out volunteer plea for April 23 at Camrock
Put out volunteer plea for construction of mountain bike park @ Annex Rd.
June 11 Family Bark River Paddle
Testing the Waters – Rock River Coalition
Agreement with DNR to take-over DNR GHA website

16. Review of Financial Statements (February 2016) and Department Update – Parks Department

Financials presented.

17. Adjourn

Payne motioned to adjourn at 10:52. Christensen seconded. Motion passes on a 3/0 voice vote.

Next scheduled meetings: Monday, May 2, 2016
 Monday, June 6, 2016
 Monday, July ???, 2016
 Monday, August 1, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Nimm, Program Assistant