

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

Date: Monday, November 7, 2016

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Committee members: Foelker, Matt
Kelly, Mike
Nass, Steve
Payne, Laura
Tietz, Augie

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:30am

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

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Kelly, Payne (@9:32am)

Absent: Nass

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward

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

Meeting was noticed and posted according to law.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for September 15, 2016 & October 3, 2016**

Foelker motioned to approve the 9/15/2016 and 10/3/2016 minutes. Tietz seconded. Motion passes 3/0

6. **Communications**

Included in packet for review.

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 on Holzhueter Easement**

Nehmer – opened the discussion stating that there is lack of clarity as to who owns the driveway at Holzhueter as it relates to the Wise property

Sharene Smith (WIDNR) – stated the park property was purchased by the WIDNR with hopes that the DNR would own the driveway. Research shows easement was granted mostly for agriculture purposes. WIDNR Legal does not think a public park use is allowable. The legal document states that we (WIDNR/Jefferson County) can petition for a Town Road and the property owner has to support the petition. This could be the only way the public can use the road.

Nehmer – 2013 easement agreement was not completed due to lack of understanding as to who owns driveway.

Kelly – asked if the easement question has been resolved.

Smith – Wises' own the driveway, DNR has easement.

David Wise – referenced an email from Smith noting “if there was no other practical way to get onto the property” and followed that with the comment that there is considering you (WIDNR) own property at end of my driveway.

Wise stated that he does not see the need to take away “our land” given there is practical access.

Nehmer – never anticipated that primary access would be from east to get to the west.

Wise – Cheryl Housley (WIDNR) tried to get a signed conditional use agreement which would have given access to entry at driveway. There is access to the states property from the homestead to the east of Wise driveway. This will make it more difficult to get to the mountain bike area, and there is no need to take our property.

Nehmer – originally it was stated as DNR owned drive with Wise access.

Kelly – new driveway to west of the Wise driveway?

Nehmer – is ROW wide enough to install new road and use same access point?

Smith – DNR could survey to see if there is an option to share ingress/egress within ROW and install new road to the west.

Nehmer – Other options are driveway to east and/or driveway to the west.

Wise – concerned about problems in park at night. County could install a time locked gate at road that clearly defines the property ownership. Wises would like low impact uses such hiking and hunting that won't erode the hillside to the west.

Tietz – Smith will survey and County will talk to township.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Stewardship Grant Application for the 5.7 acre Addition to the Garman Nature Preserve

Nehmer – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires the 5 NBOA's (hunt, fish, trap, hike, cross country skiing) for properties purchased with Stewardship funds. We submitted a grant request for \$16,000 to be used to be used as cash match to repay funding source. The 5.7 acre parcel is wooded and hilly and will have new trail for hiking. Hunting would not be safe on the 5.7 acre parcel. DNR would mandate hunting on the parcel, within the city limits. Safety warden will assess the situation. If safety warden thinks it is safe, then we have to allow hunting.

Funding party does not want hunting. City would work with County to allow hunting for purposes of obtaining the funds. Neighboring business has laborers in the adjacent fields in the spring and fall during hunting seasons.

Tietz – if the funds were granted, we were going to give it back to the granting party. What are their thoughts on repayment?

Wehmeier – we are obligated as a county to repay.

Nehmer – we cannot remove the deed restriction per B. Ward.

Kelly – is there hunting in Garman?

Nehmer – only if there is an overabundance that needs to be addressed.

Payne – if DNR deems the property not safe will we be granted the funds?

Tietz – is it possible to limit hunting?

Kelly – does the deed restriction make this a moot point?

Foelker – not in favor of hunting the 5.7 acres.

Payne – if the donors have expressed an opinion, we need to respect their wishes. Is there another avenue to raise the funds in question?

Nehmer – must first look at safety, and then must pay respect to the wishes of those who funded the parks.

Ward – will discuss in December meeting if it is determined by the safety warden that there is no safety issue.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Foraging in County Parks

Nimm noted that she received a phone call requesting permission to forage in the county park. The person asking, noted that they would like access to more than "personal quantities".

Tietz – invite the person to come into the committee to ask and/or put into writing the request.

Foelker – not in favor of one person taking whatever they want.

Kelly – overharvesting an endangered species is dangerous.

Fuller – do not want to upset the balance of the ecosystems. Have concerns.

Wiesmann – want to keep people on trails to avoid transfer of invasive plant seeds. This might be a time that speaks to not removing species from the parks.

11. Discussion on Rock River National Water Trail

Nehmer – Frank Sheer, founder of the RRNWT is in very poor health, and the board is hoping for his recovery.

David Schreiber, Dane County/Schreiber Anderson, had an unfortunate accident and has passed. Both are leaders of the organization. Now is the time to show strong partnership. In the packet there is the Grand Opening Event announcement on June 3, 2017 which is National trails day. Nehmer, Wiesmann, Nimm and Hutter approached the Jefferson County Tourism Council with a request for their assistance in making events happen along the Rock River throughout the county.

Kelly – questioned the RRNWT signs – placement and size. Supportive of the RRNWT and supportive of the event.

Tietz – Watertown Tourism is possibly planning an event.

12. Discussion on Interurban Trail

Tietz – Watertown received funding for Trailhead from two Rotary Clubs. The City decided to hold off on the trailhead, considering there was no trail. The City has built and opened the trail 1.3 miles to the Rock River. WIDNR

has given their ok for trail use. City is still working on the trailhead facility. Hoping with funding, the bridge will be installed and the trail will be extended to River Road.

Nehmer – waiting to hear on funding with hopes that we are close to have funds for the first bridge.

Tietz – met with City of Oconomowoc, Waukesha County, and WIDNR. Hopeful that the partners will continue to support and start their one mile section.

(Adjacent Property Owner) Darryl Pernat – Questioned if there will be fencing where he pastures near ski slide road expressing a concern that people/kids will go into his pasture.

13. Discussion on Shelter Rentals

Nehmer – currently scheduling rentals through 2017. Korth Park is popular for weddings. Parties want to stay later into the night, parties want to install tents. Demands are real.

Nimm noted that there are now parties trying to book into 2018. As this time, the Parks Department only books ahead through the calendar year and on July 1 of each year they take requests for the following calendar year.

Nehmer – our pavilion price is probably below market.

Tietz – requested a comparison of pavilion rental fees with others and bring back to committee.

14. Discussion on Pohlmann Park Silo

Nehmer and Ward will be at Town of Jefferson Meeting to speak about past actions of the Parks Committee. Spoke with Nancy Emmons about funding the rehab options for of the silo. Unsure of where the Township stands on the subject.

15. Discussion on Camping in County Parks

Ward – good experience with DATCP as it relates to camping at Cappies and Carnes and requirements for toilet facilities at both parks. Carnes was approved as is. Approved as is at Cappies with a limit to the number of campers.

Wiesmann – submitted the variance which was approved. Paperwork for signage was approved and signage is posted.

16. Discussion on Mountain Bike Park

Wiesmann – has been working with volunteers on building the trails at the county property by UW-EX and Human Services. Participation is low at this time.

Fuller – suggested the Hoofers Outdoor Club as a possible volunteer group.

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

Fuller – Friends may re-structure the group with the attempts of being more helpful to Jefferson County.

18. Review of Financial Statements (September 2016) and Department Update – Parks Department

Nehmer – looks good. Last week, funds were used in the Carlin Weld account to pave the parking lot.

19. Adjourn

Foelker motioned to adjourn at 10:52am. Kelly seconded. Motion passes on a 4/0 vote.

Next scheduled meetings: December 12, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary S. Nimm
Program Assistant*