

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

Date: Monday, December 12, 2016  
Time: 10:00 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 10:00am

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

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Nass (@ 10:26am), Kelly, Payne

Absent: None

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward, Richard Riedel (JCSA), Jim Mode (Town of Jefferson), Sam Jonas (WIDNR), Cheryl Housley (WIDNR), Ryan Ellifson (WIDNR)

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

Meeting was noticed and posted according to law.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Approved as written

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

Kelly motioned to approve the November 7, 2016 minutes. Foelker seconded. Motion carries 4/0

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 and Possible Action in responding to correspondence received by Beth Shropshire regarding roaming dogs and privacy of adjoining landowners at Korth park**

Nehmer – shared Mrs. Shropshire’s correspondence requesting a fence due to injured dairy goat by park patron’s roaming dog.

Ward – noted that he wanted the committee to see the concerns of the landowner. Trespassing enforcement shall be by Sheriff’s department.

Nehmer – stated that we have problems with leash compliance in all County Parks. We have received complaints from the Shropshire’s about roaming dogs on their property and we have also received complaints by park users about the Shropshire’s dog when it runs free in the County Park.

Wiesmann – stated that the “dogs must be leashed” signage is posted around the park. Parks does not have the ability to enforce the law.

Nehmer – stated that a ranger presence may be warranted with increased use of County Parks

Nehmer – questioned if the Shropshire’s do ask for a fence, do we have to split the costs?

Ward – noted that the property owner will have to make a formal demand to the County. Recommend the Committee wait until further notice.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Dogs at Large in County Parks**

Wiesmann – noted that this continues to be an issue in the County Parks. Other county parks have staff with the ability to issue citations.

**Ward – will review** the County Ordinance as it pertains to authorizing other County Staff to issue citations.

Tietz – would like to pursue for discussion at the next meeting.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on the installation of a controlled dusk to dawn gate at Carnes East and ownership of Jones Lane as it pertains to the Town of Jefferson**

Wiesmann – Nancy Emons (Town of Jefferson) has sent an email explaining the position of the Township and the process to vacate/abandon Jones Lane. Wiesmann noted that Dusk to Dawn gates should help to reduce/eliminate bad behavior.

Jim Mode – if the gate is at the park, it can't be on the Right of Way (ROW). If on the ROW then Township has to abandon the road. Emons email explains what has to happen if road is abandoned.

Tietz – questioned reasons for people to use the road.

Mode – landowners within 300 feet must be notified if the road is abandoned. Jefferson County must make a formal request to the Town to abandon the road.

Kelly – does Jefferson County Parks have to pick up the costs for the road if the road is abandoned?

Wiesmann – noted his preference is to have the gates as close to the cross road as possible.

Nehmer – stated that the asphalt road surface is in poor condition.

Payne – questioned what are the vandalism costs and would they off-set the costs for the road?

Kelly – questioned is the town asking the county to replace the state aid it gets for the road?

Mode – noted that the state aid is only \$500. Town would require the County to pay the attorney's fees to change the legal description.

Kelly – questioned how does a gate work with afterhours access, ie: camping?

**Nehmer – stated** that the department will have the ROW looked at and will bring forward information. Committee will make request to the Town of Jefferson.

Wiesmann – noted the quote to install a gate @ \$12,000 (estimated). Electric lines are nearby.

Foelker – stated this portion of the park has large investment and needs to be protected.

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Foraging in County Parks**

Nehmer – noted that there was a request at the last committee meeting. A draft policy is ready for committee consideration. Wiesmann drafted and refined a policy for review and possible adaption to the parks ordinance.

**Nass motioned** to accept the draft policy as policy. Foelker seconded. Motion passes 5/0.

12. **Discussion and Possible Action on Transfer of an 8-mile Segment of Snowmobile Trail Corridor 9 from Waukesha County to Jefferson County**

Nehmer – noted that the department has received a request from Waukesha County Parks and Planning. Waukesha club has been maintaining a state funded snow trail in JC. Waukesha County desires to remove it from their system by jurisdictional transfer with Jefferson County obtaining the 8 miles for the 2017-2018 snowmobile season.

Foelker – is there a JC club willing to take on the 8-miles.

Nehmer – Cooney Riders will continue to maintain the trail.

Ward – the 8-miles are state funded.

**Nass motioned** to accept the transfer. Foelker seconded. Motion passes 5/0

R. Riedel – stated that Ixonia has a groomer and will groom the NE Quad. Part of their trail is on this 8-mile section. The trail is double groomed. Can both counties bill for this 8 miles? How do we bill back for grooming?

13. **Discussion and Possible Action on Pohlmann Park Silo**

Mode- stated that there are many people in Helenville that would like the silo repaired. The Township will relinquish property as part of ROW if the county decides to repair and keep as part of park. Township will not be able to fund any repair.

Foelker – would the bids come in at \$26,000 as estimated?

Nass – suggested considering a 50/50 fundraiser.

Nehmer – stated that it is prudent to put a snow fence around it (until repaired) to protect from falling pieces. Perhaps the department covers the cost to raze the silo and ask the community to raise the remaining funds.

Wehmeier – what is the timeframe for fundraising? Is there someone who can offer in-kind services?

**Foelker motioned** to give interested parties 9 months to raise funds necessary to repair the silo with a contractor ok'd by the county (for any in-kind) services with a review of the status by the county in nine-months. Nass seconded. Motion passes 5/0

**14. Discussion on GPS-ing of the Snowmobile Trails**

Nehmer – WIDNR will require the county to GPS trails beginning with 2018-2019 snow season. Jefferson County will comply in partnership with JCSA and the JC Land and Water Conservation Department.

Wiesmann – will work with Gerry Kokkonen to find the best GPS unit for the project. Gerry will do one quarter/section of the trails at a time. It may take considerable time to document and inventory the County funded trails.

Riedel – JCSA will volunteer equipment and personnel to assist as necessary.

**15. Discussion on Shelter Rental Fees**

Hutter – noted that the department was asked to bring back shelter fees from around the state. She noted that we are low on the low end and high on the high end. Welcome Travelers and Rock River are \$35 each.

**16. Discussion on Holzhueter Easement**

Nehmer – stated that the WIDNR has ordered the survey for the driveway/ROW.

**17. Discussion on Interurban Trail**

Nehmer – stated that he is still in communication with the Quirk Foundation on our \$100,000 grant request and they presented us with more questions to answer. Have also been in touch with the Watertown Health Foundation and are waiting to hear about their grant application and application process. David Schroder of Baker Rullman offered significant engineering work/bridge crossing assistance. Evaluation of the sub structure from old rail road bridge. Schroder has secured a partial quote. At this time, many are trying to find old borings and drawings from the former bridge and have not been successful. Bridge has a span of 230ft. Moving project ahead as best as we can.

Tietz – picking up support and movement looks very positive.

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

N/A

**19. Discussion on 2017 Dog Park Tag Sales and Donations**

Nimm noted that to date the office has sold 249 tags for 2017 and has received \$605.00 in donations.

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

Nehmer – in November 2015 Jefferson County acquired the 5.7 acres Fiedorowicz property on the west side of the Garman Nature Preserve (GNP) for \$56,000. The county has a three-year interest free loan that was made to JC by Charles and Joni Crave in the amount of \$14,000. JC applied for \$16,500 from the Stewardship program to repay the Craves as well as for other types of mandatory items. It was understood that our current JC Ordinance would allow for nuisance hunting/trapping. It was not anticipated that there would be a mandate to allow hunting/trapping in the park. DNR safety wardens reviewed safety of hunting and trapping. Hunting has not been deemed safe. All 5.7 acres are within the city limits. The city of Waterloo will silently allow trapping, however firearm discharge is strictly prohibited. Euthanizing a trapped animal is often done by discharging a firearm (as quickly and humanly as possible). Question in front of us is how to humanely discharge a trapped animal. Asking the committee to decide if it wants to allow trapping. If the committee says yes, the County Board will then vote on the topic. Hiking, nature appreciation, cross country skiing and other relaxing activities are popular in this park. Nehmer and the Department are asking the committee if trapping is a conflicting or non-conflicting recreation use at the park.

Wehmeier – one of the five NBOA's to be reviewed. Permit process could spell out what's permissible.

Tietz – bottom line is that it was anticipated this grant would pay back the \$14,000 due to the Crave's.

Housley – wildlife biologist and conservation warden in attendance

Nass – how likely is it that someone will trap on that piece

Jonas (WDNR) – if open, not a lot of trapping pressure due to size. Fur prices also influence local trapping. There are many options. There are ways other than firearms to euthanize animals in a live trap. Distance to 5.7 acre parcel from parking will sway trappers from desiring to trap. Trapping is a business and trappers will look at cost benefit.

Housley – noted that after safety warden review, gun hunting off table due to city ordinance. Bow hunting reviewed and is anticipated as user conflict. We try to accommodate as many NBOA's as possible.

Kelly – will we have to change our own ordinance and do the donors have an issue?

Nehmer – Mrs. Garman did not want hunting on the property. We have spoken with the Craves. Mrs. Garman did donate the land, \$55,000 and \$28,000.

Nass – asked is it worth jeopardizing a donor for \$16,000? This is a unique situation due to donations.

**Nass motioned** to withdraw the Stewardship application to the WIDNR for Stewardship funds as hunting and trapping does not fit for this particular situation/parcel. Foelker seconded. 5/0

**21. Review of Financial Statements (October 2016) and Department Update – Parks Department**

Nehmer – noted that the department should be ending year with money to return to the county.

**22. Adjourn**

Kelly motioned to adjourn at 11:48am. Foelker seconded. Motion passes 5/0.

Next scheduled meetings:      January 16, 2017  
   February, 2017  
   March, 2017

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Nimm, Program Assistant*

DRAFT