

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

Date: Monday, November 6, 2017
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, Nass, Kelly

Absent: Payne

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward, L. Jorgensen @ UW-Ex

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

Meeting was noticed and posted according to law.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Nass/Foelker motion to approve the agenda. 4/0

5. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for October 2, 2017**

Nass/Kelly motion to approve the October 2, 2017 minutes. 4/0

6. **Communications**

Included in the agenda a thank you from the Korth Park Yogi's.

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: 1) the request of Sue Bettenhausen to allow the installation of a well return line across county property to service a residence on Lamp Road; 2) commencing an enforcement action for installing a well return line across county property without authorization.**

Nehmer – original request was in a correspondence through B. Ward in 2016. Request was to bury a line for a new well under the former Lamp Property, now Altpeter Park – a Flood Mitigation Property. Ward instructed land owners to contact the Parks Committee for permission. A new well was recently installed and was draining across the county property/park. The discharge was eroding the park property. Subsequently the line has been moved.

Ward – there could have been alternative methods to the draining of the well, however the owners did not make that request. A letter was sent, and the (new) line no longer runs across the county property. If owner does not appear and is not in front of the committee requesting permission no action needs to be taken.

Wiesmann – if the well drains directly to the lake, the line of flowing water will soften the ice at the shore and eliminate the ability to get onto the lake in winter months.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Charging Administrative Fees for the 2017-2018 Snowmobile Season**

Nehmer – noticed an inconsistency in the billing as this is the first year the alliance did not charge the full grant amount since 1981. Had the Parks department charged an administrative fee, the department could have re-cooped some of their administrative costs. Nehmer questioned - does the committee wish to change the policy from no administrative fees to charging a fee in the years where the Alliance does not use all of the available grant funds?

Foelker/Kelly – motion to charge an administrative fee to the Outdoor Recreation Aids grant (Snowmobile Trial Maintenance Grant) on actual expenses only in years where the Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance does not bill

for the full grant amount. 4/0

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Farm Bid for Kemmeter Farm Rental**

Nehmer – Hoard's Dairyman has submitted a bid to lease the Kemmeter Farm the for years 2018, 2019 & 2020 @ \$310/acre. This is a slight increase over the bids from the current farm lease (@ \$307 per acre).

Nass/Foelker – motion to accept the bids. 4/0

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Bids for a 56' x 6' boarding pier at Rock River County Park**

Wiesmann – the Pier was put out for bid as part of the Stewardship Grant and part of the project to improve the boat launch at Rock River County Park to install an accessible pier. The spec is similar in scope to that at Cappie's Landing. MINNCOR was low bidder @ \$9,861.00.

Nehmer – the project is made possible with a gift from the Watertown Outboarders and a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Nass/Foelker motion to accept bid the MINNCOR bid of \$9,861.00. 4/0

12. **Discussion and Possible Action on State Grant Application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for County Conservation Aids**

Nehmer – annual County Conservation Aids application. Based on acreage, the county is eligible for \$1,560. The funds will be used to help control invasive plants at Carlin Weld.

Foelker/Nass – motion to approve. 4/0

13. **Discussion and Possible Action on the Placement of Beehives near the Korth Park Community Gardens**

Nehmer – introduced Laverne Jorgenson to educate the committee on Honey Bees.

Nass – UW has honey bees on site along with a kiosk to educate the public.

Jorgensen – Bees found in hives are typically European (2 strains) and are essentially pretty calm. Recommendation is to fence around the hives. A draft application and permit have been assembled for consideration by the Committee. There are well over 400 bee species. Bees co-exist peacefully. Bees tend to work together.

Nass – should we charge a fee similar to a garden plot? Should we have educational signs?

Nehmer – the request was made by an Eagle Scout as a project with an intention to sell the honey and donate the sale proceeds to the park.

Kelly – nominal fee makes sense. Makes sense to possibly waive the fee under certain circumstances.

Nass/Kelly – motion to allow placement of bee hives in county parks. The policy, contract (s) and fees will be determined at a future meeting. 4/0

14. **Discussion on Interurban Recreation Trail**

Nehmer – Quirk Foundation has awarded \$20,000 towards the Interurban Trail. A contract has been signed with Westbrook Engineering to complete tasks 3 & 4 on the bridge (west crossing of the Rock River). Waukesha County has \$60,000 in their 2019 budget for engineering of the (Interurban) trail in Waukesha County. Nehmer/Tietz met Fort Health Care reps and gave them a tour of the project in hopes to garner financial support of the trail.

Tietz – group to run an event at the trailhead facility for an additional fundraiser. Watertown was awarded a WIDNR grant of \$65,000 for a restroom facility at the trailhead. Watertown Rotary had beer & wine event and will have funds to donate.

15. **Discussion on Flood Mitigation Property Management Plan**

Nehmer – public session was held a few weeks prior. It was well attended with approximately 35+/- . Comments from attendees were encouraged. Leasing option might prove popular with deed restrictions in place. Fishing wharf very popular. Opportunities for similar.

Nass – will have to consider coverage costs of signage for leased properties. Neighbors were concerned about a single lot and public access between private residences.

Wehmeier – persons leasing the property could install no trespassing signs and enforce public access rights.

Nehmer – leases will need approval from both FEMA and Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management.

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

Fuller – the GHA group is redesigning the GHA website.

17. **Discussion on 2018 Youth Hunt at Dorothy Carnes Park**
Wiesmann – applications accepted for the 2017 Youth Hunt. Three applications were submitted. First time hunter and mentor allowed hunting privileges for a four day span of time.
18. **Review of Financial Statements (September, 2017) and Department Update – Parks Department**
Nehmer – on track for 2017. Approached the Land and Water Department requesting 2 acres of the County farm for Mountain Bike Park expansion. Potter’s Field maintenance costs will be absorbed as a trade-off for the two acres.
19. **Discussion on 2018 Parks Department Budget**
Nehmer – approved at Finance Committee. No Supervisory amendments as of yet.
20. **Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e) Wis. Stats. for Deliberating or Negotiating the Purchase of Public Properties, the Investing of Public Funds, or Conducting Other Specified Public Business, Whenever Competitive or Bargaining Reasons Require a Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussion and Possible Action on Acquiring Land from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation**
Nass/Foelker motion to convene in closed session at 10:30am.
Present: Tietz, Foelker, Nass, Kelly
Absent: Payne
Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Wehmeier, Ward, Didion
21. **Reconvene in Open Session for Further Discussion and Possible Action on Items Discussed in Closed Session**
Nass/Foelker motion to reconvene at 10:51am. 4/0
22. **Adjourn**
Foelker/Nass motion to adjourn at 10:54am. 4/0

Next scheduled meetings: December 4, 2017 – Parks Tour
 January 1, 2018
 February 5, 2018
 March 5, 2018
 April 2, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Nimm, Program Assistant