

Parks Committee Minutes
Jefferson County
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 S. Center Avenue, Room 202
Jefferson, WI 53549
***REVISED 05-31-2018**

Date: Monday, June 4, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m.

1. **Call to order**
Wehmeier called the meeting to order at 8:31am
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**
Present: Tietz, Morse, Zastrow, Patrick
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. **Election of Parks Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary**
Morse/Zastrow – Tietz as Chair - Morse/Zastrow 4/0
Tietz/Zastrow – Nass as Vice Chair – Patrick/Zastrow – 4/0
Tietz/Zastrow – Morse as Secretary – 4/0
5. **Overview of Open Meetings Law**
Ward – in the past, invitations have been sent to public officials to attend events/public interest invitations – even if there is not a formal county meeting and no business will be conducted or discussed, if a quorum of a committee were to attend it would be a violation of an open meetings law. Potential meetings, with a connection to county operations, would have to be posted and/or if in attendance where a quorum might be present, one member of a committee would elect to leave the meeting to prevent an open meetings violation.
Ward – a “walking quorum” – is a violation of the Open Meetings Law.
Wehmeier – a walking email quorum is also a violation of the Open Meetings Law.
6. **Approval of the agenda**
Tietz – suggested moving item #13 just after item #9.
7. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for April 9, 2018**
Tietz/Patrick motion passes with a 4/0 vote.
8. **Communications**
N/A
9. **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
10. **Discussion and Orientation on the Services Offered by the Parks Department**
 - a. **Jefferson County Parks**
Nehmer – poster plan – synopsis of plan – who we are and what we do – nature based system – 18 parks – 1 acre to 515 acres, 1000 total acres.
 - b. **Bicycle Trails**
Signature trail – Glacial River Trail – travels north/south – 31.5m built in conjunction with WisDOT – system of marked routes that connect communities - mountain bike park under construction off of GRT on the south side of Jefferson.

c. **Water Trails**

Rock River National Water Trail – a system of PITO’s for canoes/kayaks on all local waterways (rivers and lakes) – parks staff work to keep the waterways free of deadfall – paddling is very popular

d. **Snowmobile trails**

Approximately 192 public miles – grant in aid with WIDNR – \$300/mile/year for maintenance of the program.

e. **Flood Mitigation Properties**

Jefferson County began acquiring FMP’s after the flood of 1993, approximately 125 FMP’s – majority in the Towns of Sumner/Koshkonong. Funds from FEMA and WEMA some JC levy \$. Structures are removed and revert back to natural state. On annual inspections, the field crew finds private property signs, private property, trash, etc. Monitor as best as we can. Attempting a first ever FMP Management Plan. Planning has been challenging. The agency assisting with the plan has been absent from assistance.

f. **Glacial Heritage Area**

Linking trails, trails linking communities, trails linking natural resources, trails linking natural resources with communities. Pearls on a necklace – links the gems of the area together. Jefferson County is the heart of the GHA. Several years ago DNR decided the GHA was not a priority. Attempting to keep the concept moving forward. Economic development is associated with this type of activity – brings people to the county who spend \$\$\$.

Holzhueter Park – acquired by WIDNR as part of the GHA – no development has taken place for almost three years.

g. **1840 Grounds Maintenance for Jefferson County**

The field staff take care of the grounds at the Courthouse, MIS, UW Extension, Fair Grounds, Highway, Sheriff Department Annex building, and foreclosure properties.

h. **Current Projects**

Interurban – Watertown/Oconomowoc old electric rail line – working on bridge placement over the rock river Korth Lane – near completion – this project is a partnership between Jefferson County, Town of Lake Mills, Highway and DOT – 95%+ traffic on Korth Lane is for the park on a township road.

County/City Park – on site of old Highway department, in the City of Jefferson is approx. 7 acres.

Mountain Bike Park – volunteers build the park on nights/weekends

Garman Vegetation and sign plan – benefactor endowments to make improvements at the 46 acre preserve – vegetation restoration and interpretative signage throughout the property – Indian mounds on the property

Indian Mounds sign project – interpretative signage improvements

Glacial River Trail – failure south of fort Atkinson.

~~11. *Discussion and Possible Action on Accepting Bids for Fabrication of the Interurban Recreation Trail Bridge over the Rock River~~

~~12. *Discussion and Possible Action on Accepting Bids for Installation of the Interurban Recreation Trail Bridge over the Rock River~~

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

Nehmer – county was faced with what to do with the silo. During expansion of parking lot, it became apparent that there is a strong passion to keep the silo in place. Worked with Town of Jefferson, good portion of the silo is in the Town Right of Way (ROW) and part of the silo is in the park. There is a liability concern with the silo part in the ROW. Hired structural engineer to conduct feasibility. \$27,000 findings in repairs. Advocates for preservation came forward; they would repair for \$2,000, not \$27,000. Question was then who will certify stating that the repairs have been done and are sound. Have not yet found an engineer who will certify the repairs. Udovich did an inspection and noted the silo condition is currently safe. RA Smith structural services report distributed to the committee states how to reach point of a safe silo.

Wehmeier – top of silo, mortar and pieces have been falling. What will weathering do to the structure and safety? Perhaps a “warning” shall be posted near the silo.

Morse – questioned if there is a structural problem with the cap.

Mode – the residents that live near the silo have a passion to ‘save’ the silo.

Tietz – do we have a safety certification?

Wehmeier – in-kind contributions were done.

Mode – is there a requirement for a certification?

Wehmeier – there is a risk element. Goal was to mitigate the initial risk.

Ward – if the county knows there is a problem, we have a responsibility to address it. Having it inspected yearly should be sufficient. As the county, we need to protect the public.

Morse – could the cap be eliminated?

Patrick – would taking the cap off diminish the historic value of the silo?

Zastrow – concrete should be reinforced with wire

Fuller – landmark, more than aesthetic value for those who live in the area. Engineering student groups at UW who might be looking for a project to do who might fix it?

Mode – removing the roof will promote weathering on the inside and thus promote deterioration.

Nehmer – the initial feeling, with the past committee, was that the silo would eventually be raised. The neighbors are passionate about the silo. A majority of the silo is in the ROW. Town may be in favor of a quit claim deed to remove the silo from the ROW.

Morse – not considering budget, Historic Sites Preservation Committee consensus would like to see the silo preserved.

Ward – take action to have silo inspected yearly, by highway department (engineer), to check the structural integrity and safety of the silo.

Tietz/Patrick – motion to have the silo inspected yearly, by highway department (engineer), to check the structural integrity and safety of the silo. 4/0

14. **Discussion on Glacial River Trail Repair South of Fort Atkinson**

Nehmer – Janesville to Wild Goose Trail – area south of Pond Road, east side of trail three large pits, trail has been “dropping”, soil borings were done. Woody vegetation buried on-site, decomposing, failure in trail. Cost estimates not in place to repair – remove the bad stuff, put in structural base and rebuild. Trees should not have been buried on site. Hoping for opportunity to speak with the WisDOT regarding partnering with repairs to the trail.

15. **Discussion on Korth Lane Reconstruction**

Discussed above. BWAV fundraiser, hosted by Tyranena.

16. **Discussion on Jefferson County Flood Mitigation Management Plan**

Discussed above. Will discuss in July

17. **Discussion on Interurban Recreation Trail**

Nehmer – project shortfall of \$100,000 for the bridge installation due to limited access to the river and overhead utility lines.

Tietz – trail approximately 11 miles, broken into three segments with one mile in Waukesha County.

18. **Discussion on Historic Sites Preservation Council**

Morse – meet next week, meet every 2 months – strategic planning still in process. Goal is to preserve historic places. Designate through County’s historic sites/landmark sites. Trying to coordinate with local historic committees.

Tietz – HSPC now reports to the Parks Committee.

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

Fuller – paddle scheduled BV to HP for July 7. Planning winter workshop in Waterloo. Next meeting June 20 @ 6:30pm @ the Café Carpe – looking to expand the committee board to get broader participation. Would like table at BWAV to sign up for GHA.

??? – successful bird walk.

20. **Discussion on 2018 Parks Department Budget**

Nehmer – all is as should be.

Cap Imp Land – 75k \$ for engineering of Phase II of Interurban RR to Ixonia with no bridges. The \$75k may have to be used for the bridge.

Korth Park development \$110k county contribution for road development.

Wehmeier – asking for feedback from committee on reporting structure. Transfer/adjustments – new budget line.
Encumbrances – bill/po \$ is encumbered, just not yet paid.

21. **Adjourn**

Patrick/Zastrow motion to adjourn at 10:00am – 4/0

Next scheduled meetings: July 2, 2018
 August 6, 2018
 September 3, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary Nimm
Program Assistant, Jefferson County Parks*