

Jefferson County
Parks Committee Minutes
Monday, November 5, 2018

Committee members: Tietz, Augie (Chair) Nass, Steve (Vice Chair)
Morse, Ed (Secretary) Patrick, Greg
Zastrow, Lloyd

1. **Call to order**
Nass called the meeting to order at 8:30am
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**
Parks Committee members present: Morse, Nass, Patrick (8:35am)
Parks Committee members absent: Tietz
Staff in attendance: Joe Nehmer, Director; Mary Nimm, Program Assistant; Kaela Hutter, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Wiesmann, Parks Supervisor; Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Blair Ward, Corporation Council
Members of the public present:
3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
County Administrator Ben Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Approval of the agenda**
Patrick/Nass Agenda approved as written 4/0
5. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for September 4, 2018**
Motion made by Morse/Patrick to approve the August 6, 2018 minutes. Motion passed 4/0.
6. **Communications**
None
7. **Public Comment** (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)
None
8. **Discussion and Possible Action on State Grant Application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for County Conservation Aids for Launch Improvements & Parking at Bark River & Hwy E**
Nehmer introduced the grant application and project to the committee requesting approval for acceptance and a recommendation to the County Board for approval at the November, 2018 meeting.
Motion made by Nass/Patrick to Nass/Patrick to approve the State Grant Application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for County Conservation Aids for Launch Improvements & Parking at Bark River & Hwy E. Motion passed 4/0.
9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Repairing the Glacial River Trail South of Fort Atkinson**
Nehmer noted that this repair has been discussed a number of times. Nehmer has recently spoken to the Jefferson County Highway Commissioner. WisDOT has not yet agreed to participate in the repair or repair costs. The best time to ask for help from the WisDOT would be Spring, 2019. Nehmer made the recommendation that the committee wait to make any repairs until 2019.
No committee action taken.
10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Updating the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan**
Nehmer noted that the Zoning Department has selected a contractor (SRF) to update their plan. Nehmer has also spoken with Steve Grabow about the possibility of working on the plan updates.
Wehmeier noted the possibility of going through the RFQ/RFP process for cost savings.
No committee action taken.

- 11. Discussion and Possible Action on Amending the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to Include Flood Mitigation Properties**

Nimmer noted that Emergency Management Director Donna Haugom has requested an amendment to the Plan. Haugom is applying for grants to assist with funding the acquisition of possible Flood Mitigation Properties. A condition of the WIDNR Stewardship Grant is that specific language be included in the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. The WIDNR has provided the necessary language for the plan amendment.

Nehmer noted that of all of the requested properties, two possibilities are endorsed by the WIDNR and shall score favorably in the selection process. Resolution for amending the plan will have to go to County Board at the December meeting.

Motion made by Nass/Patrick to amend the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to include Flood Mitigation Properties. Motion passed 4/0.
- 12. Discussion and Possible Action on Rock River Trail Initiative**

Nehmer stated that the RRTI is a group of 8 years that oversees the National RR Trail. Nehmer noted that two of the three leaders of the group have recently passed on and the third, remaining leader is retreating from a lead role. Nehmer fears the status of the group is in jeopardy and is requesting help in strategizing methods to keep the program alive.

No committee action taken.
- 13. Discussion on Glacial River Trail Repair South of Spruce Drive**

Nehmer stated that a property owner along the bike trail contacted the county stating that the bike trail has changed the drainage of his property, resulting in flooding of buildings on the property. The Jefferson County Highway Department has worked with WisDOT to repair the flooding problem along the trail at this location.
- 14. Discussion on County Conservation Aids Grant for Bark River Boat Launch Improvements**

Item discussed above @ item 8.
- 15. Discussion on Vegetative Management and Signing Project at Garman Nature Preserve**

Nehmer noted that both projects are moving forward. There will be work on the vegetation management project this week. Staff is interviewing firms for the sign project next week. Both projects are funded by an anonymous donor.

No committee action taken.
- 16. Discussion and Possible Action on Interurban Trail Project**

Nehmer noted that the department was awarded \$1.2m TAP Grant for Phase II.

The bridge project, as part of Phase I is underway.

Wehmeier noted that the County has met with the Conservation Club prior to starting to discuss access. The Conservation Club is concerned about trail users accessing the property.

No committee action taken.
- 17. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area Meeting**

Nehmer stated the next meeting will be November 12 @ 2 pm.
- 18. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) –Friends of GHA**

No committee action taken.
- 19. Discussion on 2018/2019 Parks Department Budget**

Nehmer noted that the budget is progressing as normal. Large purchases on the horizon: Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update, potential acquisition near Korth, new gate at Carnes Park (east) Jones Lane, Interurban Trail Improvements – DOT TAP Mandatory Training.

No committee action taken.
- 20. Discussion and Possible Action on Town of Ixonia, State Hwy 16 Wayside**

Nehmer stated that there are many park-like opportunities for the State Hwy 16 Wayside if the County were to acquire the property.

Ward indicated that he has discussed management of the Wayside with WisDOT. WisDOT would explore removing

deed restrictions as long as the property is maintained for public use.
No committee action taken.

21. **Tour of Highway 16 Wayside**

Committee departed at 9:54am to tour the Highway 16 Wayside.
Patrick did not participate in the tour.

22. **Adjourn**

Motion made by Nass/Morse to adjourn at 11:03am. Motion passed 3/0.