

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

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at

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

Parks Committee members present: Tietz, Morse, Zastrow, Patrick

Parks Committee members absent: Nass

Staff in attendance: Joe Nehmer, Mary Nimm, Hutter, Kaela Wiesmann, Ben Wehmeier

Members of the public present: David Wise neighbor to Holzhueter Park, Amy Rinard County Board Supervisor

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**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for November 5, 2018**

Motion made by Patrick/Morse to approve the November 5, 2018 minutes. Motion passed 4/0.

6. **Communications**

Nehmer explained the article from the Watertown Daily Times.

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 Approval of the Holzhueter Park Master Plan**

Nehmer – stated that while reinvigorating the GHA, current DNR staff had the Holzhueter Park Master Plan signed by the DNR. The plan needs approval by the Parks Committee and then approval by the County Board. Nehmer explained the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Plan and how the plan for Holzhueter Park is connected to the GHA. Nehmer then highlighted areas of Holzhueter Park and the Park Master Plan.

David Wise expressed a curiosity as to why the use of the driveway is shown in the master plan as a shared use driveway, and questioned the plan for future access to the park.

No committee action taken. Committee will review the plan and discuss at the January 7, 2019 Parks Committee meeting. Committee may tour the park at the January meeting, weather dependent.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Jefferson County acquiring title to the State Hwy 16 Wayside in the Town of Ixonia**

Corporation Counsel Ward noted an initial concern to maintain the property as a wayside and stated that the Department of Transportation would be willing to remove the requirement that the property operate as a wayside as long as it operate as a public property. There shall be no commercial, industrial or restaurant activity and shall remain in public ownership in perpetuity. Ward recommends moving this item forward to the county board for approval if the parks committee so desires.

Rinard noted that the Town of Ixonia Town Board noted no desire to maintain the property.

Weismann stated that he does not have staffing to take on additional properties and that there is a public perception and desire to have the property open for use.

Zastrow/Morse motion to accept the property. Motion passed 4/0.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Rock River Trail Initiative**

Nehmer explained that the members of the Rock River Trail Initiative met to discuss the sustainability of the effort. Leadership has changed, and the group is looking for new leadership and questions if the national water trail designation be important to the people and the city's the river runs through. Administrator Wehmeier has agreed to write a letter to the municipalities along the river, speaking on behalf of the initiative.

Wehmeier noted economic development opportunities that the initiative provides and noted the importance of a shared endeavor.

No committee action taken.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Interurban Trail Project

Nehmer noted the placement of the bridge is taking place. All three trusses should be in place by the end of today. Nehmer noted that the DOT TAP Grant will not allow construction for Phase II until 2022, design will begin in 2019. Local Force Account (LFA) (County Highway Department) is not allowed. A Local Let will not be allowed due to the nature of the project, the advantage is the environmental agreement between the DOT and DNR will be easier to negotiate as the trail travels through much wetland.

No committee action taken.

12. Discussion on the Process of Selecting a Design Firm for the Garman Nature Preserve Signage Project

Wiesmann noted that there is private donation that will pay for work done at the Garman Nature Preserve. This project has been approved and will be a recipient of the grant proceeds. The department received xxx qualified submissions, two firms were interviewed, fees/costs and final proposals are under review.

No committee action taken.

13. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area Meeting

Nehmer noted there was a GHA meeting at Crave Brothers Dairy. Three WIDNR staff were in attendance at the meeting. The next meeting will be in early 2019.

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

No discussion.

15. Discussion on 2018/2019 Parks Department Budget

Nehmer noted that there is \$10,000 in the budget for Flood Mitigation Planning and questioned using these funds to update the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Nehmer also noted that on December 4, 2018 Steve Grabow will facilitate a series of *land meetings* in Jefferson County. The group (department heads from Planning & Zoning, Land Information, Parks, Land & Water, Register of Deeds, Treasurer) will start a discussion on the future of land functions in the county.

No action taken.

16. Adjourn

Patrick/Tietz motion to adjourn at 10:10am. Motion passed 4/0.