

Jefferson County  
Parks Committee Minutes  
Monday, February 04, 2019

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

**1. Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 8:30am

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

Parks Committee members present: Tietz, Morse, Lund, Nass (@ 8:31am)

Parks Committee members absent: None

Staff in attendance: Joe Nehmer, Mary Truman, Kaela Hutter, Kevin Wiesmann, Ben Wehmeier, Blair Ward

Members of the public present: Frankie Fuller (Friends of GHA @ 8:32am )

**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 January 7, 2019**

Lund/Morse motion to approve the January 7, 2019 minutes. Motion passes 4/0.

**6. Communications**

No communications.

**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 Holzhuetter Park Implementation Plan**

Nehmer indicated that this is an Implementation Plan, not Master Plan. The Wisconsin DNR has officially retracted the plan. The WIDNR Forestry, Wildlife, and Parks Departments have concerns. The joint easement area in question is owned by the private property owner. The only other party that can utilize the joint access is the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. If the county and/or public wanted to access the park, entrance would be on the drive to the east, walk out onto the road and enter the park west of the driveway.

Ward stated that the DNR will work with the landowner for access to the property. Ward will research and offer additional commentary.

**9. Discussion and Possible Action on Underground Utility Easement(s) at the Jefferson County Dog Park**

Nehmer stated that this is for electric install at the Dog Park. Electricity will aid in lights and security cameras.

Wiesmann received quotes from WE Energies for service drops @ two pedestals @ \$14,314. Utility easements under review. Electrician quote @ approximately \$15,000.

Nimm will research Wi-Fi connective technology and camera costs.

Nass/Lund motion to approve the underground utility easements with We Energies and to forward for County Board approval at the March, 2019 County Board meeting. Motion passed 4/0.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Request to have Wedding Ceremony in the Red Covered Bridge on the Glacial River Trail (south of Fort Atkinson)**

Hutter stated that she received a request from a private party to hold a 10-15 minute wedding ceremony of approximately 15 ppl on a Friday afternoon in September, 2019 in the Red Covered Bridge.

No committee action taken. Ceremony is allowed.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on potential design and development of Hwy 16 Wayside**

Nehmer noted that Blair Ward has expedited the transfer of the real estate to Jefferson County and he is looking for recommendations on operating in 2019.

There is approximately a 10 foot drop in elevation from the road into the park.

The Department will consult with the WIDNR regarding rules and regulations as they pertain to future development. The Department will follow WISDOT protocol for 2019 operations – will open as a park if it's dry enough to open and close if it's too wet to open.

**12. Discussion and Possible Action on Ash Tree Removal from County Parks and other County owned property**

Nehmer stated that Wiesmann researched grant funding for the removal of ash trees and there is no funding available. Wiesmann stated that he did a preliminary inventory of 400+ trees, some of which are high priority that need to be dealt with short-term and there is no budget line item that addresses how to pay for the removal of the trees.

Wiesmann will provide a preliminary estimate to Wehmeier.

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

Wiesmann stated that two examples have been provided to the committee by the two firms that are being considered. Taylor Design @ \$39,125 and The 106 Group @ \$45,000 – for interpretative plans only.

Sign design process will be similar in price, with overall costs at approximately \$100,000.

The firms selected specialize in historical/archeological/geographical/geological/botanical research and interpretation. Wehmeier and Ward will review the donation and budget policy.

Committee is supporting of following the donation policy and hiring The 106 Group. The department head and County Administrator to move forward with the selection process.

**14. Presentation from Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) –Friends of GHA**

Frankie Fuller noted the Friends were involved in the Nickerbocker Ice Festival.

**15. Discussion on 2018/2019 Parks Department Budget**

Nehmer noted that the 2018 numbers will be available shortly.

In 2019 the department is looking at: Joint County/City Park, RFP for Park Rec Open Space Plan, RFP Interurban TAP, potential land purchase, Interurban trail improvements to river road, Jones Lane gate, Dog Park fencing and electricity.

**16. Tour of Holzhueter Park – weather permitting**

Tour cancelled.

**17. Adjourn**

Nass/Lund motion to adjourn at 9:48am. Motion passed 4/0.

*Minutes prepared by:*

*Mary Truman*

*Program Assistant*

*Jefferson County Parks*