

Parks Committee
Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 205 and virtual via
<https://zoom.us/j/97003315741?pwd=NHNvQWxoK0Rkamo3NUlwOEYb3NTZz09>

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Jeff Johns at 9:00A
2. **Roll call:**
Present: Greg David(virtual), Jeff Johns, Jeff Smith, Mike Kelly (9:05).
Absent: Augie Tietz – excused.
Quorum established.
Other staff present: Blair Ward, Corporation Counsel; Brian Udovich, Highway Operations Manager; Benjamin Wehmeier, County Administrator; Kevin Wiesmann, Parks Supervisor; Mary Truman, Program Assistant Parks.
3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
Confirmed by B. Wehmeier
4. **Approval of the agenda**
Smith/David motion to approve the agenda. Motion passes 3/0.
5. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for August 31, 2020**
Johns/Smith motion to approve the August 31, 2020 minutes. Motion passes 4/0.
6. **Communications**
Included in the packet.
7. **Public Comment**
Christensen - #10 – tent camping should be available in county parks
8. **Discussion and Possible Action on 2021 Parks Fee Schedule**
Wiesmann – suggesting adding the following additional fees to the 2021 Fee Schedule: Boat Launch fees (\$25 annual, \$5 daily), Dog Park Reservation fees (\$25/hr, \$75/ ½ day (up to 4hrs), (\$125 day)
Johns/Smith motion to approve as written above. Motion passes 4/0.
9. **Discussion on Parks 2021 Budget**
Kelly – questioned Revenues
David – questioned staffing, would like to see a Parks Director on staff
Johns – looking to fill ½ admin position
Wehmeier – working on development of total costs and depreciation schedule for operation of each park
No action taken.
10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Camping at County Parks with no designated Campsites**
Wiesmann – requests for camping in the parks that do not have designated campgrounds. Camping can happen if the park is not listed as a campground. Looking for permission to issue permits to camp on an as needed basis.
Kelly/David motion to allow parks staff to approve camping at unadvertised sites, near restrooms, fires in grills. Motion passes 4/0.

Ward – ordinance reads that parks director has authority issue permits, committee option to impose conditions – motion should include conditions to give guidance to the parks staff

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Use of Parks during Closed Hours**

Wiesmann – requests have been made to use boat launches to access the River after hours as well as requests to walk the trails in the early morning hours. Would like to allow egress from the River at Rock River Park and Cappies Landing after park hours.

Ward – 8.13 – gives the parks director authority to make exceptions to the park hours. Ward will draft language.

NO action taken.

12. **Discussion on WI DNR Stewardship Grant – Interurban Trail**

Truman – talked about the grant application process, and noted that the application was awarded funding for Phase II of the Interurban Trail in the amount of \$655,252.00

No action taken.

13. **Discussion on WI DNR Snowmobile Trail Grant**

Wiesmann – noted that the department was awarded new miles by the WiDNR

David – staff time? How much are the trails used?

14. **Discussion on Kemmeter Farm Lease**

Wiesmann – noted that the department leases the Kemmeter Farm on a 3-year term and that bid notice will be posted today

David – how is the land used? Conventional agriculture operations in use? Gear to sustainable/ecological uses.

Kelly – evaluate proposed use? Drain tile? Considerable slope?

Ward – the county can determine what the use is and accept or deny a bid

David – requested that the staff explore alternative/responsible uses for the property, plan to transition to organic ag and/or grazing opportunities

Johns/Smith motion to table until more information is provided on alternative uses for the property.

Motion passes 4/0.

15. **Discussion on 2020 Youth Hunt at Dorothy Carnes Park**

Wiesmann – allow hunting per DNR Stewardship. Annual youth hunt. First time hunter and mentor. Application process is now open.

16. **Discussion on Crawfish River Park Improvements**

Wiesmann – recent seeding and plantings have been established and the property improvements are noticeable.

17. **Discussion on Project Update Rock River Landing**

Udovich – rock along shore line to be moved for pier install, final asphalt lift in the next few weeks.

Wehmeier – shoreline planting looks great. Grand Opening ribbon cutting yet this year.

No action taken.

18. **Discussion on On-Line Registrations for Dog Park, Camping, and Shelters**

Truman noted that citizens can now reserve shelters and camping on-line, and can pay on-line for shelters, camping, and dog park registrations.
No action taken.

19. **Discussion on 2021 Dog Park Calendar**

Truman noted that the Dog Park 2021 Calendar is printed and available for purchase at \$10 each. All proceeds are used for improvements at the dog park.

20. **Discussion on Historic Sites Committee – August Meeting Update**

Report included in packet. No action taken.

21. **Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) – Friends of GHA Activity Update**

Fuller – Maunasha River trip rescheduled for 10/10/2020. PITO at site 41. How to make better use of FB page. Photos of site 41 will be placed on the FB page and to do more promotions. Trying to recruit more members.

22. **Discussion on 2020 Parks Department Budget**

Wiesmann – at 55.4% of total in all areas. Everything is on track. Seasonal staff will be ending their terms shortly.

23. **Adjourn**

Johns/Smith motion to adjourn at 10:36 am. Motion passes 4/0.

24. **Next scheduled meeting:** November 2, 2020

*Minutes prepared by: Mary Truman
Program Assistant
Jefferson County Administration*