

Parks Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 2, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 205 and virtual via

<https://zoom.us/j/98186980189?pwd=OHO5VVE2RW9oNGLtaW1uQWEzdVh4QT09>

1. **Call to order**

9:01

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

Present: Johns, Smith, David, Kelly (9:45am)

Absent: Tietz

Staff Present: Kevin Wiesmann Parks Supervisor, Mary Truman Parks Program Assistant, Benjamin Wehmeier County Administrator, Blair Ward Corporation Counsel

3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**

Confirmed - Wehmeier

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for October 5, 2020**

Smith/David motion to approve the Park Committee Minutes of October 5, 2020. Motion passes 3/0.

6. **Communications**

News releases on the Born Learning Trail and commemorative bench for Joe Nehmer Included in the packet

Wiesmann provided an update on Paragliders in the park – may be future agenda item

Wiesmann also noted an increase of Homeless persons in the parks

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 Proposed Installation of Mountain Bike Trails at Upper Rock Lake Park**

A Power Point was presented to the committee, highlighting preliminary plans proposing approximately (less than) one mile of trail in Upper Rock Lake Park.

Wiesmann – highlighted the volunteer work that the individuals (requesting these trails) have done, noting that this will be a team effort and that Jefferson County will be involved/manage the project as time and staffing allow. County has tools, from previous projects, that can be used on this project.

Smith – stated concerns about user group conflicts and life/sustainability of the project

Johns/Smith motion to move forward with design & planning to be brought back to the committee for review. Motion passes 3/0.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Access Agreement for Property Located at N1573 Business 26, Fort Atkinson, in the Town of Koshkonong, County of Jefferson, State of Wisconsin**

Wiesmann – Property owners (Amacher) are requesting an easement across the Glacial River Trail south of Fort Atkinson. They have a home and agricultural land on the west side of the trail. This easement requested for legal access to their property. Legal descriptions and easement access have been drafted.

Ward- approval requires resolution for final approval by Co Board

Smith – if there are damages by the owners, who is responsible?

Johns/Smith motion to move forward to the County Board. Motion passes 3/0.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Kemmeter Farm Lease**

Wiesmann – introduced Joe Strupp (nutrient management and conservation practices from the Land and Water Information Office) and Kristen (grazing specialist)

Strupp – the Land & Water department has worked with Parks, a conservation plan was written when this property was first made available for agriculture. A nutrient management plan has also been in place on the property since the lease began.

Establishing organic farming is time consuming (three years before it can be established), and thus not often done on rented

land.

Kirsten Jurcek – Grazing Education Specialist, there would be significant costs (estimated at \$50k +/- for fencing/water/etc.) for the infrastructure needed to convert the property into rotational grazing. True conservation, Forage & Biomass plantings to include alpha and grasses (diverse seeding) planted to establish healthy soils, this may take up to five years. There is a need in the area for hay production.

Kelly – If interested in converting to perennial crops, should the lease be extended to five years? Is the County eligible for USDA/NRCS cost-share funding?

Wiesmann – reviewed the grant application (for purchasing the property) and DNR requirements. The department is responsible to return this land to a 50 acre recreation area, bike trailhead and 70 acre habitat oak savanna and prairie. Seed costs, for a space that large, would be a Capital expense.

Wehmeier – potential to expand the current lease by 1 year so that staff can put together a restoration plan.

Johns/Kelly motion to extend lease for 1 year, requesting the current farmer plant soybeans in 2021, staff complete a transition plan for prairie restoration.

Johns/David = motion to issue Request for Proposals to include rates based on beans and rates based on corn for planting of one-year. Motion passes 4/00

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on Authorizing County Conservation Aids Grant Application**

Wiesmann – yearly application, this year's application is for Crawfish River Park, volunteers have secured donations to match the grant. \$2,500/\$5,000.

Johns/Smith motion to accept the grant award. Motion passes 4/0.

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

Wiesmann – noted that grant terms and conditions along with the Natural Resource Foundation laws may override park ordinances. Ordinance amendment follows states laws for those properties.

\*Proposed language: *Any boat launched at Rock River County Park or Cappies Landing during normal operating hours may utilize the park boat launches at any time outside of normal operating hours for egress purposes.*

Johns/Smith motion to approve the parks ordinance. Motion passes 4/0,

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on Live Viewing Cameras of Rose Lake at Dorothy Carnes Park**

Staff will continue to research cameras and pricing. No action taken.

**14. Discussion on Public Information Meeting for the Interurban Trail, Phase II**

Udovich – stated that a property owner along the trail asked a number of questions as they relate to that specific property. Largest concerns were related to land use and access agreements between property owners and We Energies.

**15. Discussion on Historic Sites Council – October Meeting Update**

Truman – submitted the following on behalf of the Historic Sites Council:

*It was the desire of the committee that our next meeting we should invite representatives from the county historical societies etc, to coordinate our efforts to get information on line.*

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

Fuller – will participate in fundraising, Natural Resources field trip (8ppl) attended, discussing potential bio-blitz in 2021

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

Wiesmann – overall budget is on tract, and should remain good for 2020.

**18. Adjourn**

Johns/Kelly motion to adjourn at 11:07 am. Motion passes 4/0,

**19. Next scheduled meeting:** December 7, 2020

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