

## Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 205 and virtual via

<https://zoom.us/j/99587095043?pwd=VW96SVhDVUxLdm9DV0VXQ3UvckpPdZ09>

### 1. **Call to order**

Wehmeier called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

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

Present: Christensen, Johns, Smith (remote), David (remote), Kelly (remote)

Absent:

Staff Present: Kevin Wiesmann Parks Supervisor, Mary Truman Parks Program Assistant, Rolland Klement Parks Lead, Benjamin Wehmeier County Administrator, Blair Ward Corporation Counsel, Brian Udovich Highway

Other's Present: Hope Oostdik (remote), Frankie Fuller GHA (remote)

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

Wehmeier confirmed compliance

### 4. **Approval of the agenda**

Christensen requested reordering items 18 & 19

### 5. **Election of Committee Chair**

Smith/Johns nomination of Johns for Chair

Kelly/Christensen nomination of Christensen for Chair

Johns elected chair by 3/2 vote

Ayes: Johns, Smith, David

Nays: Kelly, Christensen

### 6. **Election of Committee Vice Chair and Secretary if needed**

Smith/Kelly nomination of Christensen for Vice Chair

Motion passes 5/0

### 7. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for February 1, 2021**

David/Kelly motion to approve the February 1, 2021 minutes. Motion passes 5/0

### 8. **Communications**

Wiesmann – introduced the communications included in the packet

Kelly noted that it has been an awesome season for cross country skiing at Dorothy Carnes Park

### 9. **Public Comment (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)**

Dave Ring – stated that there is a deep appreciation of the Jefferson County parks, notably Dorothy Carnes Park. Park users are able to run and ski. The trail maintenance and grooming it has been amazing, the staff has done a wonderful job. Ring offered a donation to the parks department for the job well done

### 10. **Discussion on Carnes North Agricultural Lease and Buffer Planting**

Wiesmann – noted that the department will be replacing the wetland buffer at Dorothy Carnes north. The seed that has been purchased is a pollinator seed mix that offers different grasses and sedge mixes with the hopes of allowing an advantage to the flowers and Forbes.

### 11. **Discussion and on Bee Hives in County Parks (May be removed)**

Wiesmann – gardener who requested placement of hives at Dorothy Carnes Park, has not responded to staff efforts to contact him about his inquiry

Smith – sustain Jefferson would like to work with native bee habitats for educational purposes

12. **Discussion on Interurban Trail Project, Current Progress, and Future Plans**

Udovich - Phase II – working with the Wisconsin DNR and Army corps engineers – converting existing grade to trail. It is planned for the project to be local let – permits from each group. Design study report – rather simple, however two things are important - lease agreement extension minimum design life of 20 years and ag crossings throughout the corridor, some unauthorized use over time and some have permitted access agreements, ag traffic maintenance and safety are potential problems with WisDOT/TAP. Design and paperwork are scheduled to be complete end of 2021, construction early 2022

Wehmeier – phase III includes another river crossing. County to set aside funds for initial bridge engineering. Phase III also crosses into Waukesha Co., building support for Phase III.

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

Fuller – endorsing “No mow May” in support of pollinators, acknowledge and thank for purchase of pollinator plantings

14. **Discussion on Historic Sites Council – February Meeting Update**

Truman – the Council invited local Historical groups to attend the February meeting in an effort to reach out and find ways to work together to promote Historical education and outreach.

15. **Discussion on 2021 Parks Department Budget and review of 2021 department goals**

Wiesmann:

- Fundraising – Interurban
- Objectives – work plan for department defined for in the document
- Donation policies
- Parks fund WI NRF \$26,000, 4.5 % annual allocated to projects, would like to grow fund, finding strategies for public outreach and awareness.
- Reaching out to funding agencies/foundations.
- Working on web pages.
- GHA partners re-engagement and relationship building.
- Hwy E boat launch/canoe/kayak, Holzhueter plan.
- Working on partner agency relationships and project sharing. Increasing volunteer opportunities for park projects.
- Drafting quarterly newsletters – highlight parks and volunteer opportunities.

Wehmeier – approved Comp Plan, Parks has responsibilities for implementation along with the Park Plan and execution of responsibilities.

Wiesmann – 2021 – plowing/grooming, budget status quo

Johns – time to push marking efforts, and keep parks public use up

Oostdik – plans to add to Korth?

Wehmeier – revisit conversations with landowner

16. **Convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(e) Wis. Stats. for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, for the purpose of considering an offer to purchase a parcel of real property in the Town of Koshkonong.**

Removed from Agenda

17. **Reconvene in open session for action on closed session items if necessary.**

Removed from Agenda

18. **Next scheduled meeting:** April 5th, 2021 at 9:00

19. **Adjourn**

Johns/Christensen motion to adjourn at 10:05 am. Motion passes 5/0.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Mary S. Truman, Program Assistant Parks*