

Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 7, 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**

Johns called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

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

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

Absent:

Staff Present: Wiesmann, Truman, Westphal, Klement, Hahn, DeVoe, Ward, Udovich

Other's Present: Sam Jonas (WiDNR), Sarah Bolser (WiDNR), Linda Nichols (Sustain Jefferson), Kathy Adams (Sustain Jefferson), Frankie Fuller

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

Truman confirmed compliance

5. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written

6. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for May 3, 2021**

Smith/Kelly motion to approve. David abstains from vote. Motion passes 4/0.

7. **Communications**

Wiesmann – introduced a number of articles – Korth Burn, Garman Nature Preserve, email from Darren Marsh recognizing and complimenting Jefferson County Parks, Koshkonong Creek Clean-Up, a note from a citizen on the Garman Nature Preserve, and a City of Watertown Facebook post announcing the trailhead (@ Clark & Humboldt) installation.

8. **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

9. **Update and Discussion on Sustain Jefferson – Native Bee Education at Dorothy Carnes Park**

Linda Nichols, Sustain Jefferson – introduced this request with a purpose to educate and motivate park visitors and a way to teach about native plants and native bees. Sustain Jefferson would like to put up four interpretative panels (approx. 800 ft apart) in center loop, the panels will be facing north.

First panel – plants/importance of native plants

Second panel – mason bees

Third panel - leaf cutters

Fourth panel - bumble bees.

In addition to the educational panels, there will also be two bee shelters facing either south or east.

Panels and shelters would be a donation from sustain Jefferson.

Kathy Adams, Sustain Jefferson – noted that this will be a habitat for native bees and Sustain Jefferson is not intending to bring in other bees. The shelters will have 60/80 tubes inside the framework, simulating native bee habitat.

Lastly it was noted that this is a volunteer project, helping to protect the bees that are already in the park – these are solitary bees.

Sustain Jefferson will maintain the tubes.

Interpretive panels will be Jefferson County's responsibility.

Sustain Jefferson is hoping to host a few on-site workshops to teach about native plants and bees and would like everything installed by mid-October, 2021.

Wiesmann – noted a considering for placing the face of the signs north in an effort to protect and extend longevity of the print/signs.

Special Use Permits will be necessary for each educational session.

No action taken.

10. Discussion and possible Action on creating a Flood Mitigation Property Land Use Policy

Wiesmann noted that staff compiled a listing of attributes necessary to “grade” vacant and/or soon to be vacant flood mitigation properties. Properties have been, and/or will be scored into three categories:

- a. County Owned/Managed as public property/park
- b. Available for lease by interested individuals
- c. Shall remain in a natural state

Staff will submit maps to the committee illustrating the scores.

Flood Mitigation Property Tours will be scheduled for early Fall, 2021

No action taken

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Holzhueter Implementation Plan

Wiesmann – noted that the department is working with WiDNR as a group to update the Plan.

Pre - 2006 – WI Land Legacy Report was written and provided an in-depth analysis of the lands. Our area was identified as the South East Glacial Plains, hosting unique resources and challenges, with minimal development identified. This report set the stage for the Glacial Heritage Area Report (including: Dane, Rock, Dodge, and Jefferson counties). GHA report dove into the Jefferson County natural resources and defined potential acquisitions that county/state/partners could work on. First acquisition in 2009/2010 was Holzhueter St. Park. Sam Jonas, WiDNR – stated his appreciation for this partnership and for Wiesmann’s leadership. Easy to work with Wiesmann, Truman, Hahn. This is a state-owned parcel. The intent of the Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement between WIDNR and Jefferson County. The county will maintain and implement the intent of the property – a park. Last approval process was delayed due to public access.

The team is working with the landowners for public access. Landowners have copy of legal easement. A ‘U’-shaped parking lot has been designed for drive in/out, with a 33 ft access lane across driveway for pedestrian and bicycle use. The public will not have vehicle access on or across the private owner driveway

.Wiesmann – development will be done as funds allow. County/State have partnered on similar projects: Rome Pond/Cappie’s Landing/Glacial River Trail. Shared resources are valuable to the department(s).

A site visit will be scheduled during the next committee meeting.

No action taken.

12. Update and Discussion on Mountain Bike Trail’s at Upper Rock Lake Park

Wiesmann – volunteer group is brush clearing and flagging of the corridor’s and have been in contact as they work.

No action taken.

13. Update and Discussion on Interurban Trail – Status Update

Wiesmann – continuing to work on planning, identifying agricultural crossings (engineering purposes) (deeded/legal/non-deeded/general use). Working with We Energies to decide which crossings will be permitted prior to trail construction. Ag equipment is large/heavy/often muddy – trying to reduce trail damage and user conflict.

Udovich – working to submit environmental documents.

No action taken.

14. Update and Discussion on Annual Fundraising

Wiesmann – legal has reviewed the rules associated with raffles and fundraising. No conflicts have been identified for Jefferson County to get a permit for ‘day of raffles’.

15. **Discussion on 2021 Parks Department Budget**

Wiesmann – no major expenditures moving forward. On target for the year. Just started working on 2021.

16. **Next scheduled meetings:**

July 6, 2021

August 2, 2021 (PROPOSE NEW DATE?) (8/9 – north park tour)

September (FMP tour(s))

17. **Adjourn**

Smith/Christensen motion to adjourn at 10:50 am. Motion passes 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Truman

Program Assistant, Parks