

Jefferson County Parks Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Room: Jefferson County Highway Department Committee Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81764690750?pwd=TG9nUERZcnNRRVRoeHp5eHVZMVV1dz09>

1. **Call to order**

Christensen called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

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

Members Present: Joan Callan, Walt Christensen, Anthony Gulig, Jeff Johns, Cassie Richardson

Staff Present: Benjamin Wehmeier, Kevin Wiesmann, JR Klement, Mary Truman, Blair Ward

Others Present: Dale Oestreich – 2 Rivers

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

Wehmeier confirmed compliance

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Approved as written

5. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for November 3, 2022**

Guilg/Callan motion to approve the November 3, 2022 minutes. Motion passes 5/0.

Christensen - #10 preclude access, check spelling for Christensen

6. **Communications**

Wiesmann – introduced a Press Release on the Interurban Opening published in the Watertown Daily Times/Daily Jefferson County Union, and the Friends of Rose Lake November Meeting Minutes

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 amending Parks Ordinance Section 8.13 Park and Trail Hours**

Wiesmann – noted that on page 13 if the agenda packet is the park and trail hours ordinance.

Recommended changes:

Statement of Recreational Trails changed to Bike Paths

Moved walking of dogs across ski trails

Nov – April Open 6am – 9pm for cross country skiing only allowed when trails are groomed and posted open on the parks web page

Ward – note that the park is open for specific purposes, clear message

Gulig – add snow shoe users?

Johns – language doesn't identify use, it identifies "open groomed trails"

Wiesmann – no person may hike or walk dogs on groomed trails...

Oestreich – separate trail for fat biking/snow shoes?

Johns/Gulig motion to approve as presented. Motion passes 5/0.

9. **Discussion on Electric Bike Use Ordinance on Jefferson County Bike Paths**

Wiesmann – noted that he is not recommending immediate policy changes. Information provided includes policy for trails/bike paths that have shared governance for review. Current bike paths have a number of shared uses. Section 8.09, previously non-motorized ordinance, now written with policy recommendations as future ordinance changes with allowable uses for each trails/paths and bike paths. Definitions have been included for types of potential uses. Oestreich – E-bike sales have increased, common for persons who have difficulties cycling to use. E-bikes are constantly changing. Many factors to consider in how to regulate e-bikes on trails.
No action taken.

10. **Discussion and possible action on resolution thanking Johnson Creek Bobcat for Volunteer Trail Day**

Wiesmann – it was suggested that a formal resolution be given to JC Bobcat, the department request is a thank you card at this time, and perhaps resolution at the very end of the project.
Richardson/Johns motion to send a thank you card now and send the resolution at a later date. Motion passes 5/0.

11. **Discussion on request to re-name Interurban Trail after Augie Tietz**

Wiesmann – citizen request to rename the trail.
Gulig – create a memorial plaque at a trailhead.
Conversation with family/city of Watertown.
No action taken.

12. **Discussion on Interurban Trail Phase II**

Wiesmann – closed phase II during deer gun season
Truman – submitting grant closing documents for Phase II (TAP), a section of Phase II will be closed-out in Spring 2023
Staff – printing trail etiquette signs
No action taken.

13. **Discussion on Interurban Trail Phase III**

Wiesmann – working on design engineering/new TAP applications due in Spring 2023. Stewardship award for \$249,999.99.
No action taken.

14. **Discussion on 2022 Budget**

Wiesmann – on track for remainder of the year.

15. **Discussion on 2023 Budget**

Wiesmann – will start ordering fleet (HWY), trail counters included for 2023.
Wehmeier – ERP system, work order system tracks costs for day-to-day operations.

16. **Next Scheduled Meetings per the 2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

- January 5, 2023
- February 2, 2023

17. **Adjourn**

Gulig/Johns motion to adjourn at 10:25 am. Motion passes 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary S. Truman – Adv. Program Assistant, Parks