

Jefferson County Parks Committee Minutes

Thursday, August 12, 2024

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Room: Courthouse C1021

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

1. **Call to order**

Christensen called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

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

Present: Christensen, Turville-Heitz, Callan, Gulig, Richardson

Staff: Wiesmann, Truman, Klement, Thompson, Wehmeier, Luckey, Stoller

Others: Tom Buechel – Town of Lake Mills, David Schroeder – Town of Lake Mills, Jim Heinz – Town of Lake Mills

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

Wehmeier confirmed compliance.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for July 25, 2024**

Gulig/Heitz motion to approve the July 25, 2024 minutes. Motion passes 5/0.

6. **Communications**

N/A

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

N/A

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on MOU with Town of Lake Mills at Lower Rock Lake County Park Boat Launch**
Christensen introduced the topic.

Buechel commented that this is a standard MOU. Launch fees are shared between the three launches on Rock Lake, and the collective fees all go into one account (Rock Lake Account). There is concern about the fees/revenues and isolation/segregation of fees. There is also concern about why there are more “levels” of oversight when the township has been doing this for quite some time. Buechel questioned how the County has not identified this collection and use of fees as a problem earlier in time. The WI DNR has stated that with a Letter of intent, the project (boat launch renovation grant application) could potentially be funded.

Heinz noted that the launch fees can be purchased for an annual fee of \$60 and the Township doesn't know which launch the customer will be using, making it difficult to segregate funding.

Gulig noted a desire for funding for future capital projects at the Lower Rock Lake Park.

Buechel – noted that funds to be used for the launch, not park improvements. One project could deplete the funds.

Turville-Heitz – questioned if fees for launches are required to be segregated for launch improvements and then has County liability as it relates to park/launch improvements.

Wiesmann – clarified that the committee can motion to authorize a formal letter on behalf of the committee in support of the project.

Christensen – noted the ample parking available at the Lower Rock Lake parking lot versus the other two launch parking areas, and indicated that most who use Lower Rock Lake (for boating purposes) are likely parking in this lot. Future funds would be focused on boater improvements – such as restroom improvements.

Heinz – stated that the County could authorize a letter of intention and a deadline for completion to the WI DNR noting that the County will move forward with a MOU once terms are agreed upon.

Heinz – handed proposed edits to Danielle for review identifying 2.3 requesting removal of reference to “including all expenditures related to the subject project”.

Buechel – stated that anytime work is done at the launch, there is a level of zoning review and also noted that the account is public. The goal is to try to reduce complications during collection.

Christensen – proposed a 5-year capital plan as part of the agreement.

Richardson/Heitz motion to approve on-going changes to the MOU and further authorize staff to write a letter to the DNR noting that both parties are working towards a joint agreement/MOU. Motion passes 5/0.

9. Next Scheduled Meetings per the 2024 Proposed Meeting Schedule (4th Thursday, Monthly)

- August 22, 2024
- August 22, 2024 Brew with a View
- September 26, 2024
- October 24, 2024

10. Adjourn

Heitz/Richardson motion to adjourn at 6:11 PM. Motion passes 5/0.