

Jefferson County Parks Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Room: Courthouse C1021

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85374488469?pwd=QpxOjoSW7Jy97wqOMjfaqcxc6fgEtYR.1>

1. **Call to order**

Christensen called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM

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

Present: Christensen, Turville-Heitz, Callan, Richardson (Remote)

Absent: Guilg

Staff: Wiesmann, Truman, Klement, Toro, Luckey, Thompson, Maze, Hutchinson, Hameau (remote)

Others:

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

Luckey confirmed compliance.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for January 30, 2025**

Turville/Callan – motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2025 with a correction to item #3, re: change compliance to Lippert. 4/0

6. **Communications**

Wiesmann – Included in the packet is a Friends of Korth Park promotional flyer. The Friends are a new (volunteer) group, that is meeting monthly.

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. **Update on RFP for Carnes East Site Plan and Building Re-Purposing**

Wiesmann – met with a representative from RA Smith (who the department has worked with and consulted with prior to this) to discuss options on how to write a RFP/Feasibility Study for the existing buildings.

No action taken.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on request from UW-Hydrologist Pete Chase to drill a Groundwater Monitoring well at Joy County Park**

Chase – Introduced himself as a Hydrogeologist, working through an extension of UW-Ex. He applies for competitive grants on a County scale for bedrock mapping projects. His current project is a 2-year project nearing completion. Other sites include Cambridge, HWY Dept Quarry, the east side of Rome Pond State Natural Area, and noted a gap in the north east part of the County where there are not many deep wells. Chase is requested that the committee consider giving him permission to use grant funds in Joy County Park to drill a well 500-600 feet deep to evaluate sandstone thicknesses and water quality in the sandstone aquifer in the NE part of Jefferson County. The costs are estimated at \$25,000-\$30,000 for a well that has an ability to pump 100's of gallons of water. If there is a need for a well after drilling, the well can remain open for public use and if not, it can be abandoned. The hole is approximately 6" wide and 500-600 feet deep. It will be a well that is water well compliant. The preference is to drill before June, 2025. Silt fence and clean-up will be a part of the project. To note: if this becomes an artesian well the well will be abandoned and abandonment will be paid for through the grant process.

Wiesmann – noted that Joy County Park has a small gravel parking area with access to Spence Lake. The park is approximately 2 acres in size and does not see many visitors. Wiesmann asked if Hwy 16 Wayside is a viable site for a well.

Colton – noted that there is an opportunity to learn from the drilling, and that the well can always be abandoned after.

Callan/Turville – motion to approve drilling a groundwater monitoring well at Joy Park as requested by Hydrogeologist Pete Chase from UW-Ex. Motion passes 4/0.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Flood Mitigation Property No Parking – Tow-Away Zones

Wiesmann introduced Sheriff Travis Maze and Kim Cheney from the Town of Koshkonong. Wiesmann is questioning ways to enforce No Parking in the Oxbow Bend area and/or Flood Mitigation Properties.

Maze – citations can be issued; privacy act prohibits personal information to be left on the vehicle. There is a requirement to cite the vehicle owner. The process of issuing citations for parking is a lengthy, costly process.

Cheney – noted that there are many concerns in the Oxbow Bend Area, a small subdivision with three properties that are FEMA. The properties are already signed as No Parking. Recently, fisherpersons park on county property and have been asked to leave. Neighboring residents do not wish to have public parking on the Flood Mitigation Property, as the properties are near their homes. There is other parking available on the lake and the preference is they use other designated parking. Cheney noted that another location, on Lake Koshkonong, with multiple Flood Mitigation Properties is Blackhawk Island Road. The fishing wharf and parking are on Blackhawk Island Road. There is already No Parking posted. The township is in favor of a few properties along Blackhawk Island Road turned into parking. There are no residences on either side of those properties. Currently there is a No Parking sign at the bridge that enters the Oxbow neighborhood, and there are also multiple no parking signs along Blackhawk Island Road. The town has access to boulders and is able to move and place said boulders. In favor of Tow Zone signs, will help anyway we can.

Wiesmann – Emergency Management has looked into physical barriers along desired properties to prevent parking. Does this committee support the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to order towing of vehicles?

Christensen – noted the success of No Parking on Groehler Road and questioned what may have changed.

Maze – noted that individuals were not paying citations; the courts then outlined the necessary steps for enforcement. Citations are not a successful method of enforcement. Ordinance reads no parking on County Owned Property, and towing does not happen otherwise.

Hamerau – has emailed her contacts, summarizing buy-out properties, and is working on clarification and definitions of what we can and cannot do as far as placement of boulders/barriers.

Callan – place on March agenda to discuss further after learning permissions.

No Action Taken.

11. Update on Interurban Trail Phase III Project

Wiesmann – Federal funding was released yesterday (2/26/2025). Authorization to Advertise to Bid was approved by WisDOT. The bid Ad will run March 4 & March 11. Unsure of bidding environment due to timing.

12. Update on Trieloff Property Acquisition

Wiesmann – closed on property last Friday, Ducks Unlimited and North American Wetland Conservation Act provided the 50% grant match. There is/was some soil contamination on-site. There are on-going obligations assigned by the WI DNR for capping of the soil and surface remediation. Property ownership/management is still under question – County or WI DNR. Other funds via fundraising are available for the site clean-up and prep.

No Action Taken.

13. Field Staff Updates

Toro, Parks Naturalist:

- Kanow tree work – Tree removal 24 dead/dying trees (flooding/EAB damage)
- Rock River Landing – Worked jointly with the City of Jefferson to remove weedy ground cover/plantings on shore
- Garman – Tall Grass Restoration contracted to continue site restoration

- Human Services Apple Orchard
- Carlin Weld
- Carnes East
- Scheduled Volunteer Days:
 - Generac scheduled at Carnes Park and Crawfish
 - Volunteer Days with the FOKP – prairie restoration
 - Volunteer Day with Fort Highschool students for bird/duck houses

14. Admin Staff Updates

Truman noted that Westphal has been working on:

- Dog park tags – 721 tags so far this year
- Community Gardens
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Truman noted that she has been working on:

- Carry-Overs
- Canoe/Kayak Put-In/Take-Out (PITO) Map Updates
- Park Brochures
- Flyers with Shelter Information for the Park Kiosks
- Organizing Donations to include a Bench inventory for each park
- Has been attending meetings for the Korth Park 25th Anniversary and the Light the Night Bike Ride
- Approvals in the Snowmobile Program (SNARS)
- Lure Coursing Fundraiser

Klement – noted that the Admin is also working with him on new staff on-boarding

15. Historic Sites Council Update

Wiesmann noted that the Council has:

- Placed a request for a 200hr intern to be included in the 2026 budget
- Is working on on-line mapping content and searching for volunteers to assist with data input

16. Discussion on Parks 2024 Year-End Budget

Wiesmann – noted carry-forward requests of \$850k in restricted funds. Vehicle maintenance is unpredictable.

17. Discussion on Agenda Items for the Next Meeting and Meeting Location

Community Gardens

Cold Spring

18. Next Scheduled Meetings per the 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule (4th Thursday, Monthly)

- March 27, 2025
- April 25, 2025
- May 22nd, 2025

19. Adjourn

Turville/Callan motion to adjourn at 12:04 PM. Motion passes 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Truman

Adv. Program Assistant, Parks