

Jefferson County Parks Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Room: Courthouse C1021

Microsoft Teams Video Conference link below:

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Meeting ID: 216 816 092 968

Passcode: Gb6v43Yb

1. **Call to order**

Christensen called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM

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

Present:

Absent: Richardson

Staff: Wiesmann, Truman, Klement, Luckey, Thompson, Scott, Hamerau

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 February 27, 2025**

Turville-Heitz/Callan 4/0

6. **Communications**

Included in the packet – Korth Park Bird Watch via the Friends of Korth Park

Working with SD for a Flock Camera installation at the Dog Park. Camera reads license plates on entry and exit. Annual subscription is approx. \$3,000.

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 Sponsorship Recognition**

Wiesmann – volunteer groups and organizations looking for suggestions how we might recognize volunteers.

Callan – letters? County monthly newsletter?

Christensen – Committee could sign.

Wiesmann – social media post after each event.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on the Community Gardens at Dorothy Carnes Park**

Wiesmann – internal discussions about changes to the Community Gardens. The gardens at Dorothy Carnes were established in 2007 with had strong participation from community groups managing gardens and gardens activity.

The departments staff responsibility has increased significantly. Would like to discontinue gardens.

Turville-Heitz – citizens might want an opportunity regarding grocery prices.

Callan – Heart of the City project committee at start up of the gardens. Heart of the City membership involvement is decreasing and not looking at taking this on as a responsibility. There are individuals willing to help find a solution.

Wiesmann – department does not have the staffing capability to manage the gardens. If something does not change, the department would like to remove the gardens from its list of responsibilities in 2026.

Christensen – had conversations with a founding member suggesting the Heart of the City provide funding for a garden's manager.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Cold Spring Creamery Park – Accident History

Wiesmann – Gulig witnessed an accident in the park as he drove by the park. The signs have been driven through multiple times, as well as driving into the Park trees. There have been numerous accidents and there is a concern about the safety of those driving by and those in the park. The park was donated by a neighbor in 1981 as a place to have a historical marker (Abe Lincoln), church-built structure, swing set, restroom.

Maze – Traffic Safety Committee will review historical data, to evaluate risk/reward of the site. Current laws only prevent texting while driving.

Turville-Heitz – would the Traffic Safety Committee then refer the case to the Highway Department?

Turville-Heitz/Callan motion to present issue to the Traffic Safety Commission. 3/0

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

Wiesmann – additional conversations. Request have been made to the State to place boulders on ox-bow bend.

Hameau – WI Emergency Management confirmed that as long as the boulders were not placed in an area that do not create a flood, easement off the road ok to do so.

Klement – Townships are supportive and agree to assist with providing and placement of boulders. Source/Size of boulders is under consideration.

No action taken.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Interurban Trail Phase III Construction Contract Resolution

Wiesmann – Tuesday Bid Opening for final Phase. Five bidders. Kartechner Brothers was low bidder. Bid has been reviewed by staff and WisDOT. Formal resolution is required for finalizing the contract process. 80/20 Grant award. The submitted bid estimate lower than the grant request.

Callan/Turville-Heitz motion to accept the low bid and forward to the County Board at its next meeting. Motion passes 3/0.

13. Discussion on Interactive Mapping Resources for the Parks Department

Wiesmann – have been working with the County GIS Department to create interactive Park Maps.

Scott – Park layers will have boundaries, trails, other features. There is a directory of activities at the top of the map allowing users to search for a park via an activity.

14. Field Staff Updates

Klement – opened all parks for the season

- April 7 field staff starting with season prep.
- Hwy 16 bridge in Ixonia construction work contractors staging equipment at Wayside Park
- Wood duck houses build with Fort Atkinson High School students and the Friends of Rose Lake (would like to expand project to Friends of Korth Park)
- Finishing winter equipment service and switching to summer equipment
- North Shore surveying and Indian Mounds Surveying.
 - Sign order will be placed.
 - Indian Mounds property boundary survey completed
- Friends of Korth Park invasive removal
- Prescribed burns at Carnes

15. Admin Staff Updates

No new updates.

16. Discussion on Parks 2025 Budget

Wiesmann – no updates. New Cap Equipment is arriving. Request submitted for GIS position and additional hours for

part-time Admin.

17. Discussion on Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Final amendment to WE Energies License Agreement

Stewardship Application Resolutions

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

- April 24, 2025
- May 22, 2025 – Park Tour

19. Adjourn

Turville/Callan motion to adjourn at 11:36 am.

Motion passes 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Truman

Adv. Program Assistant, Parks