

## Jefferson County Parks Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 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

1. **Call to order**

Christensen called the meeting to order at 10:30AM.

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

Committee Members Present: Callan, Christensen, Gulig, Richardson (remote), Turville-Heitz (remote @ 10:38 AM)

Committee Members Absent:

County Employees Present: Wiesmann, Klement, Truman, Westphal, Luckey, Thompson, Elsner

Others Present: Deb Kind – town of Jefferson Board, Jim Goyer – Dorothy Carnes Community Gardens, Chad Hilstad – Dorothy Carnes Community Gardens

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

Luckey certified compliance.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for May 22, 2025**

Gulig/Callan motion to approve as written. Motion passes 4/0.

6. **Communications**

Included in the packet are:

- Friends of Rose Lake Minutes
- A letter from the Fair Park Staff
- A letter from a citizen about not mowing the bike path as it relates to Milk Weed and Monarchs
- An article in the Daily Union about a student work day at Dorothy Carnes Park

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

Hilstad – noted his involvement with the Hearty Gardens, and his desire to understand the challenges related to the gardens.

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Contract for Placement of Surf Shack Watercraft Rental/Concession Station at Burnt Village**

Wiesmann – stated that she wishes to move the rental station that was at Hwy 16 wayside park move to Burnt Village. County receives 10% of the revenue annually.

Callan – questioned parking availability at Burnt Village with increased use.

Callan/Gulig motion to authorize Wiesmann to enter into a contract with Surf Shack regarding paddle craft rental stations at Cappie's Landing and Burnt Village. Motion passes 4/0.

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

Wiesmann noted that the department is not opposed to have the community gardens at Carnes Park. He then noted that the department's roles in other activities has expanded, and the ability for the department to manage the gardens is diminished. The department would like the gardens managed by other parties, and such parties will take over the responsibilities of the day-to-day upkeep of the gardens. Gardeners are leaving their plots unkempt, and new gardeners are backing out of rentals due to the nature of the grounds. The gardens were created under the management of the Heart of the City, and the department would like the organization (or another similar) to get more involved with the day-to-day management.

Klement noted that the department will provide the gardens with a mower and state that the mower has been replaced at least three times. In the past, there has been a lack of communication from the gardeners regarding the condition of the mower.

Hilstad – questioned the need for mowing, and noted that he has helped "move" items out of the way of the mower. Hilstad also

stated that he and Boyer would be willing to work as the volunteer co-coordinators.  
Gulig extended gratitude to Hilstad and Boyer for volunteering to help.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on enforcement of Flood Mitigation Property non-compliant uses**

Wiesmann stated that the county surveyor has been surveying and updating the properties. The department has been installing property corner signs. Neighbors are reacting to the signs, and the Sheriff's department has been involved. The signs include regulations and county ordinances regarding tampering with signs. The department is chasing compliance and responsible for funding clean-up and the management of the flood mitigation properties is time consuming. The department is requesting guidance on ways to enforce and clean-up.

- The Parks Committee has authorization and oversight and recommends policy of the flood mitigation properties under the County Board rules.

Thompson noted that the County has previously mailed letters regarding clean-up, but no action has been taken to enforce and/or cite and pursue litigation.

Gulig noted that the committee should pursue this as vigorously as possible in an effort to clean-up the properties. Follow-up is key to enforcement.

Turville-Heitz stated that the goal is to get the property owners to follow the rules, we may not recoup the costs.

Callan questioned the terms of enforcement.

Thompson – noted that it is difficult to say as each violation is its own level of non-compliance.

Elsner - noted that two unlicensed vehicles are allowed per property, and that the Zoning Department has no jurisdiction over encroachment. Property owner is ultimately responsible for clean-up and financial impacts of encroachment.

Christensen noted the need to remain within budget and also questioned the County's liability in non-compliance per granting agencies.

Turville-Heitz questioned salvaging items left on the property.

Klement questioned management of clean-up coordination.

Wiesmann noted that there are many shared wells on the properties. A number of the wells do not have formal shared agreements. There are neighboring property expectations for upkeep and maintenance of the shared wells. The wells are deep, artesian, and pressurized. Some have been capped – it is expensive to cap an artesian well. When will the county decommission the wells that once served a home on the property?

It was asked if the ordinance can be re-written to help guide the department through management of the properties.

Callan noted the committee would like to see action on enforcement.

No action taken.

**11. Update on Korth Park 25 Year Celebration Event**

Wiesmann thanked all for attending noting that in attendance were State reps, Friends group, friends of the department, and that it was a great turn-out.

**12. Update on Dorothy Carnes Park 25 Year Celebration Event**

Friends of Rose Lake are planning an event on August 19, 2025 at 6:00PM-8:00PM in the shelter at Dorothy Carnes Park. Public will be invited.

**13. Discussion on Parks 2025 Budget**

The 2025 budget is on track.

The Phase III preconstruction meeting for the Interurban Trail is later today.

**14. Discussion on Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

**15. Next Scheduled Meetings per the 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, Monthly)**

- ~~June 26, 2025 – Brew with A View~~
- July 10, 2025 – Brew with a View
- July 24, 2025 - Regular Committee Meeting
- July 24, 2025 - Brew with A View
- August 19, 2025 - Dorothy Carnes Park 25 Year Celebration
- August 21, 2025 - Brew with a View
- August 28, 2025 - Regular Committee Meeting
- September 6, 2025 – Light Up the Night Bike Ride

**16. Adjourn**

Gulig/Callan motion to adjourn at 11:00 am. Motion passes 5/0.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary S. Truman, Adv. Program Assistant*