

Parks Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2026

Time: 10:30 am

Jefferson County Courthouse

311 South Center Ave., Room C1021

Jefferson, WI 53549

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/283062482090246?p=6qxIFOqmHL1pNMYL95>

Meeting ID: 283 062 482 090 246

Passcode: gx996dZ3

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum)

Present: Callan, Christensen, Gulig, Lund, Turville-Heitz (arrived: 10:42 am)

Absent:

Staff Present: Wiesmann, Truman, Klement, Westphal, Luckey, Thompson

Others Present:

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 August 27th, 2026

Lund/Gulig motion to approve the minutes. Motion passes 4/0.

6. Communications

Included in the packet were the following newspaper articles:

- 8/28/26 - 50 Years in the Making: Interurban Trail Ribbon Cutting Sept. 3
- 8/31/26 - Parks Committee Gathers Power Transmission Line Concerns
- 8/27/26 - Parks Open Houses Scheduled for September and October

Also included were:

- Bike/Ped Trail use statistics for the last year from the Glacial River Trail at Farmco Lane
- Bike/Ped Trail use statistics for the first week of use from the Interurban Trail @ Co HWY F
- An article on Wisconsin Southeast Transmission Project (WISE)
- An email commending the department on its completion of the Interurban Trail, and the Departments fostering of Business Partnerships.
- An email from a teacher at Fort High School thanking the department for working with her students in her science classes 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)

No public Comment

8. Update on Jefferson County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan

Wiesmann noted that the first Open House for the unveiling of the Draft plan was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026 @ UW-Extension. Five citizens were in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled in October.

Wiesmann also shared a draft print of the park system map.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution recognizing Kikkoman's Generosity and Partnership in supporting Jefferson County Park Projects**

Gulig/Lund motion to approve the resolution recognizing Kikkoman's generosity. Motion passes 5/0

Luckey – noted that this gift from Kikkoman to Jefferson County happened because of Wiesmann. Wiesmann prepared a proposal that lined up with Kikkoman's vision for prairie restoration/management in select areas throughout the county.

Wiesmann – noted that planted prairies will also help reduce mowed areas. The first three years of prairie development and management will be set-up under contract to keep the prairies functional.

Do we want to add a note that Gulig stated that he wished to note that by making the motion he contrasted his earlier opposition to the development with this motion of thanks? I don't know how to properly put that in, but I'm spit balling.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on the future of Camping at Cappies Landing**

Wiesmann shared the park history to include the inclusion of remote camping. Unlike Dorothy Carnes Park, remote camping at this park is not remote and is relatively close to the parking area. The park often has unpaid and/or unregistered campers. Staff also find homeless persons that have been dropped off (with no other place to go, and no other means to travel elsewhere). In addition, camping rules include a seven day stay limit, and quite often homeless persons will stay longer than the seven-day limit, as they have nowhere else to go. The department does not have the staff or resources to continue to manage the two sites at this park and is asking for permission to suspend camping at this park until further notice.

Gulig/Callan motion to indefinitely suspend camping from Camping from Cappie's Landing. Motion passes 5/0.

Turville-Heitz – how will park users be notified of the changes?

Wiesmann – camping amenities will be removed from the park, and notices will be posted.

Lund – shared his concern about homeless persons and their ability to find safe places to stay.

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on update to Jefferson County Parks Drone Policy**

Wiesmann – noted that among other sensitive areas in the parks, Jefferson County Parks have eagle and osprey nests, and questions when and how to regulate flying of drones. He is trying to create a policy that doesn't "close the door" completely on drone use. He also noted that in his research he discovered that the parks (property owner) can regulate takeoff and landing from their property but cannot regulate drones flying over.

Gulig would like **No Fly Zones** over Jefferson County parks, in addition to a required Special Use Permit from the Director of Jefferson County Parks. (See: recommended language on packet page 25)

No action taken. Wiesmann will work with Thompson on Ordinance language.

Resolution will come back to the October Parks Committee meeting for review/comment/approval.

12. **Discussion on Parks 2026 Budget**

Wiesmann stated the budget is on track.

13. **Field Staff Updates**

Klement

- Parking lot maintenance – Dorothy Carnes east completed, Dorothy Carnes west in the next few weeks
- Korth Park Interpretive Signs were installed
- Park entrance signs replacement at Upper & Lower Rock Lake Parks, and Burnt Village
- Single track trail at Garman Nature Preserve
- Glacial River Trail repairs (south of Fort Atkinson)
- Light up the Night Bike Ride - 187 Riders + Volunteers
- Communication Tower Maintenance – weeding/herbicide spraying
- Interurban & GRT – flail mowing edges

Toro

- Extended his thanks for three natural resource summer interns for the 2026 summer season

- Five total river trail clean-up events summer 2026
- Tree planting -21 Parks, 15 Fair Park, more this fall
- Korth lakeshore woody vegetation removal
- 4-5 day disc golf clean-up @ Carlin Weld
- Three volunteer days with the Friends of Korth Park for seed collecting – 8-15 people each event
 - Collected seeds – Dane County Parks is processing the seeds @ no charge

14. **Administrative Staff Updates**

Westphal

- Light Up the Night event wrap up
- Friends of Korth Park event promotion
- Community Garden season wrap up

Truman

- Trail Wayfinding Project
- Snowmobile
 - Bridge – Hwy J
 - 2026-2027 Contract
 - Hubbleton
- Grants
 - Close – Interurban
 - Submit – Conservation Aids

Web Updates - Accessibility

15. **Historic Sites Council Update**

Potter's Field

16. **Discussion on agenda items for the next meeting**

17. **Next Scheduled Meetings per the 2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule (4th Thursday, Monthly)**

- October 22nd, 2026
- November Reschedule
- December Reschedule

18. **Adjourn**

Christensen/Gulig motion to adjourn at 11:45 am. Motion passes 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Truman

Adv. Program Assistant, Parks