

Parks Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Time: 10:30 am

Jefferson County Courthouse

311 South Center Ave., Room C1021

Jefferson, WI 53549

Committee Members: Joan Callan, Walt Christensen, Anthony Gulig, Kirk Lund, Meg Turville-Heitz

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

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

2. Roll Call (establish a quorum)

Members Present: Callan, Christensen, Turville-Heitz, Lund

Members Absent: Gulig

Staff Present: Wiesmann, Truman, Thompson, Luckey, Stolar (Remote), Zarwell (Remote)

Others: Mabel Schumacher – Terri Tinsley Memorial Sign, Perry Tinsley – Terri Tinsley Memorial Sign, James Kukkan - Watertown Daily Times (Remote), Heidi Putnam – Snyder & Associates, Inc (Remote), Andy Didion – Jefferson Community Foundation

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law

Thompson confirmed compliance.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Approved as written

5. Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for May 28, 2026

Callan/Turville-Heitz motion to approve the May 28, 2026 minutes with the following corrections: Date Correction in the header, and upcoming meeting dates.

Motion passes 4/0.

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)

No comments.

8. Presentation by Andy Didion on the Jefferson Community Foundation

Wiesmann introduced Andy Didion as a friend of the Parks, and current Chair of the Jefferson Community Foundation. Didion introduced the Community Foundation to the Committee and stated that the funds currently held by the Foundation were likely established as a outlier of the Crawfish River Park development. The fund is currently at \$28,000+ and is available to all parks within the Jefferson County Park system. The funds are invested in a "safe area" (bonds/no market exposure) earning ~3%. Didion would like to transfer the funds into an investment fund (60% equity & 40% bonds). Funds requested, outside the normal funding process, are considered Donor advised funds. The board members are contacted for review when a project request is submitted outside of the normal funding process. Didion

also noted that the foundation can accept endowments, and grants are provided upon review and as needed.

Wiesmann – noted that the fund has been used as a match to other grants.

Didion – noted that the amount previously dispersed (collectively) to the Parks Department is approximately \$20,000 +/- . He also noted that donors will often go onto the Foundation website and donate to the agencies listed. No action taken.

9. **Discussion and possible action on donation for Terri Tinsley memorial signage at the Jefferson County Dog Park**

Wiesmann stated the current signage is aging, and that the color photos that have faded overtime. Perry Tinsley donated funds in 2005 as a memorial to his wife. The resolution from 2005, included in the packet, authorized Tinsley naming rights at the Jefferson County Dog Park.

Schumacher – granite plaque with Terry and Owen (dog), more permanent solution acknowledging Terry's legacy. Proud to be able to support the dog park.

Tinsley – in favor of the proposed granite sign nothing that it will withstand many years. This is a meaningful way to connect Terry's legacy with the expansion of the dog park.

Turville-Heitz questioned the existing structural integrity of what currently exists, and questioned if weather would impact the longevity of the proposed granite sign and who would cover if damaged.

Christensen questioned why three signs are proposed.

Turville-Heitz/Lund motion to accept donation of the three proposed granite plaques to replace the former signs. Motion passes 4/0.

10. **Discussion and possible action on proposed Full Moon Yoga + Sound Program at Korth Park**

Wiesmann noted that proposal to host Yoga classes, for a fee, in the grassy area of Korth Park was submitted. The current Parks ordinance reads no operating of a business for profit in the parks without Committee approval.

Turville-Heitz – suggested a contract/special use permit with the vendor defining parameters – fees due, hours of operations, locations, etc.

Wiesmann – would like the latitude to negotiate times/locations/etc with vendors. Weekends at the park are often busy with shelter rentals and would like to prevent user conflicts.

Lund/Turville-Heitz motion to draft a special use permit with said vendor defining location/spaces, restricted times/dates, noise levels, fees.

Motion passes 4/0.

11. **Discussion and possible action on Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Snowmobile Bridge through the Wisconsin Motorized Recreation Aid Program**

Wiesmann stated that only one bid was submitted.

- Custom Mfg.
- Bid \$56,800 – nearly \$20,000 less than originally quoted.

It was also stated that Snowmobile bridges, 100% funded by the state, are owned by the County. If a landowner removed access to snowmobile trails, it is the County's responsibility to remove the program funded bridge.

There are scheduled inspections, maintenance, and repairs – also funded by the program.

Next up – county staff will submit paperwork for permitting with WIDNR.

Lund noted a need to correct the dates in the resolution.

Lund/Callan motion to approve the resolution authorizing the purchase of a snowmobile bridge through the Wisconsin

Motorized Recreation Aid Program. Motion passes 4/0.

12. Discussion on the development of a Drone Policy for the Jefferson County Parks

Wiesmann – stated that a witness expressed concern regarding recent drone use around the Osprey nest at Korth Park, and as a result, he would like to talk through logistics of drone use in the County Parks. Noise pollution and invasion of privacy are major concerns.

Drone flying regulations:

- State laws include no harassment of wildlife.
- Drone take-off and landing can be regulated.
- Flight patterns cannot be regulated.

Would like to consider if there are places and spaces that are suitable for drone flying activity. Would like the committee to review information that is included in the agenda packet and help recommend policy regulating usage.

Lund – questioned enforcement.

No action taken.

13. Update on Jefferson County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan

Putnam – noted that the on-line survey closed on June 15, 2026. Putnam also provided a brief summary of progress to date noting that a link to the draft report will be provided to Wiesmann, and then the committee.

No action taken.

14. Update on Interurban Bike Trail

Wiesmann – next Thursday, general completion. Currently waiting on concrete aprons at Ski Slide & Rockdale.

Waukesha Co is mobilizing next week Monday. The department identified a need for a trailhead and safe connection to Ixonia. Department may be receiving additional funds for Phase III construction via the Stewardship program.

15. Discussion on Parks 2026 Budget

Wiesmann – budget is on track. Fuel will likely be higher than budgeted, based on current fuel prices.

16. Field Staff Updates

Lower Rock Lake – shelter/restroom upgrades:

- motion sensor lights to restrooms
- shelter lights on timer – shut-off 10 pm
- additional electrical outlets added inside shelter

Invasive plant work – spot spraying/wild parsnip

Six volunteer events

17. Administrative Staff Updates

Light Up the Night planning

AKC Small Dog definition Updates for Areas 3 & 4

18. Historic Sites Council Update

Story Map is near completion

19. Discussion on agenda items for the next meeting

Wiesmann – not here in July

Park Tour – August 27

20. Discussion and possible action on scheduling site visits as part of an upcoming meeting schedule

Possible tour at August meeting.

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

- July 23, 2026
- July 23, 2026 (Brew with a View)
- August 27th, 2026
- August 27th, 2026 (Brew with a View)
- September 24th, 2026

22. Adjourn

Turville-Heitz/Lund motion to adjourn at 12:24 pm.
Motion passes 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Truman – Adv. Program Asst., Parks