

**MINUTES**  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE**

**Jefferson County Courthouse**  
**311 South Center Avenue, Rm 202**  
**Jefferson WI 53549**

**November 3, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.**

Committee: Augie Tietz, Chairman, Mike Kelly, Vice Chair, Matt Foelker, Secretary, Walt Christensen, Laura Payne

**1. Call to Order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Tietz, Kelly, Foelker, Christensen, Payne (9:35 a.m.)

Absent: none

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Wehmeier, Ward

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

Meeting was posted according to Open Meetings Law

**4. Review of the Agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

**5. Public Comment**

NO public comment.

**6. Approval of the October 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Christensen motioned to approve the October 6, 2014 minutes. Kelly seconded. Motion carries on a 4-0 voice vote.

**7. Communications**

The following communications were distributed for review and comment:

- a. Email from Clare Carlson GHA Workday Set, Bird Walk, GHA Trails – Zeloski Marsh Spur
- b. New Dog Park Calendars are Now Available – Jefferson County Living
- c. County Dog Park Calendars for Sale – Daily Jefferson County Union

**8. Discussion and Possible Decision on Kemmeter Farm Rental Bids**

Nehmer noted only three bids were received for opening on Friday, October 31, 2014 whereas there were eight bids during the last cycle.

Nimm noted that Wiesmann opened the sealed bids, Nimm recorded and Wehmeier witnessed. The highest and winning bidder was W.D. Hoard & Sons Company Hoard's Dairyman Farm with a 3-year bid at \$70,000, annual at \$23,333.33 equaling \$307.02/acre.

Foelker motioned to accept the highest bid. Christensen seconded. Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote.

**9. Discussion and Possible Decision on Proposed Interurban Bike Trail Funding**

Nehmer noted that he and Administrator Wehmeier have had several discussions on how

to fund the proposed 2.1 mile trail starting at Humboldt in Watertown and ending up at Rock River Road @ approximately \$1.4m with ½ funding by DNR and fundraising for the remaining ½. The parks department staff is obligated to fundraise \$500,000. It has been suggested that perhaps the Carol Liddle funds could be used and has been asked if the committee wishes to obligate and to dedicate those funds towards the project as seed money.

Kelly questioned what obligating those funds do “in the big picture.”

Nehmer replied noting that the committee could earmark the funds and possibly have a deadline and/or set parameters on the funds.

Tietz reinforced the need for seed money, showing the county is dedicated to the project.

Christensen questioned the original intentions for the Carol Liddle funds.

Nehmer replied that the funds were donated under the premise of “parkland acquisition.”

Kelly motioned to use the Carol Liddle funds for the Interurban Trail project. Foelker seconded. Motion carries on a 5-0 vote.

**10. Discussion and Possible Decision on Handicapped Fishing Warf (Blackhawk Island).**

Nehmer noted that the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) ordered a wetland delineation on the property. The WIDNR conducted the wetland delineation and has declared the entire site a wetland. Parks staff will be asking the DNR for reconsideration. The project is at a standstill. The department will be requesting an extension of the grant.

Payne – noted the three criteria for wetland determination are hydric soils, vegetation, groundwater elevation

Rob Klotz, Zoning – stated that approx. 6-8 years ago the project started. “Old” wetland maps show the area is not a wetland. The 2008 air photo interpretation from the DNR shows the area is now a wetland. The issue at hand is a small amount of fill needed for the parking lot as we can’t fill a wetland.

Ward – questioned if ACOE has done a delineation and asked, if a private party would have to go through the same steps as the County has been directed to follow? Ward also asked if there is an option to mitigate if the final determination is wetland.

Kelly – requested a packet of information be assembled and shared with the committee.

**11. Discussion and Possible Decision on amending the dog park fees in the Parks Ordinance**

Ward noted there are County Service Fees listed in the budget, with the exception of the dog park fees as those are in the parks ordinance. For consistency, it is proposed the fees be removed from the parks ordinance and published in the fee section of the budget.

Payne motioned to remove the fees from the ordinance. Foelker seconded. Motion carries on a 5-0 vote.

**12. Update on Crawfish River Park Design Charrette and Visioning Session**

Nehmer noted that visioning and design sessions are scheduled. The visioning charrette is on November 11 @ 2pm, followed by the design meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Update on Youth Hunt Program**

Nehmer noted 3 applications were received, 2 were chosen at random. Nimm noted that the informational meeting will be held on November 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

**14. Update on Surplus Wood Sale**

Nehmer noted there were a number of bidders on the 5 lots of surplus wood. Individual high bids resulted in an earnings of \$715

15. **Update on 2015 Dog Park Calendar**  
225 Calendars were printed and sales are going well. Tyranena Vet Clinic in Lake Mills sponsored the cost of the print. Purina has purchased an additional 220 calendars.
16. **Update on Grants for Dorothy Carnes and Rock River Park**  
Of 4 stewardship applications submitted in 2014 a letter has been received noting that the Parks Department has tentatively been selected to receive \$30,000 for the Rock River Park and \$45,000 for Dorothy Carnes Park.
17. **Update on Watertown Outboarders**  
Nehmer stated that a \$30,000 grant request was submitted to the Quirk Foundation. The funds will be used for a vault toilet, well with pump, and two paddle-in camp sites. The foundation generously awarded the Parks Department \$28,000 for the project.
18. **Update on Mountain Biking Facility at Human Services**  
Nehmer noted the Human Services Board is unanimously in favor and that he is asking Administrator Wehmeier what the next steps are and how we might connect the mountain biking trails to the Glacial River Trail (GRT).  
Wehmeier said that there is some FYI sessions necessary and then we are set to move forward.  
Nehmer stated that he met with and discussed the HWY Dept, WisDOT and the City of Jefferson on best way(s) to get to the GRT from Jefferson.  
Wehmeier noted they have been considering planned connections, with safety being a large concern.
19. **Update on Dog Park Events**  
Nehmer stated that recently the Friends of the Dog Park have hosted these successful events: Howl-O-Wren, Bark at Moon and Lure Coursing. Nehmer also noted an appreciation to the Daily Union and WFAW as they have been very helpful in getting the announcements out.
20. **Update on 2015 Jefferson County Parks Budget**  
Nehmer stated no changes. The proposed budget stands as it was and is.
21. **Update on Park Areas for Special Needs Individuals**  
No updates. Item can be pulled from agenda until further notice.
22. **Update on 2014 Parks Department Budget**  
Budget through September was distributed. It was noted that the planning for the Disc golf course @ Carlin Weld site is in process.  
Wehmeier commented on the cost savings of the new landscaping at court house.  
Nehmer mentioned that a new park shop furnace at approx. \$4,500+/- is needed yet this year. Dog park revenue is raised by sale of tags. Approximately 1600 annual tags in 2013 and approximately 1700 for 2014.
23. **Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project**  
Nehmer stated that Margaret Burlingham will be working on Implementation Plan for Holzhueter Park, Watertown Outboarders property will get shoreline rip-rap and that Laura Payne will participate on the GHA Imp team.

24. **Update on HWY 26 by-pass & Glacial River Bike Trail**  
Asphalt complete. Request for restroom at parking lot along trail. Bike trail heavily used.
  
25. **Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for:**  
November 11, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
December 1, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
  
26. **Adjourn**  
Christensen motioned to adjourn at 10:44 a.m. Foelker seconded. Motion carries on a 5-0 vote.