

MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Avenue, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549
May 4, 2015 @ 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 9:30am

2. Roll Call

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Christensen, Kelly, Payne
Others: Nehmer, Nimm, Wiesmann, Schroeder, Sheriff Paul Milbrath
Bob Bennet, Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law

Meeting was posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Law

4. Review of the Agenda

Agenda approved as written

5. Public Comment (members of the Public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)

Harry Boos - Eagle Scout Fort Atkinson – distributed a map showing a new bench and 10 trees (species yet to be determined) proposed to be planted and placed along the Glacial River bike path (along the trail near the Human Services complex in an effort to shield and shade trail users. Funds are being raised with a goal of a sponsor per tree with each tree having a plaque naming the sponsor.

6. Approval of the April 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Kelly motioned/Christensen seconded to approve the April 6, 2015 minutes.
5/0 voice vote, motion passes.

7. Communications

a. **Donations – Rick Olsen, Modern Woodmen**

Wiesmann noted that Rick Olsen of Modern Woodmen donated plant materials to plant around both Carnes east and Carnes west entrance signs.

b. Watertown Share the Road Donation - Watertown Daily Times, Daily Jefferson County Union

c. Reserve Campsites at Carnes Park – Daily Jefferson County Union

d. County Attempting to Build a Bike Trail – Daily Jefferson County Union

e. Letter Regarding Dog Park Violations

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Supporting Local Stewardship Fund Resolution

Nehmer – indicated the committee discussed the resolution at the April Meeting. Nehmer questioned if the Committee supports the resolution, assembled by Wehmeier, regarding the support of Local Stewardship funds.

Schroeder – noted that Admin and Rules Committee edited the resolution for the purposes of Jefferson County.

Foelker motioned/Christensen seconded to support the Local Stewardship Fund Resolution.

Kelly – questioned if the stewardship resolution limits the county property purchases.

Payne – questioned if the executive summary should be edited.

5/0 voice vote, motion passes.

9. Discussion and Possible Decision to Update the Jefferson County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Purpose: Amend 2010 Jefferson County bicycle plan to include a new mountain bike facility on county

grounds surrounding the Jefferson County Human Services complex. Should the committee decide to amend the plan the amendment will be listed as an addendum to both the Jefferson County Bicycle Plan and the Jefferson County Bicycle Plan Emphasis Summary.

Nehmer – this would be an addendum to the County’s general plan, legally covering the project, allowing the department to indicate the project is in a plan when submitting future grant applications.

Christensen motioned/Foelker seconded to amend the 2010 Jefferson County bicycle plan.

Foelker- questioned if the Human Services Department is in favor of the project.

5/0 voice vote, motion passes.

10. Discussion and possible Decision on illegal activity at Kanow Park – Sheriff Milbrath

Milbrath – stated that the JCEC’s noted that there has been a substantial increase of non-family friendly activity in the park, with said activity driving away other parks patrons. The Sheriff’s department will implement a sting operation in an effort to control the unfavorable activity.

Tietz – questioned if video cameras would help curb activity.

Milbrath – noted the cameras would be expensive and the department’s ability to monitor the cameras and respond in a timely manner is limited.

11. Discussion and Possible Decision on Potentially Transferring Ownership of Welcome Travelers Park

Nehmer – noted the 9 acre park at Hwy 59 & Hwy D does not fit into the description of a natural resource park. Nehmer introduced the possible transfer of ownership of this park to the City of Whitewater. The park was purchased in 1939 for approximately \$1,000.

Christensen – stated that if the park is transferred that it be kept as a park and if the transfer were to take place, could we remove the disc golf equipment and use elsewhere.

Schroeder – questioned the revenue generated by the park.

Kelly – ok with pursuing options

Payne – inquired about including a condition of the transfer to include continuation as park under new ownership.

Discussions with the City of Whitewater will continue.

12. Discussion and Possible Decision on Park Tour

The Parks Committee and Staff are scheduled to tour the parks Thursday, May 28 @ 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

13. Update on Dog Park Concerns

Nehmer – stated that the owner of a large (boxer mix) dog has been cited as a result of her large dog killing a small dog. It has been determined that the said dog is no longer allowed at the dog park and the owner is banned from the park for a period of one year. Both owners were in the park “after hours” and unaware of each other’s presence. The small dog owner was jogging in the large dog area of the park, after hours, with a small dog when the large dog approached the small dog.

Wiesmann – noted that having small dogs in the large dog area is a disregard of the park rules.

14. Update on Playground Installation – Wiesmann

Wiesmann – Travelers Playground was installed, graded and seeded two weeks ago. Last Saturday, the Pohlmann Playground was installed with the help of a fundraising effort held by Eagle Scout Austin Messerschmitt. Border, woodchips and benches will be installed this week at Pohlmann.

15. Update on Land Management, Prairie Fires – Wiesmann

Wiesmann – noted that the larger parks require prairie and woodland restoration annually to maintain biodiversity and limit invasive species. Prairie burns are scheduled approximately every 3 years. The burns are broken into mosaic segments. A PowerPoint was shown to the committee illustrating the burn areas and the playgrounds.

Payne – questioned if the department posts burn notices to alert the neighbors/public awareness.

Christensen – questioned if the department does a reptile sweep prior to the burns.

16. Update on Submittal of Stewardship Grant Application(s)

Nimm - noted that she was fortunate the Interurban Trail application was submitted last year as this gave her a base starting application for the 227 page application she and Nehmer submitted on April 29th, prior to the May 1, 2015 application deadline. Nimm also noted that she and Nehmer completed an application for the Watertown Outboarders Rock River Cappie’s Landing project.

17. Update on Holzhueter Implementation Plan Process

Wiesmann – stated there has been no changes since the April meeting and we are still waiting on Trek for trail layout.

18. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project – Greg Matthews

Matthews – noted the WTO Implementation is complete and ready for signature by the DNR's Division Administrator for Lands. He also noted that at this point there is no opposition to naming the park "Rock River Access Cappie's Landing."

19. Update on Fundraising for Interurban Trail

Nehmer – noted that the fundraising to date is included in the packet.

Nimm – noted that she will be investigating a crowdsourcing website named 'Crowdrise' as a means of fundraising for the Interurban Trail on a global level.

20. Update on 2015 Parks Department Budget

Financials dated March 31 - April 21 for Period 3 was included in the packet. Nehmer noted that as of YTD the department has spent about 16% of the budget.

21. Set next meeting date June 8, 2015 @ 9:30am and possible agenda items.

22. Adjourn

Kelly/Christensen @ 11am.

Passes 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Nimm

Program Assistant