

Parks Committee Minutes
Jefferson County
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 S. Center Avenue, Room 202
Jefferson, WI 53549

Date: Monday, May 2, 2016

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Committee members: Foelker, Matt
Kelly, Mike
Nass, Steve
Payne, Laura
Tietz, Augie

1. **Call to order**
Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:30am.
2. **Welcome New Parks Committee Members**
Tietz welcomed new member Steve Nass to the committee.
3. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**
Present: Tietz, Foelker, Kelly, Payne, Nass
Others Present: Nehmer, Wiesmann, Hutter, Nimm, Wehmeier, Ward, Schroeder
Absent: N/A
4. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
Meeting was posted and is in compliance.
5. **Election of Parks Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary**
Nass nominated Tietz as Chair, Payne seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.
Nass nominated Kelly as Vice Chair, Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.
Tietz nominated Foelker as Secretary, Nass seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.
6. **Approval of the agenda**
Tietz moved item #17 to item #10.
7. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for April 4, 2016**
Payne approved the minutes for April 4, 2016. Tietz seconded. Minutes approved on a 2/0 voice vote. Three abstain.
8. **Communications**
The communications were included in the packet for review. No discussion.
9. **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
10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Natural Materials Art Installation at Dorothy Carnes Park**
Anne Drehfal, coordinator of Earth Art Lab noted that 12 artists have applied to participate. Drehfal showed a PowerPoint presentation to include the proposed artwork and noted that the application process involved submitting an initial concept.
Examples of requests include:
 - 3wood Gnomes nested in three trees with doorways on the trees – placed throughout the park.
 - Tie/weave and attach natural materials (twigs, branches, wool, etc.) into a curved branch on one tree.
 - Carved wooden sculpture very large will need horizontal supports 3-4ft into the ground.
 - 13 lined ground squirrel. (approx. 6ft long, 4ft wide.) created by weaving live grass and other materials into the shape of a ground squirrel.
 - 13 layers of 4x4 each suspended above.
 - Tear drop shaped willow sculptures hung from the dead oak tree. *Concerns on proposed artwork by Nehmer and

Wiesmann on the safety of the tree.

-Chainsaw sculpture, carved mushroom out of stump.

Drehfal also included the proposed artwork loop and a timeline installation/show/removal of artwork.

Wiesmann noted the need to locate one of the pieces further away from effigy mound.

Drehfal would like permission to install the artwork (mid-May) and have an open house (free of charge, per committee's approval) on a week-day night.

Payne – questioned placing stakes in the ground and questioned the promotion and advertising of the artwork.

Wiesmann – stated the need to prevent digging holes near the red oaks and also noted that Gnome doors are not to be nailed to the trees. He also noted the need to backfill any holes when artwork moved.

Kelly motioned to proceed and to waive the shelter rental fee. Nass seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 vote.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Crawfish River Park Plan

Nehmer noted that WisDOT will not give us access to HWY 18 for parking at Crawfish River Park.

Kelly – noted his prior concern about no parking.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Town Highway Use Agreement between The Town of Koshkonong and Jefferson County Hoard Road

Ward will attend the township meeting and report back to the Parks Committee.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Flood Mitigation Property Requests

Nehmer indicated that there are more than 100 Flood Mitigation Properties in Jefferson County. The Parks Department would like the committees consent to move forward with an RFP for professional services for development of a comprehensive operations and management plan.

Nass moved to solicit RFP's for Flood Mitigation Property planning. Payne seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Pohlmann Park Silo & Parking Lot

Nehmer noted that he is attending the Town of Jefferson meeting tonight at 6pm. Jefferson County Historic Preservation Commission meets the evening of 5/19/16.

Kelly questioned why the silo was brought forward and noted that he would like to leave silo in place if possible.

Foelker noted that it is just an old silo and it could be removed for the parking lot.

Payne questioned the silos stability and need for repair.

15. Discussion and Possible Action on 2017 Fee Schedule

Nimm introduced new fees and changes to existing fees.

\$15 annual disabled (dog) tag (new)

\$15/night six person max per site camping at Cappie's Landing (new)

\$50 external structures such as tents and bouncy houses (new)

Kelly motioned to forward the proposed fees on to finance. Nass seconded. Motion passes a 5/0 voice vote.

16. Discussion on Carnes Park East Parking Lot Project

Wiesmann indicated the project was scheduled for May 1, 2016 but has been pushed back due to the need for road use agreements. The project likely won't happen until after June 25, 2016.

17. Discussion on Milford Motors Site – Possible Purchase, Clean up and use as a County Park

Nehmer introduced Ziebell and noted an opportunity to partner with the Town of Milford to acquire the Milford Motors property. Ziebell stated the property needs clean-up and could be improved for put-in/take-out and a small park. Property clean-up will likely require financial contributions from both the town and the county.

Ziebell stated that in 2014 the Town looked at tearing down the building noting that nothing has been done with the building, it is falling down, the roof is caving in and the building is dangerous.

Tietz questioned the property status.

Ziebell noted that the owner is one year behind on taxes.

Nass stated that this is an ideal site for put-in take-out. Fits with GHA and Rock River initiatives. Stair access is necessary.

Nehmer stated that DNR rep C. Housley is supportive.

Payne noted that the DNR PECFA site closure report appears as if contamination had been cleaned up.

Nehmer questioned how to pay for the project.

Kelly questioned if the owner is a willing seller and what are the options for acquiring property.

Ward stated that if the owner is willing to sell, positive. If not, county should reconsider. County could start foreclosure process after three years of delinquent taxes.

Nehmer – condemnation would adversely affect a stewardship grant.

Nass – question if Ziebell was be able to contact the owner regarding transfer of ownership.

Dan Tutten (has property next door) stated that when the ownership transfers and park is developed he does not want a 20ft high block wall that someone would fall off of. He noted that his property is collapsing. Questioned if the county could expedite and if someone could address the current owner about cleaning up. Expressed concerns about the safety and welfare of the property.

Tietz noted the county is looking for ways to expedite and find funding.

18. Discussion on Snowmobile & ORV Council Meeting WIDNR

Nehmer – noted that DNR no longer funds easements (#1 & #4). Need additional documentation from snowmobile alliance.

Payne – questioned the requirement to GPS the trails.

Wiesmann – will work with clubs to GPS the trails.

19. Discussion on Wisconsin Parks Your Best Investment

Video and audio were not functioning. Item moved to a future agenda.

20. Discussion on Fundraising for Interurban Trail

Nehmer – no update at this time. Nehmer will be visiting with the Watertown Hospital Foundation.

21. Discussion on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) –Friends of GHA

Carlson stated the Friends group:

Has permission from DNR to redesign and maintain GHA website.

Paddle volunteer corps are meeting to maintain the water trails.

Rock River sweep will be in September.

Planning Bark River family paddle.

Need more volunteers on workdays.

First bird walk had 40+ participants.

Native Plant Gardening Workshop attendance was good.

Involved in the Jamboree.

Koshkonong Creek paddle upcoming.

Gave away 175 oak trees.

22. Review of Financial Statements (March 2016) and Department Update – Parks Department

Revenues and expenses in line.

23. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO S.19.85(1)(E), Statutes, to deliberate the potential purchase of public property

Nass moved to go into closed session. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 roll call vote.

24. Review annual meeting calendar and set dates for future Park Committee meetings

Committee will visit meeting calendar at its June, 2016 meeting.

25. Adjourn

Nass motioned to adjourn at 11:26am. Foelker seconded. Motion passes on a 5/0 voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Nimm, Program Assistant