

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

Date: Monday, June 5, 2017

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 9:31am

2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)**

Present: Tietz (out at 11:05am), Foelker, Kelly, Payne (@9:32am)

Absent: Nass

Others Present: Nehmer, Nimm, Hutter, Wiesmann, Ward

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

Meeting was posted and noticed according to law.

4. **Approval of the agenda**

Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Park Committee minutes for May 1, 2017 and May 3, 2017**

Kelly/Tietz motioned to approve the minutes for May 1, 2017. Motion passes 4/0

Tietz/ Foelker motioned to approve the minutes for May 3, 2017. Motion passes 4/0

6. **Communications**

Nehmer – Merit Land/Scholarships – Stewardship funds used, may be end of Stewardship program.

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. **Discussion and Possible Action on Request by UW-Whitewater to Monitor Chemical Communications of Canids**

Dr. Lisberg – Noted that she is trying to figure out how dogs use chemical signals to better get along – “over-marks.”

Goal: figure out what signals are about. Over-mark Mapping, Investigation, Social Marking

Volunteer basis. Non-invasive.

Over-mark Mapping – when dogs over-mark, what is physically happening with the signal. Photos and drawings to map how over-marking is happening. Urine is collected from privately owned dogs. Dogs are up-to-date on vaccines. UWW Team will be clearly identified.

Kelly – remote trail cams?

Lisberg – no, owners of all dogs tested will be asked to volunteer.

Haugom – length of study?

Lisberg – up to a year

Over-mark investigation -

Social Ground Sniffing -

Each of the three phases would be done at different times. Dogs tested will be normal users of the park.

Payne – frequency and length of time at park

Lisberg – once/twice a week up to an hour or two

Payne/Foelker motion to approve the Over-mark Mapping, Investigation, Social Marking testing by Dr. Lisberg and

students from UW-W. Motion passes 4/0

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Participating as a Pilot Community Setting Priorities and Management for the use of Acquired Flood Lands**

Roxanne Gray – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds available in the state. Jefferson County has received funds. Funds/disaster declaration program – 20% size of the disaster.

Annual program, nationally competitive. Current flood insurance on property. Numerous claims exceeding the property value.

Kisslinger – Environmental Law Institute (ELI) – nonprofit law and policy organization, research to provide information on environmental issues. Wetlands program around approx. 40 years.

ELI – Institute interested in what happens after the properties are purchased.

We propose to work with communities to work through planning process on how to use the properties obtained.

Revolve around a workshop with neighbors, parks staff, etc. Maps of preliminary characteristics of the properties and surrounding areas. Look at local plans and policy (i.e. Comprehensive Plan). Report of findings and opportunities.

Tietz – cost for study?

ELI – no cost, simply host the meeting facility.

Kelly – timeframe?

Kisslinger – ready to go, summer of 2017 works.

Payne – would all properties be involved?

Nehmer – all properties would be involved. Would we need a planner? We are challenged by people power. Key is to find alternative funding.

Gray – a private group/partners may be able to help fund the process.

Nehmer – will get back to you when the County Administrator returns.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Glacial Drumlin State Trail to Cambridge Connector Trail Selection & Implementation Plan**

Nehmer – Local interest in a connector trail in Cambridge to DNR GDT to the north side of Cambridge. Plan has/had three connection options. Opportunity to partner with Dane County.

Payne – representatives have met a few times discussing what can be done. Community split between Jefferson and Dane counties. Biking is huge and plays part a large part in Economic Development in Cambridge. This connection is a missing link and offers a great opportunity.

Bob Salov – recent events, County Board appropriated \$365k to do extend the Capital City Trail into the GDT system. The Capital City Trail will open up the Glacial Drumlin Trail to all Dane County bicycle traffic. Jefferson County was a driving force in the Connector Trail Plan. Enthusiasm is phenomenal. First step is to get all interested parties onto the same platform. Will review with Margaret Burlingham on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Goal is a four-year plan.

Tietz – familiar with the area and supportive of the initiative.

Kelly – concept for off-road or on road segments?

Salov – vision and preference is off-road, but will initially include both on-and-off road sections.

Foelker/Kelly – motion to be supportive of connector trail between Cambridge and Drumlin Trail. Motion passes 4/0

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on acquiring WisDOT HWY 16 Wayside**

Nehmer – contacted by DOT representative asking if JC would be interested in taking over the Wayside. Horseshoe surrounded by the river. Toilet, well, picnic tables, challenging access – no turn-out or bypass lanes. Does the committee have a desire to communicate with the DOT to find out what is involved in the potential transfer.

Kelly- questioned the states interest in relinquishing the wayside.

Payne – questioned main use of the property and asked what the advantage would be to Jefferson County if transferred.

Kelly – noted that the department already has Kanow Park in the general area but also noted that he would be disappointed if the wayside were closed and the river front access were lost to public use.

Foelker – keep in communication with WISDOT to find out more about potential transfer.

12. **Report from the Jefferson County Historical Site Preservation Council**

Foelker reported for the Historical Site Preservation Council. He noted the Council members. He also stated that the Council will try to help individuals find money to get historic property listed/registered at State and Federal levels.

The Council will look to Parks for help with information pieces such as historic map tours of different types of sites and the taking of and recording of minutes.

13. **Discussion on the Interurban Trail Project**

Nehmer noted that the survey of the bridge footings is done and the engineer will analyze the results to determine if the existing footings can be re-used.

14. **Discussion on the Carlin Weld Open**

Wiesmann noted that 40 players played in the Carlin Weld Open. The organizer reported that the players liked the course and had suggestions for course improvements. A \$50 donation was made by the event organizer.

15. **Discussion on the Grand Opening of the Rock River Trail**

Nehmer attended the Grand Opening in Beloit. There were approximately 100 people in attendance. There was a fly-over, Rock River Trail cyclists and paddlers. There was also a dedication to Frank Scherer.

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

Fuller noted that the Friends of the GHA now have full access to the DNR website. The Friends will redesign the website. The Friends have been and are hosting bird walks and will also be helping with the Mason Farm Jamboree.

17. **Review of Financial Statements (April, 2017) and Department Update – Parks Department**

Nehmer noted that expenditures are normal as we progress through the year. The capital item truck and mower purchases are in process. Pending projects are electricity at Carlin Weld, dredging of the pond at Carlin Weld and, fencing at the dog park.

18. **Adjourn**

Payne/Kelly motion to adjourn at 11:45am. Motion passes 4/0

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Mary Nimm, Program Assistant*