

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

AMENDED AGENDA – ITEMS #8 & #9

Date: Monday, March 5, 2018

Time: 9:30 a.m.

1. **Call to order**

Tietz called the meeting to order at 9:30am

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

Present: Tietz, Foelker, Kelly, Payne, Nass (@ 9:37am)

Absent:

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**

Payne/Foelker motion to approve the agenda. 4/0

5. **Approval of Park Committee Minutes for February 5, 2018**

Kelly/Foelker motion to approve the minutes. 4/0

6. **Communications**

Nehmer – Kathy Hovel was in. She brought with her memorials for Carnes Park in the name of her husband, Steve Hovel. Steve was a former Fort Atkinson Teacher and coach. Steve loved Carnes Park.

7. **Public Comment** (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)

Gary Kutz, Supervisor Town of Koshkonong and Town of Sumner – Reviewed the Glacial River Trail plans and didn't see anything saying the ditch should be filled in. Do not believe work was done to plan.

Gary Kutz, Supervisor Town of Koshkonong and Town of Sumner – Flood Mitigation Plan – residents think it's a great opportunity for voluntary leasing of the properties.

8. **Discussion and Possible Action on Amending the Current Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to Include a Potential Joint County/City Park Along the Rock River in Jefferson at the Old Jefferson County Highway Department Site at 141 W. Woolcock Street, Jefferson, WI**

Nehmer – Wehmeier working closely with the City of Jefferson. Consistent with the City of Jefferson redevelopment plans. Leaders are asking the question of how would development of this joint park work with the development of the remainder of the property. There is a rough draft of a joint intergovernmental agreement between parties (county/city) in process. There might also be a joint Wisconsin DNR Stewardship grant application submitted (May 1, 2018 deadline) for development of the park. Jefferson County will be taking the lead.

Tietz – questioned management of the restaurant in the proposed plans

Nehmer – City working with Vandewalle & Associates. Plans are under refinement.

Kelly – questioned what the grant would be used for and how the County would be paying its portion of the grant.

Kelly noted he would rather see the restaurant on the commercial side of the plan. Would rather the bike trail take another route, i.e.: along the river front. Kelly questioned if there are any other parks in the county that are city/county parks and could we be setting a precedent for future parks?

Tietz/Foelker motion to amend the Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to include this County/City Park (at the former highway site) project/concept. 5/0

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Amending the Current Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan to Include the Provisions within the Glacial Heritage Area Plan for Korth Park**

Nehmer – a map identifying the project boundary around Korth Park within Glacial Heritage Area is included in the packet. There is a potential to add acreage to the park. There is possible Stewardship funding available to acquire properties within the project boundary.

Nass/Foelker motion to amend the Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for possible expansion within defined project boundaries around Korth Park. 5/0

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Requests for Reserving Park Open Spaces**

Nehmer – there has been an increasing number of requests to rent “open spaces” within the parks. Current ordinance reads – if 20 or more persons assembling in a park, a Group Permit is issued. If the group is 100 or greater, there is a fee (reflective of the said shelter in the park). Our recommendation is to continue what we have been doing in the past.

Payne – questioned the process, can anyone just use the open space?

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on Wisconsin Department of Transportation TAP Grant**

Nehmer – have received no communication from WisDOT regarding our TAP Grant submittal. The application is for Phase II of the Interurban Trail Project. Project boundaries are River Road to County Highway F in the Town of Watertown.

Nimm – The resolution has a due date of April 20, 2018. If the resolution is not passed, approved and submitted by the due date the application will not move forward for consideration.

The committee will revisit at the April meeting.

12. **Discussion and Possible Action on Silo at Carnes Park**

Wiesmann – in the packet is a photo of the silo at Carnes Park (east). Friends of Rose Lake have tried to find places to preserve Chimney Swift Habitat. There is a single Chimney Swift nest in the silo. This is a non-functioning silo in good shape. The request is to remove central cap at peak.

Bob Volenec, Friends of Rose Lake – the Chimney Swift is an insect eating bird. Multiple migrating birds from north may use one chimney. This is a way to possibly adapt the structure to enhance insect eating birds. The Friends of Rose Lake encourage and hope this will happen.

Nehmer – took question to Ward. Ward questioned the water and freeze/thaw potential inside the silo.

Nass/Foelker motion to use/adapt the silo at Carnes east for Chimney Sweep Habitat by removing the silo central cap. 5/0

Payne – question if there are any additional steps that need to take place after cap is removed.

13. **Discussion on Pohlmann Park Timber Harvest**

Wiesmann – at Pohlmann Park there is a stand of (1,000) pines, planted in 1984. The pine stand has recently been thinned by a logging company. The thinning helps the (remaining) stand grow stronger. The Parks Department also earns a small bit of revenue from the process.

14. **Discussion on Glacial River Trail Repair South of Fort Atkinson**

Nehmer – working with raSmith on the Glacial River Trail. It has been suggested that we engage a geo-tech engineering firm to perform a soil boring and analysis in an attempt to find a solution to the sinking trail problem. \$15,000 is in the 2018 Budget with an additional \$2,000 donated for the project.

Wiesmann – distance is approximately 100 feet with two distinct half-circle sections of sinking asphalt. All attempts to fill the sunken areas have failed.

15. **Discussion on Smash and Grab at Jefferson County Dog Park**

Nehmer – recent Smash and Grab event at the Dog Park.

Detective Hunter (Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office) – there have been 13 reported dog park thefts in 2013 – 2018.

The department has talked about performing surveillance, but the incidents are sporadic. Over half are related to the Felony Lane Gang (Florida, 2003). The group targets recreational areas, gyms, sporting fields, fitness complexes. It takes less than 5 minutes for the hit/break-in. The group is not always after visible ‘purses’. They look for driver license info, checkbook, credit cards. The criminals take the identity of another victim, write a check to a victim and cash the check at the bank using the outside lane of the victim’s bank. There are usually two males in the car that perform the smash and grab. They are assisted by females who help with lookout and who disguise themselves to

look like the victim who then cash the checks using the outside lane at the bank. Surveillance at the Dog Park would be helpful.

16. Discussion on Korth Lane Reconstruction

Nehmer – the Jefferson County Highway Department will help with the project.

Udovich – there are two phases of the project. First is the section of Korth Lane from the County highway up to the park gate, this portion is owned by the township. Second is the portion past gate, this section is the Parks driveway. The township is working with DOT on funding to assist with the township portion of the project. We will be pulverizing the pavement and dealing with parking. We have asked the surveyor to layout where the (50ft) ROW is for possible shoulder expansion. We are considering possible gravel shoulder on north side for parallel parking. Parks portion of drive/parking lot project could include increasing angle parking in the parking lot area from the entrance gate to the shelter. Need to learn more about possible archeologist reports to avoid any conflicts. Timing – sooner is better, asphalt plants do not open until May 1. Project is also dependent on weather. Re-aligning the entrance may not be cost effective.

Nehmer – believe we can get eight more stalls in the current parking lot if re-marked.

Udovich – could possibly add a few more (8-12) stalls at the top.

17. Discussion on Canoecopia

Nimm – Canoecopia is this weekend. There is one volunteer vacancy in the schedule.

18. Discussion on Jefferson County Flood Mitigation Management Plan

Nehmer – in touch with Trust for Public Land. The hope is to re-start this project in late March.

19. Discussion on Interurban Recreation Trail

Nehmer – recently spoke with Jeff Koch (Westbrook Engineering). It has been noted that the bridge manufacturers are extremely busy. We will receive estimates on delayed delivery when the bridge is ordered, if the county extends the delivery date, a significant amount of money can be saved. Direct purchase of the bridge will also save money. Challenge is that the public wants to see the bridge happen sooner than later.

Nass – makes financial sense to push out the delivery for cost savings.

Tietz – 2018 installation will satisfy “most”

Kelly – direct purchase with set time for delivery

Nehmer – ACOE permit is not necessary. 30-day DNR public comment time is open. Landowner contacts and public notice has taken place.

Tietz – nice article in the Oconomowoc Enterprise.

20. Discussion on Historic Sites Preservation Council

Nass – workshop held by S. Grabow and a draft proceedings report is completed. The report will help to direct the activities of the Council and set forth goals for the Council. Council would like to designate already known sites. Will be meeting again in April.

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

Fuller – Friends of GHA met last month. Discussed what the group can do moving forward and questioned if the DNR is/was willing to work with GHA moving forward. The Friends of GHA request to be included in future discussions of how the GHA is moving forward. Two Stewardship programs – George Clokey could have 40 students for a spring and fall project. Also discussed a winter event for 2019, and hope to host a paddle in late September/early October, find a web host, MOU with the Parks Department outlining expectations of each group.

Fuller – working with another group to create a large group to purchase solar installations for their homes and businesses, using the leverage of the group to lower the costs. Will have upcoming “solar power hours” and free assessments will be available.

22. Discussion on 2018 Parks Department Budget

Nehmer – early in the year. Reminder that large Capital projects include the trail development and Korth Lane resurfacing.

23. **Adjourn**

Foelker/Nass motion to adjourn at 10:59am. 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Nimm, Program Assistant