

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
320 SOUTH MAIN ST, JEFFERSON WI 53549
ROOM 202**

February 6, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland-Chairman, Paul Babcock, Rick Kuhlman, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. Call the Meeting to Order - The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Kuhlman at 1p.m.
2. Roll Call

Committee members present included: Babcock, Kuhlman, Nass and Tietz, Borland, absent. Others Present: Joe Nehmer, Kevin Wiesmann, John Molinaro, Gary Petre, Phil Ristow, Jane Stanger, Kim Buchholz, Jan Roou, Larry Skelly, Bill Burlingham, Larry Farrar, Janie Krohmer, Merri Oxley

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law – In Compliance
4. Review of the Agenda – Approved
5. Approval of January 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Babcock, seconded by Tietz, to approve the January 9, 2012 meeting minutes; Nass abstained, motion carried.

6. Public Comment - none
7. Communications
 - a. Handicap Fishing Wharf
Buchholz commented on the grant project for the handicap fishing wharf with the DNR. A grant application is being submitted for the project.
 - b. Town of Koshkonong Meeting Minutes 12/14/11 – White Crow Pass Access
 - c. County Park Plan Meetings Slated – Daily Union
 - d. Two Meetings Set for Input on County Parks, Rec. Plan – Daily Union
 - e. Public Invited to Input Meeting on County Parks – Watertown Daily Times
 - f. Jefferson County on Right Track, Public Says – Daily Union
 - g. Let it Snow! – Daily Union
 - h. Paddle on to Spring – Daily Union
 - i. Growing Business – Daily Union
8. Joint Effort Marketing Grant – Janie Krohmer and Merri Oxley

Kromer and Oxley updated the committee on the grant project in conjunction with the Jefferson Economic Development Consortium and the Jefferson County Parks Department. The grant was applied for by JCEC last September of 2011 and was awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism in October of 2011.

They are in the process of developing a brand as to what makes Jefferson County a place to come and what people will come to the County to see and enjoy. Also, a logo for the county may be developed.

9. Flood Mitigation Property Access Concerns

Nehmer distributed an email from Larry Skelly with regard to the property on Oxbow Bend. This property was previously discussed by the committee for parking and other public access issues. It was decided that the flood mitigation properties need to be looked at as to how they will be accessed and how the Park Ordinance pertain to them. This item will be sent to the Administration and Rules Committee to decide which county departments should be involved, (Parks Department, Emergency Government and Sheriff's Department) in which capacities these departments should be involved. There now are over 100 flood mitigation properties. Mr. Skelly was asked to write a letter from the homeowners association regarding their concerns of parking on the flood mitigation property in his area and we will work to take action from there.

10. Discussion and possible decision on Supervisor Walt Christensen's request to change park ordinance to allow nighttime riding on bike trails (Section 8.11 Park Hours – Ordinance 2006-09)

Nehmer reported that Dane, Dodge and Waukesha County bike trails are open 24 hours a day. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources treats the majority of trails in the state as State Parks and State Park Open and Closing hours are from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm; however, they do not enforce the hours on the trails and they in no way discourage people from using the trails at night. Every county we checked with as well as the state are open 24 hours per day.

Nass motioned to have the bike trails open 24 hours a day, Nass/Tietz, motion carried. (Change Ordinance 2006-09 to reflect this motion.)

11. Discussion and possible decision on the transfer of county property to the DNR – Vinnie Ha Ha boat launch and parking lot

Ristow state the DNR boat launch on Vinnie Ha Ha, which is actually three county owned parcels, has been leased to the DNR. There is no rental money involved, essentially they take care of the boat launch so the Parks Department doesn't have to provide a public amenity. We are asking the Parks Committee if you have any objections to giving these parcels to the DNR and, if not, actually sponsoring a resolution to go to the County Board.

Babcock motioned to support the transfer of these properties to the DNR, Babcock/Nass, motion carried.

12. Economic Development CDBG Grant, Community Development Block Grant for planning grant for proposed bike trails

Towers MacAskill, Sector Development Specialist at WI Economic Development Corporation, reported that she has discussed the CDBG Grant with her colleges. They determined that as the grant is currently written, do not meet the programs criteria. MacAskill will be meeting

with Parks Staff and one of her grant team's associates to further discuss the grant application.

13. Discussion and possible decision on Glacial Heritage Area

Nehmer reported that two properties in Jefferson County are getting close to being protected with the \$1.45 million dollars that the legislature assigned to GHA for this year and next year. When more information is able to be shared, we will. Nehmer reported on personnel changes at GHA, Paulette Harder is leaving the Coordinator position and Greg Matthews will be replacing her. The South Central Regional Manager for DNR left several months back, and has been replaced by Mark Acquino, a long time state employee.

14. Endowment Update

Molinaro reported that since we have collected a significant amount of money and are at a payout level, we will be receiving a payout from the endowment 2012.

15. Trek Bike Forum, February 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Nehmer asked committee members to attend the Bike Forum at Trek. A special Parks Committee Meeting that evening to serve as host. Trek is a very strong partner. Tietz and Kuhlman will attend; since only two members will attend there will be no Parks Committee Meeting.

16. Set Tentative Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 5, 2012 at 1 p.m. in room 202.

17. Adjourn

Motion made by Tietz, seconded by Babcock, to adjourn at 2:25 p.m. Motion carried.