

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

March 5, 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 Chairman Borland at 1p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee members present included: Borland, Babcock, Kuhlman, Nass and Tietz.
Others Present: Joe Nehmer, Kevin Wiesmann, John Molinaro, Gary Petre, Phil Ristow, Jane Stanger, Kim Buchholz, Jan Roou, Carlton Zentner

3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law – In Compliance
4. Review of the Agenda – Approved
5. Approval of February 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

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

6. Public Comment - none

7. Communications

- a. Fort Modern Woodmen "Bark at the Moon" Fundraiser A Big Success – Daily Union
- b. Wood Duck Nesting Boxes – Daily union
- c. Garden Plots at Carnes Park are Offered Residents – Daily Union
- d. Community Brief, Hearty Gardens – Jefferson County Advertiser
- e. Letter to the Editor – Woodmen Thanks – Daily Union
- f. Forum Highlights Benefits of biking – Watertown DailyTimes
- g. Trek to waterloo, Biking Enthusiasts Make Waterloo Trek – Daily Union
- h. Canoecopia

8. Joint Effort Marketing Grant – Janie Krohmer and Merri Oxley

Kromer and Oxley could not attend meeting due to prior commitment. An update on progress of the grant will be on the committee's April meeting agenda.

9. Kemmeter Farmland Taxation

Nehmer informed the committee that a taxation error was discovered on the Kemmeter Farmland. The County Treasurers office has corrected the bill and credited the owners of the property.

10. Flood Mitigation Property Access Concerns

Ristow informed the committee that a resolution will be read at County Board on Tuesday saying the Parks Committee shall set park policy and help guide the department in its efforts to meet their agreed upon mission as identified in the Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Parks Committee shall have oversight of and recommend policy affecting property acquired by the County for flood mitigation purposes.

11. Transfer of County Lands to the DNR Update

Ristow commented on three parcels; one 0.67 acre parcel at the end of Vinne Ha Ha Road in the Town of Koshkonong which is used for a parking lot for a DNR boat ramp, the second is an adjacent lot to the parking lot which was a tax foreclosure and the third is a tax foreclosure which is landlocked in the middle of the Lake Mills State Wildlife Area. The Parks Department and Finance Committee have reviewed the properties and recommend to convey these properties to State of Wisconsin (DNR) subject to the county's written consent to use property other than public purposes.

Motion to Transfer the above properties to the DNR. The deed should contain language requiring the County's written consent should the DNR use the property for anything other than public purposes. Nass/Tietz, motion carried.

12. Community Development Block Grant for proposed bike trails – Tietz

Tietz commented on the CDBG Planning Grant. This is the first step to cover costs for pre-engineering work. The pre-engineering work has to be done before we are able to apply for a transportation grant from Wisconsin Department of Transportation or from the Federal Department of Transportation.

13. Trek Bicycle Forum update

Nehmer reported on Trek Bike Forum sponsored by Trek Bicycle in Waterloo. It was attended by Jefferson County Supervisors, Tietz and Jones along with citizens from Walworth, Waukesha, Dodge, Dane and Rock Counties. There was a good turnout with a lot of excitement for current and future trails within Jefferson County.

14. Rock River Trail Initiative Update

Nehmer discussed an email from Greg Farnham, Wisconsin's Representative for the Rock River Trail Initiative. This group is attempting to make the Rock River into a national recreational trail. Frank Shier, the founding father, is the Illinois Representative. The article in the email came from Washington Secretary of Interior Salazar. He unveiled a New National Water Trails System to Promote Healthy, Accessible Rivers. A new network will increase access to water based outdoor recreation, encourage community stewardship for local water

ways and promote tourism that fuels local economies across America. This is exactly what we are trying to do with the Glacial Heritage Area and the Federal Government is trying to do with President Obama's Americas Great Outdoors initiative that he unveiled the first year of his presidency and now the Interior Secretary is saying we are on board and they are looking at these types of trails nationwide. The Rock River Trail is going very well.

15. Budget Update

Nehmer gave an explanation of the carry forwards. Buchholz gave a rundown on projects that would be completed with some of these funds.

16. Glacial Heritage Area update

Nehmer commented that we have a new member on the GHA Implementation Team. He has a passion for the outdoors and outdoor recreation and has volunteered to head up a Friends Group for the GHA. Nehmer also reported on developing properties which are being looked at in the GHA for purchasing.

17. Set Tentative Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2012 at 1 p.m. in Room 202.

18. Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn at 1:55 p.m. Kuhlman/Tietz. Motion carried.