

## JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 South Center Avenue, Room 202  
Jefferson WI 53549

January 6, 2014 @1:00 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland, Mike Kelly, Ed Morse, Augie Tietz

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Borland at 1:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Committee members present: Borland, Kelly, Morse and Tietz. Others present: Joe Nehmer, Kevin Wiesmann, Kim Buchholz, Ben Wehmeier, John Molinaro, Phil Ristow, Larry Clark (RLIA), Steve Gaffield (RLIA), Jim Shaw (RLIA), Patricia Cicero (LWCD), John Lawson (JCSA), Dave Eisentraut (Strand & Associates), Brandan Hager (WisDOT), Jeff Ziebell (JCSA), Bob Bennett (JCSA), Eugene Pagel (JCSA), Hope Oostdik (Town of Lake Mills), Reo Owens (2 Rivers Bicycle & Outdoor), Frankie Fuller (Friends of GHA)
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law: Administrator Wehmeier stated that we are in compliance.
4. Review of the Agenda: Approved as written.
5. Public Comment: None
6. Approval of the December 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes:

**Motion to approve the December 3, 2013 minutes was made by Tietz, seconded by Morse. Motion carried, 4-0.**

7. Communications:
  - a. County Rejects Land Sale – Daily Jefferson County Union
  - b. The Perfect Gift – Daily Jefferson County Union
  - c. Dog Park Annual Tags are Available – Daily Jefferson County Union
  - d. 2014 Dog Park Tags Available – Jefferson County Living
  - e. Email: Glacial River Trail Closed at Koshkonong Lake Rd – DOT
  - f. Email: The Mans' Family
  - g. Crawfish River Park – Watertown Daily Times
8. Update on Miljala Channel Study – Rock Lake Improvement Association:

Members of the Rock Lake Improvement Association provided the committee with an update on the Miljala Channel study. They are in the final stages of wrapping up their two grants. If individuals are interested in the final report, it can be found on the Rock

Lake Improvement Association's website. They distributed a packet of information to the committee and reviewed the information it contained.

Discussion occurred on next steps. As a property owner, the Rock Lake Improvement Association will keep us posted on the projects next steps.

9. Economic Impact of Winter Activities in Jefferson County – Discussion and Possible Decision - Bob Bennett, JCSA:

Bob Bennett, President of the Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance, gave a presentation to the committee on the Economic Impact of Winter Activities in Jefferson County.

The Jefferson County Snowmobile Alliance is comprised of 18 clubs with 874 members. There are 3,055 sleds registered in Jefferson County. There are 182.7 miles of public snowmobile trails and 300+ miles of club trails within Jefferson County. Trails are maintained by the Snowmobile Alliance. There are costs for installation, maintenance, grooming, bridges, fuel and repairs. There are four groomers in Jefferson County. The snowmobile grant funding only covers 60% of the expenses incurred by the Snowmobile Alliance. Product sales for snowmobiling brought in \$21,700 in sales tax for Jefferson County. In addition, snowmobile trail users spend their dollars locally on food, gas and lodging. Mr. Bennett compared the snowmobile program to the ski trail program and the money being spent on a 2014 capital purchase for ski trail grooming equipment.

Much discussion followed. Nehmer distributed snowmobile trail maps to the committee members. Jeff Ziebell asked that the committee reconsider charging an administrative fee to the snowmobile program. Nehmer explained how the administrative fee came about. Discussion occurred.

The committee asked Nehmer to bring back additional information at the February meeting on how the administrative fee could be changed. Nehmer will communicate his findings with Bob Bennett.

10. Update from WisDOT on Hwy 26 South Project:

Dave Eisentraut with Strand Associates provided the committee with an update on the Highway 26 South project. He distributed a project map to the committee. They anticipate the bike trail being paved by September of 2014. The current area of trail that is closed will most likely be opened in March of 2014. Eisentraut reviewed the map and project with the committee.

11. Discussion on Real Estate Adjacent to Korth County Park – Hope Oostdik:

Hope Oostdik, Town of Lake Mills Chairperson, addressed the committee with her concern that the Parks Department and the Town of Lake Mills not miss an opportunity to preserve the Hughes property. This property is currently for sale adjacent to Korth

Park. Hal Koenig and Margaret Burlingham toured the property; their opinion was that the house could not be used as is for a public building. Oostdik would like to see a partnership on the property. Discussion followed. Oostdik will keep the committee informed.

12. Discussion and Possible Decision on Revision of Dog Park Rules:

Nehmer stated that the Parks Department has visited with the Sherriff and they are fine with the dog park being open extended hours. Once the changes are posted at the park, they will begin enforcement.

13. Discussion and Possible Decision on Renewal of 15 Year Land Use Agreement, Rome Pond:

The Parks Department leases Rome Pond County Park from the Wisconsin DNR. Our lease agreement is expiring. A resolution will need to go to the County Board for approval.

**A motion was made by Augie Tietz, seconded by Mike Kelly, for the Jefferson County Parks Department to continue leasing Rome Pond County Park from the Wisconsin DNR. Motion approved.**

Ristow and Nehmer will forward the resolution to the County Board for their approval.

14. Discussion and Possible Decision on Fat Tire Bikes in Jefferson County Parks:

Kevin Wiesmann, Operations Supervisor, received an email from 2 Rivers Bicycle and Outdoor asking permission to use fat tire bikes at Dorothy Carnes Park. Upon reviewing the Parks Ordinance, use of this kind is not addressed. Therefore, it is before the committee today. Wiesmann stated that there has been a 300% increase recently in the use of fat tire bikes. It seems like it would be a compatible use within our parks system. Discussion occurred. The committee asked park staff to bring back additional information as well as a policy recommendation at the next meeting.

15. Update on 2013 Parks Department Budget:

Nehmer reviewed the status of the 2013 budget. Everything looks good at this point

16. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project:

Nehmer asked members to review the "Highlights of GHA Accomplishments" that was included in their agenda packet. It is an impressive list of accomplishments. Nehmer also shared comments that were made by David Birch, Waukesha County, regarding our TAP grant application for the Interurban Bike Trail; your application could be denied if the Regional Planning Commission doesn't approve of the project. Jefferson County needs to further explore their participation in a regional planning commission. John Molinaro has made contact with Tammy Baldwin's office for her support of our two TAP grant applications.

17. Update on the Proposed Crawfish River Park:

The Friends of the Crawfish River Park donated \$56,000 to purchase the property. The offer to purchase agreement has been mailed to WisDOT.

18. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for Next Meeting: February 3, 2014 at 1 p.m. Glen Borland will be absent. Augie Tietz will chair the February meeting.

19. Adjourn:

**Motion was made by Tietz, seconded by Morse, to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m. Motion carried, 4-0.**