

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: August 1, 2023 at 10:00am

Location: Park Operations Shop at 900 Pardee Street,
Wausau WI 54401

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Lou Larson, Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski-(via Webex)

Excused: Jean Maszk, Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director-(via Webex), Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator

Others present: Mr. and Mrs. Tim Micke, Dave Decker-(via Webex)

1. Call to Order – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:00 am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

2. Public Comment – none brought forward

3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 27, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Herbst, second by Larson to approve the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Updates to Chapter 19 of the Marathon County General Code – Sims explained that the Park Commission had recommended some proposed Chapter 19 ordinance changes to the Environmental Resource Committee. The Environmental Resource Committee felt additional language should be added to the section pertaining to hunting in Big Eau Pleine Park regarding stand height, stand installation/identification, licensure and cameras. A majority of items have been clarified in archery like distances from picnic areas, campgrounds, beaches, etc. and it must take place from an elevated platform of no less than six feet off the ground. Polley explained that this would also include distances from the center of a designated roadway and designated trail. There is also language similar to County forest lands that trees stands need to be removed daily but can stay on site through the end of the season. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to forward to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee

A. Discussion and Possible Action Establishing Dells of the Eau Claire Property Line near Group Campground – The adjacent property owner to the Dells of the Eau Claire contacted the County to establish the property line between the park and his property prior to establishing timber management boundaries for management of this property. Staff worked with the County surveyor to verify the boundary lines. It was identified that this section was a corrected section and the property lines did not match what were thought to be the property lines. The correct property lines indicate that the County’s group campground privy is encroaching on Mr. Micke’s property. In addition, Mr. Micke completed some brush removal up to the down barb wire fence line on what was found to be County property along his southern property line. A couple of options were discussed and the option that both Mr. Micke and staff would prefer is to do a quit claim deed for 0.547 acres of County land to Mr. Micke and for 0.08 acres of Mr. Micke’s land to the County. **Motion** by Larson, second by Seefeldt to go ahead with the quit claim deed option. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Approving Funding for Ice Arena Architectural Study – The County Board approved the Westside masterplan and a component of the plan is to relocate a new ice arena to a new location outside of the park. The first step is to understand the facility and space that is needed for the success of the County and all user groups. To accomplish this the County should complete an Architectural feasibility study. During this study the consultant will work with the County to establish the parameters of the facility and identify the County’s needs. The consultant will then develop a stakeholder and community engagement process which will include in-person meeting with all user groups to determine their wants and needs for the facility. Based on the information collected a written facilities program will be developed. This program will outline the recommended facility components, their associated space needs, and square footage requirements. Conceptual facility and site planning options will be provided, and a cost-estimate of the ice arena and typical site improvements will be developed. Staff solicited written quotes for the completion of the architectural feasibility study from four companies that specialize in ice arena development. One proposal was received from JLG Architects. JLG Architects is a reputable company and has designed and built many ice arenas throughout the country. They have the country’s only Certified Ice Technician + Certified Ice Rink Manager and are committed to designing ice arenas for operational sustainability and extraordinary visitor/player experiences. The cost of the study is \$32,500. The County has received a commitment from Wausau Youth hockey for \$5,000 and the Wausau school district will consider contributing \$5,000 at an upcoming meeting to support the study. The PRF donation account has \$10,500 available for the study. Staff is requesting that county board identify and approve the allocation of the remaining \$12,000 potentially from ARPA funds. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to move forward with the ice arena architectural study. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Dells of Eau Claire – Beach restroom roof replacement is complete, several hazard trees were removed. Sports Complex – Encountered significant damage from sandhill cranes due to grub infestation. Staff treated the area of grubs, and a coyote decoy was installed to deter further damage. The decoy seems to be working. MC United Spring/Summer soccer season has concluded and WAYSA has begun. Camping – Usage remains high within the campgrounds with revenue currently at 57% of budget amount. Playgrounds – Bluegill and Mission need soil restoration, Cherokee needs chips and border.

B. Marathon Park Water Project – Sims reported that the project is all complete. There is a small amount of turf restoration work to be done after the Fair.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., September 5, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Bat HCP Enrollment Program, Lu Lu B Jacobs Memorial Park

9. Adjourn - Motion by Herbst, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 10:25am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

There was not a quorum at the 11:00am Joint Park Commission/Fairboard Meeting.