

**DRAFT**  
**MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION**

Date and Time of Meeting: September 5, 2023 at 10:30am      Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

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

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

Others present: Justin Horacek

**1. Call to Order** – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:30 am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

**2. Public Comment** – Justin Horacek, 261 Parkside Drive, Dorchester – was interested in more walking paths being put in at Cherokee Park. He had thoughts about where they go and would volunteer his time and try to find others.

Commissioner Lou Larson questioned if the Department was planning to add a pre-school playground back at 3M Park and if there was any consideration for a restroom. Polley said the playground there should have features already for ages 2-12. Bathrooms are not being considered there at this time.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 1, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Maszk, second by Herbst to approve the August 1 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Reestablishing LuLu B Jacobs Memorial Park – Supervisor Gisselman, who also is part of the Marathon County Historical Society has brought to the Department’s attention that in 1982 the beautification committee of the Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce planned and created the Lulu B. Jacob Memorial Terrace located on the west end of the courthouse along Fifth St upon obtaining permission from the County for use of the area. The park was built with funds from the Thomas Jacob Foundation. Mr. Jacob was the founder of Hammerblow Tool Company and the park was named in memory of his wife. The park contained stone tables, benches, trees, and planters. In 1988 the new jail was constructed, and the park was enclosed within the walls of the jail and over time forgotten. Today the area is closed off to the public, utilized as a storage area and all that remains in the area is one, possibly two stone tables and a plaque. The Park Commission is asked to consider reestablishing the park on the courthouse grounds in the north-west corner near the entrance to the jail. This area already has a park-like feel and could be established to have the same feel as the intended LuLu B Jacob Memorial Terrace. Polley mentioned that the Department already maintains this area and costs to re-establish would be very minimal. She noted that per ordinance the Park Commission has the authority to establish this park. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Opall, second by Larson to support reestablishing the LuLu B Jacobs Memorial Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

2. 2024 – 2025 Facility and Program Fee Schedule - The proposed 2024 – 2025 Facility and Program Fee schedule is recommended to be approved at this time to set the shelter rates for the following year. This allows the department to allow users to reserve shelters 12 months in advance. Staff is recommending adjustments to the fees that include a 3% increase in the shelter fees (2025), the addition of an annual bike pass at Nine Mile, a Memorial tree fee, reduction to snowshoe annual pass, the addition of a skate sharpening fee, increased camping based on anticipation of ARPA project approvals, and implementing punch card options for train and tubing. The increases proposed are to keep in line with CPI increases and the increased departmental staffing and equipment costs. Discussion occurred on the reasoning why the Department was considering changing the disc golf fee to a suggested donation at Big Eau Pleine Park. Commissioners agreed it should become a suggested donation. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to accept the fee schedule as proposed. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

**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 - None

**6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None**

**7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion**

A. Project Update – Marathon Park – Ice is going in rink 1 on 9/10, Cyclones’ have arranged for the first ever United States Hockey League game on 9/16 between the Madison Capitals Hockey Club and the Green Bay Gamblers Hockey, setting up the park for Art in the Park 9/8-9/10. Sunnyvale – Softball is complete for the season. Shooting Range – Painting is being completed and the range is gearing up for hunting season. Peoples Sports Complex – Preparing the field for the MC United Fall Cup tournament in 2 weeks. DC Everest Park – A self-serve kayak station has been installed, the restroom will be replaced the first week of October. Dells of Eau Claire – The Highway Department assisted with the installation of a new culvert by the manager’s cabin, the Highway Department will also assist with the pulverizing, grading and paving of the beach parking area. Pulverizing and grading will begin the week of 9/11 and paving is planned for the week of 9/18.

**8. Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., Oct., 3, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Bat HCP Enrollment Program

**9. Adjourn - Motion** by Opall, second by Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 11:20am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.