

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: January 4, 2024 at 11:00am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt

Excused: Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Service

Others present: Joe Nagrant – President of the Waterski Association

1. Call to Order – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 11:00 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 October 31, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Maszk, second by Herbst to approve the October 31, 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

1. Request for Change of Venue from Central Wisconsin Water Ski Show Team Inc. from D.C. Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park – Aumann explained that the Water Ski Show Team has requested the use of Bluegill Bay Park for their water ski shows instead of DC Everest Park that they currently utilize. The Wisconsin River is regulated by all the cities, villages and towns that border the water. Each entity has the same language within their code of ordinances to regulate the water. If Commission approves the change, then the City of Wausau, Village of Rib Mountain, City of Schofield and the Village of Rothschild would be asked to amend their municipal code to allow the waterski pick up and drop off locations at Bluegill Bay Park for the purposes of waterski practices and shows. The only municipality that has taken it to their board is Rib Mountain who has agreed to change the ordinance if the County allows the change of the land use. The ordinance change has been discussed by the City of Wausau Park Committee and if the land use change is approved by Park Commission, will be taken to the Wausau City Council.

Staff is bringing this item to Commission because of the ordinance changes and concern about possible user conflicts. Staff thinks it could work and feels it's hard to know for sure if there will be conflict because shows are during weeknights. Parking for shows could be accommodated with a large county owned lot behind the park. Nagrant discussed why the waterski team would like to change locations and their possible future plans. Questions were answered and pros/cons discussed. Possible signage and the idea of having a trial year were discussed. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to approve the request for change of venue from the Central Wisconsin Water Ski Show Team Inc. from D.C. Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park for a one-year trial period. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

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

1. Amendments to Chapter 19 of Marathon County General Code (Parks) – Polley explained that the proposed amendments are recommendations to clarify and enhance a number of ordinances where questions have arisen in the field over the past year. The amendments will allow the ordinances to be more easily enforced by the Recreation Deputies and Assistant Facility Managers. Polley discussed the amendments which include following the new City ordinance which does not allow alcohol in any City park before 4pm at Marathon Park and D.C. Everest Park, not allowing golf carts in parks, clarifying where horse and buggies are allowed in the parks, and making Marathon Park campground for pre-registration only, no self-registration. There are some exceptions included in the first two amendments. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to accept the amendments to Chapter 19 of Marathon County General Code (Parks) and 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 - None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Big Eau Pleine – The archery only hunt began on November 15. To date we had four people register their harvest with us. Three bucks and one doe were harvested. We did also find one instance of a buck harvest where the body of the deer was left and the head was removed. DC Everest Restroom – Restroom has been constructed. Still waiting on contractor to install water and sanitary lines. Marathon Park – Snow bars were installed on the roof of MPB #2 to help mitigate snow buildup on the flat roof section between ice sheets. Ice operations are routine at this point. Nine Mile – Garage door and room heating project is complete. Staff completed the installation of the snowshoe signage project. Rib Falls Reclamation – County Materials has completed all of the site grading. Final work and seeding will be completed in the spring.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., January 30, 2024 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm.5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

9. Adjourn - Motion by Herbst, second by Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.