

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

Date and Time of Meeting: January 30, 2024 at 10:30am      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, Jamie Alberti – Corporation Counsel Paralegal

**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** – none brought forward.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 4, 2024 Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Maszk, second by Herbst to approve the January 4, 2024 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. 2023 Year in Review – Polley highlighted some of the accomplishments from the previous year. Removed and planted trees due to Emerald Ash Borer, rented shelters, sold season passes, increased recreational programming, sold timbersales with a net revenue to the County of \$347,034, new playground equipment at various parks, completed new watermain and laterals at Marathon Park, updated south boat launch at DC Everest Park to comply with ADA code, upgraded East Gate Hall boiler, resurfaced Big Eau Pleine south unit parking lot, renovated Nine Mile garage, installed ADA kayak launch at DC Everest Park, implemented a Fat Tire Bike season at Nine Mile, completed amendments to the County Forest Comprehensive Work Plan, established a trial archery deer hunt at Big Eau Pleine Park, and more.

2. 2024 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Workplan – Polley highlighted some of the work planned which includes renovations at Eastgate Hall, installation of dump station at Dells of the Eau Claire Park, replacement of Nine Mile septic system, playground replacements at Amco and Marathon Park Campground, build skatepark, treat and remove ash trees, plan the Department consolidation, ice arena feasibility study, replacement of Blue Gill Bay dock, completion of DCE Park restroom, update manager cabin and install well at Eau Claire Dells, administer timber sales, plant 60,000 red pine trees on 60 acres, establish another timber sale at Big Eau Pleine Park. Staff will also be working on the Rib Falls Master Plan, Big Rapids Dam removal, County CORP update, AED/Save Station grant and Athletic Park Clubhouse review. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to approve the 2024 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Workplan. 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

**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 – Large hazard tree removal has been completed in the west campground (just 2 large basswoods left for when we have snowpack over the main road). Raising of the trees in boat launches and horse trailer area is complete. Marathon Park – EAB infested ash trees in process of all being removed. Eastgate Hall work is beginning, the RFB for ceiling and flooring closes 1/30. A contractor has been selected to replace the siding and windows. Windows have been ordered. Marathon Park outdoor ice rink was almost up but with the warm weather it will most likely not be finished. Bluegill Bay – All EAB infested ash trees in the use areas have been removed (heavy infestation). North Central Health Care – removing infested ash trees on the grounds. Library – trees removed for facilities collar project as well as all ash removed. Nine Mile – Grooming operations are on hold with low snow and warm weather forecasted. Trails closed as of Friday, January 26 due to the rain and warm temperatures. Completed tree

work after winds brought some trees down over the trails. Bitzke – Refinishing and redesign of the main sign. Winter Activities – Crews have completed snow removal and brining operations when needed. We have started our wood processing at the Big Eau Pleine. A portion of the Mountain Bay Snowmobile trail was open briefly to get snowmobilers to the open Shawano County trails. With the warm temperatures, all trails are now closed.

**8. Announcements**

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

B. Future Agenda Items – update on ice arena feasibility study

**9. Adjourn - Motion** by Herbst, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.