

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: April 2, 2024 at 11:00am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

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

Staff present: Jamie Polley - Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director - (via Webex), Marcus Aumann - Assistant Director of Community Relations, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Joe Tucker - County Forester, Jamie Alberti - Corporation Counsel Paralegal

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 March 5, 2024 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Herbst, second by Larson to approve the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Approving the Memorandum of Understanding for the Merrill to Wausau Trail Master Plan Project – Sims explained the project had been discussed at the March Park Commission meeting and Commission had approved acceptance of a donation from the non-profit River District Development Foundation of Merrill to fund the Master Plan project. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the non-profit agreeing to the payment of services and on the scope of the project has been developed to be approved and signed by Marathon County, Lincoln County and the River District Development Foundation of Merrill. The MOU has been reviewed by both Marathon and Lincoln County’s Corporation Counsels. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Merrill to Wausau Trail Master Plan project and authorize Seefeldt to sign the agreement on behalf of Marathon County. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Rentals of Duane Corbin Shooting Range – A request was received from the Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Sheriff’s Department to utilize the 600-yard range. Currently as part of an agreement with the Sheriff’s Office, other agencies can utilize the range during a joint training session. This use would not be during a joint training with Marathon County Sheriff’s Office. If Commission feels the facility should be available for rent a policy would need to be determined. Staff feels an outside rental would require a staff person to be at the range during the rental, the rental would only take place when the range is closed to the public, and only law enforcement agencies would be allowed to rent the facility. If Park Commission supports this policy staff will bring back recommendations on rental fees. Questions were answered and discussion followed. **Motion** by Opall, second by Herbst to support the rental policy and bring the item back in a year to evaluate it. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

3. Big Eau Pleine Timber Sale Tract 10-24 – This third sale is part of a long-range timber management plan that had been presented to the Commission in June of 2020. The timber sale will be bid in September and the winning bidder will have a two-year contract with work to be completed between November 1 and March 15. Tucker discussed details of the timber sale. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Opall to approve Big Eau Pleine Timber Sale Tract 10-24. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Authorizing a Resolution for Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant and Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant – The City Forester would like to apply for a grant. The project proposed for this state grant application will seek grant funds to provide funding for residents to remove ash trees on their private properties as well as funding to continue to remove or treat ash trees and plant new replacement trees. Grants around the state will be awarded from \$1,000 to \$500,00 and require no match. Wausau and surrounding areas are infested with Emerald Ash Borer and the removal of the ash trees are recommended to reduce the spread of the borer. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to

approve the resolution to apply for the Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Act grant and authorize Commission President Seefeldt to sign the agreement. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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

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

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Marathon Park Improvements – Eastgate Hall-the ceiling contractor has completed the ceiling and new fans and lights have been installed. The flooring contractor will begin the floor replacement following the elections on April 2. The siding has been removed and the windows will be installed. Work will continue through the month of April. Ice Arena Feasibility Study-JLG Architects has provided the County with the first draft of the program needed for the facility based on the user meetings and feedback collected. Staff has met with them to provide feedback. JLG is still working on refining the program and is beginning to develop the floor plan. A team will also start to review the requirements of the saferoom and how that will be integrated into the plan. A third group, Ballard and King is beginning the work on the economic impact analysis. Staff met with them last week and will be providing them with data of our current facility. Arbor Day Planting-is planned for Thursday, April 25. Wausau Cyclones-ended their season on March 16th and the ice is now out of both rinks. Marathon Park Campground playground-the site is prepped and installation by the contractor will take place once weather allows. Big Eau Pleine Invasive Species – staff is working on a plan to address the garlic mustard within the park. A team worked on the removal of this invasive species in 2023 however more areas have been identified. Amco Playground – The playground has been removed and the site is prepped for the new playground. Install is planned for as soon as the weather allows. Cherokee Restroom – Staff is working with CPZ on planning the installation of the new restroom as part of the 2024 CIP projects. D.C. Everest Restroom – New doors had to be ordered for the new restroom as the doors sent from the manufacturer did not meet code. Dells of Eau Claire Paving – The newly paved areas going into the beach area and beach parking lot are being painted and small touch ups are being made. Asphalt Study – Staff completed a study of all the asphalt areas that are in need of crack sealing and patching.

8. Announcements

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

B. Future Agenda Items – City Service Level Proposal

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