

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

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

Park Commissioners present: Jeff Frese, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk-(via Webex), Tom Neal, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Sarah Watson

Staff present: Jamie Polley - Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Jamie Alberti - Corporation Counsel Paralegal

Others Present: David Decker, Tom Radenz

**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 April 2, 2024 Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Larson, second by Opall to approve the April 2, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Approving a Project Request for a Monument at the 45N-90W Geographic Marker-The Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors Central Wisconsin Chapter (Central Chapter) has submitted a proposal to add a display at the 45N – 90W park depicting examples of section corner monuments placed during the early surveys of Marathon County. Decker and Radenz discussed the request. The work would be performed by land surveyors and the Chapter would fundraise for the improvements. Three options for exhibit placement were discussed. The goal would be to complete this effort this summer. Discussion followed and questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Opall to approve the project request and leave it to the Society’s discretion regarding placement of the exhibit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

2. Law Enforcement Rental Fee for Duane Corbin Shooting Range – Polley explained that outside law enforcement agencies periodically request the use of the Duane Corbin Shooting Range. Their main request is to use the 600-yard range for training. In April, the Park Commission moved to allow the rental of the Shooting Range by law enforcement agencies only and a county employee would staff each rental. The next step is to determine a rental rate to cover the staff cost. Staff has determined that in most cases the employee working during a rental would be a part-time employee. To cover the cost of this employee a fee of \$25/hour is recommended. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Larson to amend the 2024 Fee Schedule to include the \$25/hour shooting range rental fee for outside law enforcement agencies only. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

3. Removal of River Edge Trail Overlook near Pick N Save – In April the City Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed options to repair the damage to the wall and paved area of the overlook on the River Edge trail by Pick n Save. An engineer looked at the area and it was determined that the wall was not sufficiently supported with material when it was installed in 2002. Due to the insufficient material the paver surface is sinking and there is significant settling issues around the drain pipe. This sinking is pushing weight against the wall causing the wall to crack. At this time the cost to replace the overlook is unknown and would require further investigation. The options reviewed were, not to replace the overlook and eliminate that area at this time leaving only the trail with work to be completed by parks staff or hiring an engineering firm to assess the wall and develop plans for repairing the outlook. The Committee moved to recommend to the Park Commission removal of the overlook by park staff leaving only the trail. It has been confirmed by the landowner who grants the trail easement to the City that removal of the overlook is acceptable. **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to recommend removal of the River Edge Trail Overlook near Pick N Save. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. None

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

1. Intergovernmental Agreement to Provide Park Services for the City of Wausau – Polley gave some history that in 1974 pursuant to Wi. Statute 27.075(1), the City delegated authority, through a resolution, to the County to govern, control, improve, and care for public parks, parkways, boulevards and pleasure drives. Wisconsin Statute 27.075(4) also states that the City may enter into necessary contracts with the County, and appropriate money to pay the County for the reasonable expenses incurred in rendering the park services assumed. To date there has not been a formal contract for services. The County has managed and maintained the City parks based on the stipulations laid out in each resolution and the City has appropriated funds for these services based on the same stipulations of each resolution. The proposed intergovernmental agreement documents the way that the County and the City have been operating for the past 50 years to effectively and efficiently manage the city and county park systems. The agreement identifies all of the resolutions that have set the framework of operations as well as details the current practices in place for operation and for funding staff, equipment, and improvements to the park system. The agreement does not include any changes to current operations but rather sets clear expectations of what the City expects of the County. Ultimately the City Council controls the funding that is allocated for the park operations, maintenance and improvements and therefore dictates the services expected with the funding provided. After discussion, there was **consensus** from Commission to table this item to give the City Attorney and County's Corporation Counsel more time to review the agreement.

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

### A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. 2025 Capital Improvement Project Requests – Polley discussed the requests in detail which include Athletic Park Clubhouse renovations, River Highlands Park playground replacement, Sylvan Hill and Riverside Parks parking lot paving, Memorial Park tennis court refurbishment, Marathon Park funding for planning of family area, Marathon Park splashpad replacement, Rib Fall Park playground replacement, Marathon Park wrought iron fence repair, Marathon Park road and trail repairs. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Opall, second by Seefeldt to support the CIP projects presented and move them on to the Environmental Resources Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

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

A. Project Update – Marathon Park Improvements – Eastgate Hall-the kitchen update is the last item to be completed and will begin the week of June 10 for two weeks. Ice Arena Feasibility Study-JLG Architects and structural engineers are currently reviewing the program for the implementation of a saferoom. They are working the saferoom requirements into the plan. Ballard and King continues to work on the economic impact analysis. Campground playground partially installed-Border scheduled to be poured on Monday (6/3). Splash Pad is being prepped to open Saturday (6/1). Events-Holding Monster Truck Show in Grandstands this weekend. Hosting Multi-Cultural Event in Exhibition Building and Infield where soccer will be played next Saturday, June 8. Campground – Establishing a response plan for Park Deputies, Wausau PD, and AFMs in responding to Marathon Park Campground calls to dispatch and the potential removal of campers who are violating park policy and rules. Storm Damage & Invasive Species – We made a major impact on the garlic mustard issue at Big Eau Pleine Park. We have removed large portions of the invasive weed. Storm Damage work at BEP (roads, campgrounds and trails) and the Dells. Work still to be done at Bluegill. Amco Playground – the playground has been removed and the site is prepped for the new playground. Install is planned for as soon as weather allows. Bluegill Bay – New dock installed with ADA ramp. New kiosk/pay station installed. Prep for new ski show venue with bleachers and temporary electric. D.C. Everest Restroom – Continue work on new restroom and surrounding area. Sports Fields – Sports complex had a very successful tournament at the beginning of the month with 140 teams. Sports Complex: Limestone path installed. SunnyVale is a full go with WASA, high schools, and youth baseball.

## 8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., July 2, 2024 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm.5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Elections, Intergovernmental Agreement to Provide Park Services for the City of Wausau

**9. Adjourn - Motion** by Opall, second by Neal to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.