

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: July 2, 2024 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Jeff Frese, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Sarah Watson

Park Commissioners excused: Tom Neal

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

1. Call to Order – Polley 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 June 4, 2024 Park Commission Meeting – **Motion** by Maszk, second by Opall to approve the June 4, 2024 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. Election of Officers – Nomination and Election of President and Vice President – Nominations for President were opened. **Motion** by Opall, second by Larson to nominate Seefeldt for President. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast to elect Seefeldt as President. Nominations were opened for Vice-President. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Larson to nominate Watson as Vice-President. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast to elect Watson as Vice-President.

2. Park Commission Representative for the Wausau and Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation – Polley explained that The Wausau and Marathon County Parks Foundation is a 501c3 foundation that supports the City of Wausau and Marathon County park systems. The Park Commission has a seat on the foundation board. Commission is asked to elect a representative to serve on the foundation board which meets every other month on the third Tuesday at 4:00 pm. Frese said he would attend the next meeting to see if he likes it. Seefeldt said if anyone else is interested they could attend that next meeting also.

3. Proclamation Designating July as Park and Recreation Month – Polley said the National Park and Recreation Association has always designated July as Park and Recreation month. They encourage people to use the hashtags they provide which are sent to a national database to help with advocacy. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Watson to declare designating July as park and recreation month. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

4. 2024 Deer Hunt in Big Eau Pleine – Polley explained that the 2024 deer hunt was a general hunt during the later part of the archery season. Staff only received five responses regarding a survey about numbers of deer seen and/or harvested. On the first morning of the hunt one of the deputies reported seeing over fifty cars. Polley also received some feedback from an adjacent landowner. Staff hadn't heard of any issues during the hunt. Polley questioned if Commission would like to hold another hunt the same way or else they could do a special hunt and get more accurate numbers about the harvest. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Larson, second by Opall to hold another deer hunt at the Big Eau Pleine Park. Polley will provide members with information from the State about holding a special hunt such as what the cap on the number of permits might be, if people need a license, and she will verify if they can track a hunt better that way. 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 the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration - None

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – 400 Block – The stage caulk has been replaced. Clean up of the previous caulk staining will follow and be completed by park staff. Drinking Fountains – 3M, Riverside and Alexander Airport Park had the new water fountains installed. Athletic Park – Meter/valve project has been completed and new meter box installed. Brockmeyer Park – We are working on a potential water leak at JoJo’s Splashpad. Believe we may have found the issue. More investigation is needed and we will have it up and running as soon as possible. Hammond Park – The light in the gazebo has been installed in partnership with Wausau PD. Riverlife – Briqs AC compressor failed due to a lightning strike and the replacement is in progress. The new compressor should be delivered early July. Woodson – New drain system poured to eliminate grates that continue to break during snow removal. Events – Youth baseball is winding down on the city fields, Chalkfest was held at the 400 Block, Wings over Wausau at Airport went off smoothly, Fireworks will be held at the airport on July 4th. Urban Forestry – Storm cleanup from 6/24. Many branches and limbs down in the parks and within the city. Other – Homeless leaving many items behind at Bull Falls Gazebo. PD has posted a sign to remove belongings. Amco – The new playground has been completed (curb, chips, parking lot restoration and turf restoration) Big Eau Pleine – Storm damage restoration is underway (washout grading, repairs from down trees) Bluegill – The new dock was installed, kiosk information area completed, repairs to end of launch (added large rip rap), and a Girl Scout will be constructing a Lifejacket Loaner Station on 6/29 Marathon Park – EGH kitchen has been updated and new playground Burke side completed (except PIP) the second structure is scheduled for later July Dells of Eau Claire – Working on washouts on the trails from the storms. Events – Sports complex continues to be very busy, looking forward to Hmong Fest at the end of July at the Sports Complex, Sunnyvale continues to be busy with American Legion, WASA and tournaments. We had 3 straight weekends of tournaments.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., July 30, 2024 at 10:00am, Park Operations, 900 Pardee Street, Wausau WI 54401 followed by a joint meeting with the Fair Board at 11:00 am at the Fairboard Office, North Wing of the Exhibition Building, Marathon Park, 1201 Stewart Ave., Wausau WI 54401

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

9. Adjourn - Motion by Maszk, second by Opall to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-.