

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: July 30, 2024, at 10:00am Location: 900 Pardee St., Park Ops. Bldg., Wausau WI 54401

Park Commissioners present: Jeff Frese, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt

Park Commissioners excused: Tom Neal, Allen Opall, Sarah Watson

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

Others present: B.C. Kowalski – City Pages

1. Call to Order – Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:00 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 July 2, 2024 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Maszk, second by Larson to approve the July 2, 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. Meeting Locations – Staff suggests that the monthly meeting rotate between a City location and a County location due to the Park Commission being a City/County Commission. Members preferred that all meetings remain at the current location due to ease of access and parking. **Motion** by Larson, second by Freese to keep all meetings at the 212 River Drive location. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

2. October Camping in Marathon Park – Marathon Park has been pre-registration only beginning in 2024. With the change to the pre-registration only, the infrastructure for self-registration has been removed to avoid confusion. With the self-registration infrastructure being removed, we either have to continue with pre-registration only in Marathon Park for the month of October or close the campground as of September 30th. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to extend pre-registration through month of October at Marathon Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

3. 2024 Deer Hunt in Big Eau Pleine – At the July Park Commission meeting members moved to hold another hunt in Big Eau Pleine County Park in 2024. Polley reached out to Brandon Stefanski from the DNR who felt if reducing the herd is the goal then the best chance of getting the most deer harvested is to have it open to those with a general hunting license. Polley said a hunt can also be done by special permit which could be through a lottery or application. A certain number of tags would be given out, and an ordinance change would be required. There is an option to receive more tags if needed. Stefanski recommended that that if there were no user conflicts he would keep it the same as last year and express the need for people to reply with their harvest numbers. Commission members expressed interest in keeping it the same as last year.

4. YMCA Temporary Usage of Yawkey Park – Polley explained that the YMCA will be improving their downtown location by increasing the square footage of the Landing and adding a walkway across 3rd Street. To do this work their current childcare play area will be impacted requiring them to find another location. The YMCA is required to have an outdoor play area as a licensed childcare facility. The YMCA is requesting the temporary use of a portion of Yawkey Park for the childcare play area. The space needed is 1,890 sq. ft. so they can meet the licensing code. Their request is to begin using it in August through the conclusion of the project. They are flexible on the location. **Motion** by Larson, second by Freese to allow the YMCA temporary usage of Yawkey Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

5. Riverlife Wharf Water Update and Plan – Staff has been asked to look into why the water has never been connected to the drinking fountain and shower at the Riverlife Wharf. What staff knows is that Miron constructed the Wharf and was responsible for the water to the shower and water fountain. Miron ran a water lateral and a sewer lateral to the wharf to serve it. Nearing the completion of the project Miron was not able to get a pressure test on the water line that was underneath the concrete poured for the wharf. Miron attempted to fix the leak over the next year but could not isolate the leak and the issue was ongoing but under the warranty and Miron was responsible for the fix. Then entered

the developer who came onto the vacant lot and began to dig the basement. They hit the water and sewer line and actually pulled out the water line from under the concrete. Miron then said it was no longer their responsibility since the developer broke the line somewhere under the wharf concrete. We were attempting to work with the developer to fix the line with Miron. The developer pulled off the site and the City was left with a fountain and shower with no water and an undetermined sewer lateral. Parks, Engineering and Water Department staff met at the Wharf this past week and determined that there are multiple breaks in the water line and the condition of the unconnected sewer lateral is unknown. The amount of work could be extensive to find all the breaks and also to determine what, if anything, is remaining of each line. It is the plan that when the vacant site adjacent to the wharf is developed that the city work with the developer to connect a new water and sewer line. In the meantime, staff is recommending we relocate the fountain to a location north along the trail and remove the shower tower. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to relocate the fountain and close off the shower tower. 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 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 – Airport Sports Park – Completed parking lot upgrade. Athletic Park – The smaller scoreboard was hit by a fly ball and was malfunctioning, it is currently operating correctly however we do have parts on order. Barker Stewart Island – The goats were introduced again this year from July 8 through July 20. This completed another round of vegetation management. Residents were allowed to meet the goats on July 16th. We had a great turnout. Forest Park – The shelter roof was repaired and re-shingled. The storm related tree damage work has been completed. Oak Island Park – The restroom lot was paved by DPW and re-landscaping is underway. Riverlife Park – The compressor has been replaced at Briqu’s building and leaper fountains are running. Paff Woods – The boardwalk repairs needed due to storm damage are ongoing. Tenth Street Park – The rock wall tuckpoint work is ongoing. A discussion on more permanent repairs will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting. Woodson Park – We are working on getting more jets to work on the kayak fountain. It appears that only two of the 5 have been working for quite some time. Park Maintenance – Woodchips were added to some playgrounds that were low. Big Eau Pleine Park – Storm damage work that has been ongoing is completed. Conservation Planning and Zoning received a grant to begin testing the water at the beach in Big Eau Pleine. We will be working with them on this three-year program. DC Everest Park – We now have one restroom open, the other restroom is waiting for the paper product dispensers. We will need to then complete the restoration work. Marathon Park – Fair prep is fully underway, with the assistance of the fair board the sanitary lines from the new cattle wash station were repaired and improved. We also completed a power line project in the horse arena. Mission Lake Park – The open shelter roof was re-shingled. Events – Nine Mile: Wausau 24 race July 27-28, Peoples Sports Complex: Hmong Festival Event was 7/26 through 7/28, Wisconsin Valley Fair in Marathon Park July 30-August 4.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., Sept. 3, 2024 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Beach Water Quality Monitoring, Intergovernmental Agreement, 2025-2026 Fee Schedule and Tenth Street Wall Repairs

9. Adjourn - Motion by Larson, second by Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.