

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: January 31, 2023 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski

Park Commissioners excused: Dawn Herbst, Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director-Operations, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director-Community Services

Others present: Brian Kowalski – City Pages, Channel 9 News

1. Call to Order – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:30am. 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 November 29, 2022 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Zagrzebski, second by Maszk to approve the November 29, 2022 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. Approval to Seek Funding for a Kayak Share Program at DC Everest Park – Polley explained this program would be similar to the bike share program that the City has at Riverlife Park. The kayak share is a large container with lockable compartments that house the kayak, paddle and lifejacket. Citizens have the specific program app on their mobile phone and can pay for the rental of the kayak which opens and closes the compartment door. Staff recommends one, 4-unit container to be placed at DC Everest Park on Lake Wausau. The cost for the program is \$5,000 for the first year with the option of extending the agreement for an additional four years for an additional \$10,000. Staff would like authorization to seek grants for funding the first five-year amount of \$15,000 for the program. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to approve staff to seek funding for a kayak share program at DC Everest Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

2. 2022 Year in Review – Polley highlighted some accomplishments from the previous year. Work was done on the Westside Master Plan, 3.4 miles of new road at the Big Eau Pleine Park, increased season passes and camping numbers from 2021, held programs, lessons and events, installed new playgrounds, removed and treated ash trees, planted new trees, replaced vault toilets, acquired park land, managed vegetation at Barker Stewart Island, repaired the 400 Block stage, work done at the ice arena, upgraded high bridge at Eau Claire Dells Park, roofed cattle barns, completed dog park shelter, masonry work at Stewart Park, paved Mission Lake Park road, did updates to Sunny Vale Softball complex, realized high timber sale revenues, completed memorials and implemented trial season for fat tire winter biking at Nine Mile.

3. 2023 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Work Plan – Polley highlighted some of the work planned which includes restroom replacements, Marathon Park water system update, redesign and build skatepark, treating and removing ash trees, planting new trees, Bluegill Bay Park dock replacement/redesign, playground replacements, installing new drinking fountains, new well at Big Eau Pleine Park, Big Rapids Park dam repair or removal, River Edge Trail paving and culvert replacement, 3M Trail construction, administering timber sales, site preparation for red pine planting, evaluating trial season of fat tire winter biking at Nine Mile, planning the Department consolidation, expanding programs and events, completing sustainability plan, working on the Rib Falls Park master plan, and ice arena/indoor sports feasibility capital improvement project request.

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 to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration – None

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

A. Adoption of the Westside Master Plan – Polley explained the plan was presented to the Environmental Resource Committee who requested that further engagement with and acknowledgement of the recommendations from the clubs that are associated with Marathon Park be conducted. They also made a motion to forward the plan to the County Board for the educational presentation and then return to the Environmental Resource Committee. Polley noted that this is a vision for the County in this area, it's a long-range plan and is not set in stone. Staff met again with the President of the Fair Board. They have a few concerns but understand that the plan would need final design and more discussion prior to implementation. The County would not move forward with the design and construction without the fair being part of the process. Polley noted a change to the plan that orients the midway north and south. She also said the roads have to be able to accommodate equipment for the fair being brought into the park. Polley discussed a couple of questions that she received from County Board members after the presentation. She will be taking the plan back to Environmental Resource Committee for final approval and then to County Board. Discussion occurred regarding some of the roads and parking lots in the park. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to move the Westside Master Plan on to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Motion by Maszk, second by Zagrzebski to go into closed session (roll call vote suggested) pursuant to § 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: updates relative to cost estimates for Marathon Park water project. Roll call vote was taken.

B. **Motion** by Larson, second by Maszk to Return to Open Session (roll call vote not required). Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

C. Announcements and/or Action Regarding Closed Session Discussion – no announcements

D. Project Update – Nine Mile operations – Most trails are now open, Badger State Games was cancelled this year by event organizers due to minimal snow conditions, utility garage remodel is underway to incorporate a heated section for grooming equipment. Bluegill Bay Docks – Beginning construction on new docks. Marathon Park Arena – Additional roof repairs have taken place on the multipurpose buildings (arena) due to water leaks, Ice arena lobby has been repainted. Sunnyvale Lake Prep – Prep and post work completed for Pond Hockey event held January 21-22, 2023. Firewood Processing – We are about ¾ complete on wood processing for the season. Our goal is to process a total of 100 cords.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403.

B. Future Agenda Items – No requests

9. Adjourn - Motion by Maszk, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 12:00pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.