

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: February 28, 2023 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt-(via webex), Kelly Zagrzebski

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director-Operations, Joseph Tucker – County Forester

1. Call to Order – Vice-President Herbst 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 January 31, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – **Motion** by Maszk, second by Larson to approve the January 31, 2023 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. Closeout the Big Eau Pleine Timber Sale Tract #10-22 BEP #2 Sale – Polley explained that the second timber sale in Big Eau Pleine Park has been completed. Tucker described the sale that was done in the west campground area. He recommended closing the sale and returning Twin Forest’s cash bond. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Opall to close out the Big Eau Pleine Timber Sale Tract #10-22 BEP #2 and return Twin Forest’s cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

2. Closing the Non-Metallic Mining permit for Rib Falls Park – Polley explained that in 2004 the County entered into an agreement with County Materials to mine for gravel on land that will, in the future, become part of Rib Falls Park. The initial agreement was for the mining to be completed in 2008. In 2008 County Materials asked for a change order to mine additional gravel until 2015. County Materials mined the area until 2013 and at that time deemed the remaining material inadequate for their needs. Staff has made contact with County Materials to evaluate the status of the area and the permit. County Materials does not intend to mine the area any further. Per the agreement County Materials is obligated to reclaim the site, grade the beach area and potential future parking area and remediate the slopes. County Materials has agreed to survey the site and complete the required remediation. The Department and County Materials would like to develop a plan to close out the mining permit and reclaim the site so that the park land can be opened to the public and eventually developed further into a park. Polley described the current 26-acre lake area and the work that had been done. County Materials has paid the County for materials they removed and a fund was specifically set up for development of the park. Staff recommends closing the mining permit and moving forward with the planning process of the park. The other option if Commission wants more materials taken out, would be to put the project back out for bid and end the contract with County Materials. If no one wants the material the County would have to pay to take the material out. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Opall move ahead with the first option and reclaim the property as it exists. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

3. Prioritization of Improvement Identified in Westside Master Plan – Polley reported the masterplan was approved at the last County Board meeting. Park Commission was asked to review the items identified within the plan, review the proposed timeline for projects and develop a prioritization of the projects. Each project within the plan will need further research and design prior to identifying costs. Prioritizing the projects identified within each year will assist staff in developing capital improvement requests, meeting with stakeholders and seeking alternative funding options. The items included in the 2023 to 2025 timeline are East Gate Hall improvements, utility upgrades, splashpad and playground replacement, campus residential redevelopment, and multipurpose feasibility planning. East Gate Hall improvements are a high priority because this building is a revenue source and updates to it aren’t contingent on anything else. The utility upgrade is scheduled to be done. The splashpad and playground replacement will require some planning of their placement. The Campus residential redevelopment will be worked on by other committees. Polley said the idea of the multipurpose feasibility planning is because the ice arena is failing and has been fixed constantly for many years. There are some major high-priced items that will have to be done to the building

if they want to keep it going. Before they consider building anything, discussions will have to take place with all the user groups about what is needed and return on investment calculations will be done. After all the information is gathered, funding for a consultant to help design a building would give a cost estimate which can then be used to seek private/public partnerships. Discussion followed about the ice rink. Members thought that updating East Gate Hall was the highest priority and then starting to work on planning for some of the other items. Polley explained that a decision will have to be made whether a water lateral should still run to the current splashpad because laterals will be put in to feed the new splashpad and restroom facility. More planning for the splashpad/playground restroom/Junction building is needed. Polley said the hope in making Marathon Park more attractive and family oriented is so everyone in the entire County will come and spend more time there. Staff will start work on putting cost estimates together for the Capital Improvement projects and work on the planning items as well. The masterplan will be brought back periodically as items are being worked on.

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. None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Marathon Park Water Project – Specifications and bidding documents have been completed and advertisement for bids will be published in the first week of March. Bids will be returned and opened on March 28. The bidding will consist of two options and a deduct alternate for each option if the timeline of the project is adjusted. Nine Mile operations – heated garage upgrade is complete until spring/summer when we will do the door and drains, skiing has been rejuvenated by the snow. Cyclones – last game was 2/25. Rink 2 ice will be taken out soon. Bluegill Bay docks – dock rebuilds are underway. Snow removal – snow removal and other routine operations are underway.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403 or webex.

B. Future Agenda Items – Future discussion on Big Eau Pleine Special Deer Hunt

9. Adjourn - Motion by Maszk, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 11:45pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.