

MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: May 2, 2023 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

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

Park Commissioners excused: Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Mark Dorow – Recreation Superintendent

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 April 4, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Larson, second by Zagrzebski to approve the April 4, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

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 - None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Presentation on the 2022-2023 Snowmobile Season – Mark Dorow, Recreation Superintendent discussed a report provided by the Recreation Coordinator, Daniel Schmid. The first County Snowmobile Council meeting took place on Sept. 8th, 2022 and meetings were held monthly through April 6th, 2023. The majority of the twenty-eight snowmobile clubs were in attendance monthly. The season officially opened at 8am on January 21st, 2023 with Zones 1,2, 4 and 5. There was a partial opening on Friday, December 23rd, 2022 for a small section of the Mountain Bay Trail in Zone 1. The trail system was closed on February 14th due to weather and trail conditions but reopened on February 24th and stayed open until March 21st. Trails would have been open another 20 days if not for the snowstorm that caused a lot of tree damage. Clubs spent a lot of extra time and money cleaning up tree damage. Supplemental funds were received from the State to cover those expenses. For the new season, multiple new mile applications, along with select bridge projects/rehabilitation and trail rehab projects were sent to the DNR. Polley reported on the recreational deputies' snowmobile patrols. The time spent on patrols is reimbursed through a DNR grant. Eighteen citations were issued and seventeen warnings were given. Polley noted that there were accidents in Marathon County this past season but no fatalities. Questions were answered.

B. Project Update – Trails – All trail conditions are looking good and trails are planned to be opened on May 15 if conditions allow. Campgrounds and Boat Launches – Campgrounds open on May 1, 2023, work has been completed to prepare for opening; clean up of a lots of storm damage from winter, grading roads, blowing off sites and roads, plumbing is up and running at Dells and Big Eau Pleine; boat launches hoping to be in by May 6 (city and county) – dependent upon flow volume. Athletic Facilities – Pickleball nets up, Peoples Sports Complex opens April 30 (earlier than normal), new automated line painter – operational and amazing, restroom was added to maintenance garage; Sunnyvale Softball in use by schools with Youth Baseball starting soon. Water Systems – Staff continues to install the water systems and get the parks up and running for the spring/summer. There is an issue with one of the hand wells at Big Eau Pleine. Staff is working on a solution. Playgrounds – Bluegill Bay,

Cherokee and Mission Lake Park playgrounds will be installed after Memorial Day. Arbor Day – Arbor Day planting in Marathon Park on April 27th.

B. Marathon Park Water Project – Polley reported that the City of Wausau has agreed to complete the construction administration on this project for the County therefore the project costs, including looping the watermain, installing the lateral to the splashpad and contingency fall within the funds allocated by the County in the 2023 Capital Improvement projects. To proceed with the project the Wausau Water Commission will be asked to accept the watermain through Marathon Park so that it can be looped from Garfield to Stewart Ave without the installation of check valves. Upon acceptance by the water utility the City Council will approve the easement where the watermain is located. The watermain will be a City of Wausau watermain and the laterals will be maintained by the County. The contractor has submitted the contract, bond and insurance and has begun work in the park. Construction of the project is set for July 16, 2023. The City of Wausau Public Works Department will assist with the paving at the end of the project. Questions were answered.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tue., May 30, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm 5, Wausau, WI 54403 or webex.

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

9. Adjourn - Motion by Herbst, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 11:10am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.