

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: March 1, 2022 at 10:30am Location: Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

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

Excused: Allen Opall, James Wadinski

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Services, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations

1. Call to Order – Vice-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 February 1, 2022 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Peckham, second by Mask to approve the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes with the change to the sentence under 7A.-Town of Rib Mountain Deer Population Update, “Polley said the Town of Rib Mountain has taken the lead on putting together an educational campaign for their residents on why not to feed the deer and some options available for reducing the deer population”, should be changed to read “Polley said the Town of Rib Mountain has taken the lead on putting together an education campaign *for residents explaining why they should not feed the deer* and some options available for reducing the deer population”. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

Due to technical difficulties, Zagrzebski wasn’t able to join the meeting until the Lake Wausau Project Proposal discussion.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Lake Wausau Project Proposal – ADA Kayak Launch at DC Everest Park – Polley said the Lake Wausau Association (LWA) has submitted a proposal to install an ADA kayak launch at DC Everest Park for public use. LWA and donors will fund the purchase of the kayak launch and donate it to the County upon installation. LWA is requesting the Park Department take care of future annual removal and installation of the kayak launch as well as future maintenance and repairs. LWA also requests the County pave a sidewalk path directly to the kayak launch from the existing sidewalk path running parallel to the lake. The Department currently maintains the same kayak launch at Riverlife Park and taking that one in and out is not an easy task. It is anticipated that the DC Everest Park launch will be easier to take in and out due to the low current in the proposed area. Currently staff cannot anticipate at this time when a connection from the trail to the launch can be installed, however they can complete this request as time and staff allows. If Commission supports this request, it should be contingent upon the LWA signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Herbst to approve the Lake Wausau Project Proposal for an ADA Kayak Launch at DC Everest Park contingent upon the Lake Wausau Association signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Park Facility Roofing Color and Material – Polley explained that the County parks currently have a number of buildings with roofs that are traditionally red. The Department is finding it more difficult to acquire the “Cottage Red” shingles for the facilities. Staff questions how critical it is to have the same color at all the parks or if they can have discretion to go to some other earth tone shingle color if necessary. Also, staff questions if the Commission is opposed to installing metal roofing material in lieu of asphalt shingles. The upfront cost of metal is higher, but the increased life span of metal roofing is desirable. Sims gave an update that staff was able to purchase four pallets of the cottage red color, however the color is discontinued. There is a like product color that will be available and is a thicker, more expensive shingle. Maszk would like the color scheme in a particular area or park to be consistent and also was in favor of metal if it was more cost effective in the long run. Polley explained that at Marathon Park where the roofs are all in close proximity they will stay with a like color. Sims explained that the metal roofs would be more for the enclosed buildings than the open shelters to preserve the integrity of what’s inside. Discussion followed. Polley clarified that Commission wanted to stay with the similar colors they have now so that the buildings stay fairly uniform. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Herbst to give staff discretion on prioritizing where metal roofs should go, but not have metal roofs at Marathon Park and to try to stay consistent color wise within a park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

3. Park Hand Pump Well Replacement Options – Polley explained that currently there are some hand pump wells in the parks that are getting to the end of their life and/or also to the end of the replacement part supplies the department has for

them. A couple of options are to take them out entirely, replace them with a new similar style of pump, or put in a more modernized submersible pump with drinking fountains and jug fillers. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Maszk to replace the hand pumps with the new similar style hand pumps that have the drinking fountain feature if it's available. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timber Sale Closeout: Flannel Fleet Logging – Contract #706-21 – Polley explained this timber sale in the Big Eau Pleine Park was finished and the contractor did a good job. 2,299.19 tons were cut and the revenue was \$42,432.6. Polley's recommendation is to return the contractor's Letter of Credit following final payment of \$2,432.68. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Herbst to close out Flannel Fleet Logging contract #706-21 and return their Letter of Credit upon final payment. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Restructuring 0.75 FTE Motorized Recreation Coordinator to 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator – Polley explained that the current position will be vacant as the Coordinator has taken a full-time position elsewhere. Staff would like to change the position to a 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator that would oversee the motorized recreation program in the winter as well as recreation programs, mostly aquatic related, in the summer. Currently there is only one full-time recreational professional on staff and there has been a push to increase recreation on both the County and the City side. Eventually long term Polley sees the need for these positions to become separate and have a full-time recreation person and a part-time trail coordinator. Polley will be taking this item to the City Park and Recreation Committee next week. There is no proposed change to the 2022 or 2023 budget. Funding will be available in the 2022 budget for the additional 0.25 FTE portion of this position due to the vacancy of 2 FTE positions at the beginning of this year. In 2023 the additional 0.25 FTE will be funded through the reduction of a part-time aquatic position and increased revenue. If programs can be added, more revenue will be generated and also through sponsorships, and events that are charged which will help offset the position over time. At Peckham's request, staff will reach out to the Marathon Swim Center to see if there is any opportunity for offering something there. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Herbst to support the request of restructuring the 0.75 Motorized Recreation Coordinator to 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Park Update - Big Eau Pleine: Firewood processing at Big Eau Pleine is over half complete. We have processed the 75 cords for the year and are now working on processing a new delivery of firewood. We anticipate 125+ cords to be processed within the next month in preparation for camping season. People's Sport Complex: MC United has grown in numbers again this year. Due to this growth, overflow to Brockmeyer and Airport Parks is now a regular occurrence. Nine Mile: Skiing and snowshoeing is consistent, even with a minimal snow base. Mountain Bay Trail: Crews have been working on trail maintenance, predominantly trees and branches contacting the snowmobile groomers. Marathon Park: Tube (radiant) heaters in rink #1 have been installed and are operational. This was an excellent change to the rink with positive feedback from users. Painting in the lobby and hallway of MPB is nearing completion. Rink #2 ice removal begins on 2/27, Rink #1 ice removal begins on 3/13. Boats and campers can be picked up starting 3/17. Routine Operations/Programs: Snow removal operations, firewood processing, building and structure maintenance, equipment maintenance and repair. Urban Forestry Program: regular tree maintenance and small pruning.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm 5, Wausau WI 54403. Andy Sims received an Urban Forestry award for wood utilization and partnerships under his previous job as City Forester. Polley explained that she will be notifying local municipalities in the future in all cases when the Department is purchasing land as an issue had come up at a recent County Board meeting.

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

9. Adjourn – Motion by Peckham, second by Herbst to adjourn at 11:40am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.