

**DRAFT**  
**MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION**

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

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Carol Lukens, Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski

Park Commissioners excused: Lou Larson, Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Services-(via web-ex), Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations

**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 May 31, 2022 Park Commission Meeting – Motion** by Herbst, second by Zagrzebski to approve the May 31, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0. Jean Maszk arrived after the minutes were approved.

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Westside Master Plan Progress Update – Polley provided an update on the progress of the plan. The City Public Works Department has expressed interest in West Street for a new Public Works Department so this will need some more studying. There may be another option for them but all the costs involved with both ideas have to be studied. Because of their interest in West Street, Polley doesn't want MSA to finish their plan without incorporating that idea, if needed, because otherwise all of MSA's planning and designs in that area would be for nothing. She had asked MSA for a change order amount for the options of how to move forward with West Street. Either they would do nothing on West Street and remove it from the plan with the idea that the City would take that area over time or the County develops the County owned property right now which is the Highway Department and cold storage area and the City or private industry would develop the rest. She is on hold with MSA because of the cost of the change order to do additional plans which they may not need at all if they wait to see if the City takes West Street off the table. Then they would just move forward with the original plan and no change order. In the meantime, MSA is working on the one plan they were asked to do and staff may come back for that change order to do a couple additional plans. They are still going forward with everything MSA had discussed, with maybe a couple week lag if additional plans are needed. The completion date of the plan will be adjusted. MSA has received good feedback and is working on incorporating some of those ideas. Polley noted that the idea of reversing the grandstand has been taken off the table as too costly and not a high priority. Long term if it ever has to be rebuilt that idea could be looked at again. MSA is also leaning towards recommending that camping is kept because it is a revenue generator and the Fair uses it heavily. There could be some things done to make camping better. MSA will also propose that Marathon Junction is redeveloped to be more enticing to families of all ages.

2. Parks and Forests Tour Dates – Polley questioned if a tour would be of interest and whether they should visit both City and County parks and Forest Units. Polley will put together a poll of possible dates and send to Commissioners. Members liked the idea of including both City and County parks with the possibility that the tour of the Forest Units is separate.

**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. Department Overview – Polley discussed the Department mission and structure. Commission had previously discussed being a joint committee. The role of the City Park Committee is still being worked on because all actionable items for the entire park system, both City and County parks, should be coming to the Park Commission. They will be clarifying some resolutions and working on an agreement of services. She noted that the Department operates all the parks as one system on a daily basis. Whether it's a City or County park if something like vandalism happens or something breaks, it's addressed. That is why if its one park system and the Park Commission is charged to oversee the entire system all items should come to the Park Commission and where it goes from here is where the question is. When members make a recommendation about a County park it either goes to the standing committee which is the Environmental Resource Committee or the Human Resources/Finance Committee and/or County Board depending on what the issue is. On the City side everything still has to go through City Council for approval and where it goes before that is the question. If it's funding or personnel related it goes to the City Finance Committee. Polley discussed the City and County Outdoor Recreation Plans and has a goal to combine them into one document that would cover the entire system. She said staff will continue to work on Department needs and challenges which are staffing and wages, state levy limits, aging facilities, increased demand for parks, and community collaboration on sports facilities. Polley discussed how she is working on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and some difficulty she is having with the ARPA procurement policy for the City skatepark project. Polley discussed other future projects. Members raised some questions about the Fair fees and Polley asked them to email her the questions and she will bring them to next month's joint Fairboard and Park Commission meeting. Polley said at the August Park Commission meeting they can go over the Fair Agreement and what the current Park Department responsibilities are.

B. Wausau Whitewater Park Dedication – After 9 years from inception to finish the Wausau Canoe and Kayak Corporation believe that Wausau now has the finest whitewater park and competition course in the World. They want to encourage our young people to stay or return to our community and this is one feature of WaUSAu to help make that happen. Park staff has also been doing a great job with the fine touches on landscaping and is providing the club with information to help them replant the dyke with native, no maintenance, plants and flowers. They are also working with the WaUSAu Chamber on the West Bank improvements. They will be handing out some State awards to some of the major local companies who made this happen. The Commission members are encouraged to attend at 9:00am on Sunday, August 21, 2022.

C. Park Update - Marathon Park Utilities - One proposal was received for the RFP that was issued to map the park utilities and develop a plan to bring the current seasonal lines to code. Staff is working with County Administration on funding options. Mission Lake - Mission Lake road and parking lot paving began this past week and should be completed within the next two weeks. Shooting Range - The archery range improvements are nearing completion. The City's DPW helped our staff lift the elevated shooting tower into place on June 29, 2022. DC Everest Park - Boat launch planks have been replaced. Some paving and restoration work to be completed. The City DPW will be assisting with the paving. The Lake Wausau Association will be installing an ADA Kayak Launch soon. Dells of Eau Claire Tuckpointing - Tuck pointing of the stairs and fireplace in the main shelter have been completed. City Parks - Dog Park is substantially open with a few areas fenced to allow for turf to establish. Eau Claire River Conservancy – The boardwalks have been constructed and need to be installed. 400 Block Q-Server has been repaired and the fountain is up and running. Stewart Park steps and walls along 10th St. have been repaired City Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update has begun and the consultant will be meeting with stakeholders within the next few weeks, a community survey will be issued in July. Routine Operations/Programs: Urban forestry program: storm clean up continues, small pruning, tree planting, building and structure maintenance, equipment maintenance and repair, shelter rentals and events.

## 8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 10:00am, 900 Pardee Street, Wausau, WI 54401 followed by a Joint Meeting with the Fair Board.

B. Future Agenda Items – Ordinance Updates, Fair Agreement and updates, possibly MSA update

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