

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: August 2, 2022 at 10:00am Location: Operations Meeting Room, 900 Pardee Street, Wausau WI 54401

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

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations, Ben Krautkramer – Operations Manager

1. Call to Order – President Seefeldt called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:00am. 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 July 5, 2022 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Maszk, second by Opall to approve the July 5, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Parks Tour Date–August 25, 2022, 9:00 am–3:00 pm, Forests Tour Date–September 15, 2022, 9:00 am–3:00 pm. – Polley discussed possible parks to visit on August 25th. She mentioned some projects that have been done in them or upcoming items related to these parks. This will be a bus tour with lunch provided. An email will go out to all County Board and City Council members inviting them on the park tour.

2. Conversion of FEMA Parcels to Park Land – Polley explained that the Emergency Management Director brought seven parcels to the Departments attention. These parcels were acquired by the County with hazard mitigation assistance and there are regulations the parcels have to follow. Structures cannot be added to these parcels. They are located west of the city of Wausau along the Rib River. Two parcels have direct access to a back channel of the river, four parcels are across the road and one parcel is independent. Staff has reviewed the parcels and made the following observations: The independent parcel is very small, has little usable space, and is not contiguous to any of the other parcels. The four contiguous parcels are large with a few shade trees and bordered by a large, wooded lot of 5 acres. The back channel is a nice quiet channel to the Rib River, however, the only outlet is currently filled in with silt and vegetation. To open this channel up the outlet would have to be dredged and permission from the homeowner at the outlet would be required. Potential to help install a new culvert on the west side of the back channel that would access the river and open the area up for more flow could open up the outlet. The Highway Department is currently mowing the parcels and requests that park staff take on the mowing. The question at this time is if the Commissioners would like to look into the conversion of the parcels. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Larson, second by Herbst to move forward with looking into the conversion of the FEMA parcels to park land. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

3. Request by Wausau Curling Club to Install a Plaque on Former Curling Barn - The Curling Club recently approached the department seeking permission to install a plaque on the former curling barn in Marathon Park. The Curling Barn housed the curling club for 70 years until the new curling center was constructed in 2012. The curling barn has a lot of meaning to the club and they would like to memorialize that with a plaque. Although the Curling Barn is not on the historic registry it is linked to buildings that are such as the cattle barn #1 and the cattle show ring. The club is requesting to place this plaque on the east side of the curling barn where it will be visible by patrons going in and out of the cattle barns. **Motion** by Opall, second by Maszk to approve the request by the Wausau Curling Club to install a plaque on the former Curling Barn. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

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

1. Marathon Park Water Service Design – Polley explained that Wausau Water Works has given the County notice that the water service on the western half of Marathon Park does not meet current code and that if not corrected the water service will not be turned on in 2023. Wausau Water Works allowed the water to be turned on for 2022 and required clean water testing which was completed and the system is operational. Sims discussed the current water system and its winterization process. The age of the water system in Marathon Park is old however the exact age is unknown. To determine what corrections need to be completed the system will be mapped and a design, plans and specifications will be prepared for bidding. This project was not anticipated for 2022 and therefore funding was not allocated for the design, plans and specifications. Staff has identified approximately \$21,000 in the 2022 operating budget that can be utilized for this project. Staff is requesting a 2022 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget amendment utilizing contingency funds for the remaining amount of \$74,400. Staff will also submit a 2023 CIP project for the construction of the system. A cost estimate for the construction will be determined during the design phase. The plan for construction is to bid the work in January/February of 2023, begin construction in April/May of 2023 (weather dependent) and completion in July 2023 prior to the Wisconsin Valley Fair. Sims said a couple design options will be given. One should be a looping system while the others might be dead ending the system. The campground will be blocked off next summer with a project completion goal by the time of Fair setup. The project is estimated between 600,000 and 1.3 million dollars potentially if it is looped all the way through the park. A closer estimate will be given once a design proposal is decided on. **Motion** by Larson, second by Lukens to support the 2022 CIP budget amendment allocating \$74,400 of contingency funds for the Marathon Park Water Service Design and recommend approval of this project to the Human Resources and Finance Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

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. 2022 Fair Contract – Polley said a resolution from 1971 allowed the County to charge the Fair for building rental fees. There was subsequent documentation that when the Agricultural Society has the park for Fair purposes it is under their purview so they have the prerogative to charge fees if they want to. She discussed the 2022 Fair agreement and the involvement of park staff. Ben Krautkramer, Operations Manager discussed some of the detailed work park staff is involved with setting up for the Fair, the work during the Fair and cleanup after. They manage a daily plan of everything that needs to be done and he discussed how important communication is between everyone involved. Seefeldt felt that the park crew was doing an excellent job.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Ordinance Updates

Members recessed and went over to the Fair Office for the Joint Fairboard/Park Commission meeting where they reconvened.