

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

Date and Time of Meeting: October 4, 2022 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk-(via web-ex), Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski

Park Commissioners excused: Carol Lukens, Allen Opall, Lou Larson

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

Others present: Jason Valerius – MSA Consultant

**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 August 2, 2022 Park Commission Meeting and August 2, 2022 Joint Meeting with the Fair Board – Motion** by Maszk, second by Herbst to approve the August 2, 2022 meeting and joint meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Proposed 2023 Budget – Polley explained that a budget has been submitted for 2023 that has a 0% increase over 2022 to the County Administrator. She discussed the class compensation study that the County is doing and how it affects the budget. She discussed notable changes to expenditures and revenues. The Department hopes to have future discussions about putting excess timber sale revenues into a fund to help offset low timber revenue years. Polley discussed the small project list. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Herbst, second by Zagrzebski to support the proposed 2023 budget. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

2. 2023-2024 Facility and Program Fee Schedule – Polley explained that approval of the fees is recommended at this time to allow users to reserve shelters and camping twelve months in advance. A two percent convenience fee on credit card transactions with the Department will be implemented. Other increases include shelter fees, winter fat tire bike trial season pass, camping fees, event add-on's, snowshoe annual passes, and winter tall storage fees. The increases proposed are to keep in line with CPI increases and the increased departmental staffing and equipment costs. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Seefeldt, second by Herbst to pass the schedule fee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

**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 - None

**6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**

A. Adoption of the Westside Master Plan – Jason Valerius, MSA Consultant discussed a summary of park improvements that included recommended changes to the system of drives and roadways to the park, parking changes and future forestry management. He discussed other recommendations which include moving the Fair midway to the south of the grandstand, relocating the horse barn and arena, and creating a retention pond. Discussion occurred on these items. Polley will bring this plan to an upcoming Fairboard meeting. Other recommendations include improvements to the south entrance with stone entry features and East Gate Hall updates. Marathon Junction would receive the most major updates including a year-round concession building, proposed winter and summer ice skating ribbon, new splash pad area, multi-age playground, train ride expansion, and an option of a beer garden area with weekly food carts. No significant changes are proposed for the campground. The southwest corner of the park has a proposed disc golf and high ropes/challenge course but this would require more exploration. Other options for the area were discussed. The idea is to make the southwest corner an area that people want to use for a reason. The recommendations south of the railroad tracks are dependent on future determinations made in the area. Possibilities

include a new indoor multi-sport facility, summer field/green space, potential sports court's re-location, and residential development. Recommendations to the east of the park are to replace Marathon Hall and the parking area north of Stewart Avenue with housing developments. Discussion occurred on some of the ideas in the plan. Commission members recommended that the concept plan show the potential of the court sports on the property currently owned by the County. **Motion** by Seefeldt, second by Herbst to recommend forwarding the plan on to the Human Resources and Finance Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

#### **7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion**

A. Project Update – Memorial benches – two memorial benches were installed, high bridge-Dells high-bridge has been re-decked, playground replacement-four playgrounds removed ready for replacement-Mission Lake, Bluegill Bay, Cherokee & Dells of Eau Claire, BEP road paving and toilet replacement-Big Eau Pleine road paving will take place the week of 10/3 with the assistance of the Highway Department, Big Eau Pleine vault toilet replacement will be completed on 10/3, cattle barn roofing-cattle barn #1 and #2 roofs are replaced, archery range-archery range remodel is complete, ice arena-one sheet of ice in Marathon Park is up and running and practices by the user groups have begun and boat/camper storage-boat and camper storage has started and will continue until the end of October.

#### **8. Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403 - Seefeldt may not be able to make the November meeting.

B. Future Agenda Items – Ordinance Updates

**9. Adjourn - Motion** by Herbst, second by Zagrzebski to adjourn the meeting at 12:15pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.