

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: November 29, 2022 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

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

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

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director-Operations, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director-Community Services

Others present: Malcolm Whittum, Pete Valiska-Wausau Events Inc.

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 – Malcolm Whittum explained he has held concerts on Wednesdays at the end of August for the last eight years as a food drive for Peyton’s Promise. He found out he could not have his Wednesday next year because Wausau Events booked concerts every Wednesday in June, July, and August. He had been told every year he couldn’t book for the next year until the day after his concert and felt that should apply to Wausau Events as well. Pete Valiska, Wausau Events explained that they were looking to expand and match up their dates with the River District Downtown Dining events so they requested the Wednesdays next year in June, July, and August. They were made aware of this situation and he met with Whittum to work something out, such as having their band open for Whittum’s national act.

Whittum and Valiska left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 2022 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Maszk, second by Zagrzebski to approve the November 1, 2022 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. Park Facilities Reservation Policy – Polley explained that processes have changed since the last reservation policy was updated in 1992. Technology has changed allowing for requests to be submitted via email and through the online reservation software. Users can now book a facility 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Aumann discussed how the policy was modernized for current operations. The first change is regarding multi-day events. If there is an event that spans multiple days, the proposed language is that a group may request those dates up to 365 days in advance of when their series starts. This would also apply for events with a series of dates, such as if someone requests every Sunday, they can request dates for the entire series. This is to help staff with just looking at one application instead of dealing with individual applications. The department would notify a previous event holder, in good standing with the department, if a request for their date has been made and require them to respond regarding their event within thirty days. Aumann discussed some of the other minor language changes made in the policy and exceptions to the 365-day rule. Class I and Class II events had previously needed approval from Commission but staff suggests that the Department is delegated that permission so decisions can be made in a timely manner. Aumann discussed the special event permit process for city facilities and clarification was added to the policy that requests must be made through the Department for a facility to be reserved.

Polley said if this policy is approved today as recommended it would mean that staff would let Whittum, who has had an established event for years, know that another organization is interested in his date and Whittum would have thirty days to let staff know if his is still having his event or not. If he is, then staff would let Wausau Events know that date isn’t available but they could expand the rest of their dates as requested. In this particular year because the policy wasn’t in place, and will be fixed going forward, staff will work with both organizations to make sure something is worked out. Clarification was made that on-going established event means that it has returned so would be considered as an established event on its potential third year. Questions were answered and discussion followed.

Motion by Zagrzebski, second by Maszk to approve the Park Reservation Policy as modified. 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. None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Winterizations – Water system winterization is complete, all boat docks have been removed for the season, Tree removals – Trees have been removed and stumps ground at Nine Mile to widen some ski trails, Memorial tree planting – Memorial tree planted at Nine Mile for Cory Wilcox, Marathon Park Ice – Marathon Park warming house for the ice rink is in place, Big Rapids Shelter – Big Rapids shelter roof has been replaced, Emerald Ash Borer – Emerald Ash Borer infested trees have been removed at Bluegill Bay. Polley mentioned the timber sale in the west campground area at Big Eau Pleine Park has begun.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403.

B. Future Agenda Items – No requests

9. Adjourn - Motion by Herbst, second by Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.