

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: May 4, 2021 at 10:30 am

Meeting Location: Conference Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk-(via webex), Allen Opall, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt-(via webex), James Wadinski

Commissioners Excused: Connie Conrad

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Greg Freix- Asst. Director of Operations

1. Call to Order – Vice-President Peckham 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 March 30, 2021 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Herbst, second by Opall to approve the March 30, 2021 Park Commission meeting. 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. Projects Submitted for COVID Recovery Funding – Polley explained that the County will be receiving federal recovery funds. At this time the specific guidelines for the allowed uses for the funding has not been released from the US Treasury. Preliminary information indicated the funds could be used for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure and tourism projects. In preparation for receiving the recovery funding Administrator Leonhard has asked for a list of potential projects relating to water, sewer and broadband infrastructure that would enhance the park system and the assets of the County. Polley discussed the potential projects which include Big Eau Pleine and Dells of the Eau Claire Campground Shower/Restroom Buildings, Big Eau Pleine and Dells of the Eau Claire Cellular Service, Big Eau Pleine Dump Station Improvements, Dells of the Eau Claire Dump Station Installment, Dells of the Eau Claire Managers Cabin Holding Tank Replacement, Nine Mile Chalet and Sanitary Expansion, and Marathon Park Water System Looping and Cross Connection Control. Freix discussed some of Marathon Park’s water system issues in detail. The projects discussed would substantially enhance the parks in which they are in, providing much desired amenities and positively impacting the program/facility revenue. Questions were answered and discussion followed.

2. Summer Parks Tour Dates and Parks of Interest – Polley discussed a few possible dates. Commissioners narrowed the date down to Thursday, August 26th. Commissioners and staff will bring forth parks of interest at the next meeting.

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. 2022 Capital Improvement Projects – Polley discussed the 2022 proposed Park Capital Improvement project requests in detail. Projects include playground replacement, restroom replacements, Big Eau Pleine Park road repairs, Marathon Park Cattle Barns 1 & 2 roof replacement, and Mission Lake Park east parking lot replacement. Polley noted that all of the projects meet the parks five year outdoor recreation plan and are listed as either high or medium priority. Future forecasted projects include playground replacements, restroom replacements, Big Eau Pleine road repairs, Rib Falls Park development, possibly Big Eau Pleine Park horse camping, a park system master plan, Marathon Park improvements and new ice arena. Polley discussed rolling stock which is split between the City and County. **Motion** by Wadinski, second by Herbst to approve the proposed 2022 Capital Improvement Project requests and move them on to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Park Update - Mission Lake Playground: Sand replacement with engineered wood fiber. Park Cleanup: General park cleanup is almost complete. Water Systems: Plumbing reassembly and seasonal meter installation continues. All facilities should be up and running by mid-May. Marathon Park Boat and Camper Storage: Customer pickup of boats and campers is almost complete. (May 1 deadline). Campgrounds: Site grading and general cleanup is underway. Campgrounds open May 1. Dells of Eau Claire Park river trails: Trail repairs from river washouts is in progress. Eagle Scout completed a project adding signage and blue trail markings to mark the Forest Preserve Trail and highlight the direction to the group campground and main shelter. Sunnyvale Softball Complex: Concession stand remodel work and irrigation work in progress. Peoples Sports Complex: Fields are being prepared for opening day and asphalt repairs are underway adjacent to concession/restroom building. There was significant settling around the concession stand again this year. Routine Operations/Programs: Mowing operations are beginning in many routes. Urban forestry program is doing tree trimming and removals. Building and structure maintenance. Shelter reservations and special events are beginning. Equipment maintenance and repair.

B. Partners Update – People Sports Complex, Cyclones Hockey

People Sports Complex: The sponsorship agreement with Peoples State Bank for the sponsorship of the sports complex is finalized. A press release was sent out and all new signage will be installed at the complex by May 14th just before the large Marathon Cup soccer tournament starting May 15th. Staff from our department and from Peoples State Bank will be available to talk to the media at a set time on the 15th. That time is still to be determined. Our department has also contracted with US Workstories to put together a new promotional video of the People Sports Complex highlighting the partnership and how it benefits Peoples State Bank, Marathon County and the community.

Cyclones Hockey: The Wausau Riverwolves will now be called the Wausau Cyclones. The team's ownership changed hands last week. The new owners are a group of local residents who are excited to bring back the Wausau Cyclones. There was a group called the Wausau Cyclones that began in 1972 and played until the early 2000's. Our department had a great working relationship with the previous owners, Teri and Duncan Woodhull. We are very excited to begin working with the new ownership group, Hockey Management Group, LLC. Hockey Management group has signed the amendment to continue the existing contract which the commission approved on March 30, 2021.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tue., June 1, 2021 at 10:30am, Rm 5 or via Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI

B. Future Agenda Items – parks of interest for the park tour

9. **Adjourn** – **Motion** by Opall, second by Herbst to adjourn at 11:30am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.