

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: August 3, 2021 at 10:15 am

Meeting Location: Park Operations Shop, 900 Pardee Street, Wausau WI 54401

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Allen Opall, Jean Maszk-(via webex), Pat Peckham, Kelly Zagrzebski-(via webex)

Commissioners Excused: Rick Seefeldt, James Wadinski

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Greg Freix-Asst. Director of Operations, Ben Krautkramer – Park Operations Supervisor

1. Call to Order – President Peckham called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:15am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

2. Public Comment – Al Christensen, Town of Ringle Chairman, came to the meeting about a new park in Ringle.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 29, 2021 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Herbst, second by Opall to approve the May 4, 2021 Park Commission meeting with change to wording under Election of Officers that instead of *Herbst nominated Rick Seefeldt that Herbst nominated James Wadinski who declined the nomination. Peckham asked for other nominations. Peckham nominated Seefeldt who accepted the nomination.* Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Potential Park Property Purchase – Mathy Property in Village of Maine – The Department has been approached by a representative of Mathy Construction seeking interest by the County in purchasing approximately 38 acres of land that is currently adjacent to the Brokaw County Park property. The land is connected to the north property line of the park property, is mostly wooded and contains a portion of an existing snowmobile trail. Mathy Construction has evaluated their land in this area and is seeking to sell land that they will not use for mining. Mathy Construction is willing to work with the County on the sale price based on an appraised value. There is a potential that the County could apply for a Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant to assist with the purchase of the property however since it is park land and not county forest the competition for these grants is much greater. Potential funding for this property is available in the County Park Land and Products account. Staff feels this property would be a good addition to the existing park and increases the park size to just over 100 acres. Pursuing the purchase of this property also aligns with the County’s Strategic Plan Objective 5.2 to acquire an average of 320 acres of land per year for the Marathon County Parks and Forests system. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Herbst, second by Opall to authorize staff to further pursue the purchase of 38 acres from Mathy Construction and order a property survey and appraisal. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee – Mission Lake Timber Sale Closeout - The Timber sale set for Mission Lake County Park has been completed successfully. The contractor, United Wood Products, LLC., completed the sale within the contract period and did a very good job. The sale included red pine, white pine, white spruce and aspen. **Motion** by Opall, second by Herbst to approve the close out of the Mission Lake Park, Ravenous Chipmunk timber sale and return the performance bond to United Wood Products, LLC. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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. Park Update - Marathon Park Playground - The playground is complete and open to the public. The orange fencing is still in place to help keep people off of the newly planted grass, County Playgrounds: - Big Eau Pleine Park Playground will be removed and the new playground will be installed by our staff hopefully this year. Marathon Park - Storm damage

cleanup: Another significant windstorm moved through Wausau on Wednesday, July 28. Power was out in the park and surrounding areas through the morning of the 29. Multiple trees fell within the park. One vehicle was damaged and no one was hurt. A few trees fell on different areas of fencing that will need to be repaired. Fair Setup - The fair is next week so staff has provided additional assistance this year to the fair operations. More on this new partnership will be discussed at the joint meeting with the Fair Board. Routine Operations/Programs - Mowing Operations, Urban forestry program; tree trimming, removals, Building and structure maintenance, Shelter reservations and Special Events, Equipment maintenance and repair.

B. 100+1 County Parks Anniversary – Reminder - The 100+1 County Park Anniversary is scheduled for August 28th from 3-9pm in Marathon Park. The tentative schedule for the celebration includes food trucks, Parks and Sheriff’s equipment on display, train rides, Splash Pad from 3:00 to 6:00pm. Wagon rides (still confirming this), activities (arts and crafts, foam area, obstacle course, bags tournament, inflatables, photo booth, etc., local entertainment from 4:00 to 6:00pm. The Hello Weekend band will perform from 6:30-8:30pm followed by fireworks.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tue., August 31, 2021, 2021 at 10:30am at the Marathon County Historical Society.

B. Future Agenda Items – budget

9. Adjourn – Motion by Herbst, second by Opall to adjourn at 10:55am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.