

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: August 31, 2021 at 10:30 am

Meeting Location: Marathon County Historical Society, 410 McIndoe St., Wausau WI 54401

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Allen Opall, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, James Wadinski, Kelly Zagrzebski

Commissioners Excused: Jean Maszk

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Greg Freix – Assistant Director of Operations

Others present: Deputy Matt Bell, Lt. Will Stuart, Dana Ketchum-(via call-in), Ruth Geier, Jeanne Marten

1. Call to Order – 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 – Ruth Geier – 217341 Cty Rd KK, Mosinee – spoke out against amending the hours of the Shooting Range in the MOU with the Sheriff’s Office from 7am to 6am.

Jean Martens – 217357 Cty Rd KK, Mosinee – spoke out against amending the hours of the Shooting Range in the MOU with the Sheriff’s Office from 7am to 6am.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 3, 2021 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Herbst, second by Zagrzebski to approve the August 3, 2021 Park Commission meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Sheriff’s Office Request to Amend Shooting Range Memorandum of Understanding – The Marathon County Park Commission and the Marathon County Sheriff’s Office has a Memorandum of Understanding for use of the LT Frank L. Hanousek Sr. Police Range of the Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park. Item 4 under the Police Range section states that the Sheriff’s Office will conduct all shooting activities between the hours of 7:00 am and 11:00 pm. The Sheriff’s Office at times utilizes the range prior to 7:00 am. The Sheriff’s Office is requesting an amendment to the hours in the agreement. They would like to change the 7:00 am start to a 6:00 am start to accommodate the night shift officers. The intent is to get the officers home as soon as possible and also not pay an hour of overtime on those individuals while they sit around waiting for 7:00 am.

Bell discussed the State requirements and said they have to qualify officers once a year after July 1st. They are also required to do a “no light” or “low light” shoot. He described how their Department runs the four quarters of training to accomplish the requirements. He clarified that they only require the 6:00 am start the first Tuesday and Thursdays of every month (when they fall within the same week). The 6:00 am start is to help incorporate the night shift deputies to get them home at a reasonable time and to save on overtime. Stuart described the numbers of people and other specifics involved in firearms training.

Polley noted that she received a phone call from Raymond Schave, 148451 Smore Lane, Mosinee who expressed the same sentiments as Geier and Martens. Peckham was against modifying the MOU and hoped they could find a way to make this work. Wadinski mentioned due to a conflict of interest he would be abstaining from any voting. **Motion** by Herbst, second by Opall to change the MOU to allow a 6:00am start two days a week. Polley asked for clarification when she updates the MOU that it is to keep all shooting activities between 7:00 am and 11:00 pm with the exception of the first Tuesday and Thursday of each month (when they fall within the same week) then the operation could begin at 6:00 am. Herbst agreed that the motion could be clarified as such as did Opall. Geier asked about notification being given to the residents relating to the start time and also bomb squad related activities. Bomb training is a separate topic and Deputy Bell and Lt. Stuart will relay the concerns to the bomb squad. Polley thought the two Departments could put together a letter with the changes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4–1 with 1 member abstaining. (Herbst, Opall, Seefeldt, Zagrzebski in favor, Peckham against, and Wadinski abstained)

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. Park Update - County Playgrounds: Big Eau Pleine Park Playground may be removed yet this year and it is hoped that the new playground will be installed by our staff yet this fall. Fair Setup/Operations/Take Down: The 2021 Wisconsin Valley Fair is in the books and despite the rain the fair was a success. Our staff took on a new roll this year managing set up, operations and take down. The Fair Board sent a very nice letter expressing their gratitude and appreciation for our partnership this year. Projects yet to be Completed: Amco restroom replacement, Big Eau Pleine road repairs, Big Eau Pleine campground electrical upgrade, Dells of Eau Claire High Bridge decking replacement. Routine Operations / Programs: mowing operations, urban forestry tree trimming and removals, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events, equipment maintenance and repair.

B. Program and Event Update - Programs and events were in full swing this summer. A new program that was extremely popular was the Pickleball program. Staff offered youth and adult lessons in partnership with Wausau Area Pickleball. The swimming lesson program at the City pools was expanded and very well attended. Events that our department assisted with in addition to the Fair included the Wausau Marathon, Concerts on the Square, Blues Fest, Pop Up Splash Pads and the Hmong Festival at the People's Sports Complex. It is estimated that the Hmong Festival had a record attendance of approximately 14,000 people.

C. 100+1 County Parks Anniversary Recap – Polley thanked everyone who volunteered and also those who came to the event. It was a successful event and a good time for families. It was hard to gauge numbers of people because everything was spread out at Marathon Park but the children's areas had lines all afternoon. The bucket truck rides were especially popular. The band and fireworks were also very well received.

D. Update on Park Foundation's Water Trail Initiative. The Foundation would like to add historical signage to existing kayak launches in partnership with the organization that maintains and operates the launch. The Foundation would help the organization fund the signage if the organization installs and maintains the sign. The Foundation is still working on the final cost estimates for the sign and installation prior to approaching any of the organizations. The Foundation asked our department to provide a cost estimate for installation based on our experience. Polley said she will provide this once she receives the sign plan so that she can properly estimate staff time and equipment needs. Mr. Bertram will be sending her the sign plans.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tue., October 5, 2021 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm 5, Wausau WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

9. Adjourn – Motion by Opall, second by Seefeldt to adjourn at 11:40.am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

10. Tour of Park History Exhibit – no action taken.