

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: November 2, 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, James Wadinski, Kelly Zagrzebski

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director of Community Services-(via webex), Andy Sims-Assistant Director of Operations

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 – none brought forward

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 5, 2021 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Seefeldt, second by Herbst to approve the October 5, 2021 Park Commission meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

Zagrzebski entered the meeting at 10:35am.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

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

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Resolution to Support City of Schofield Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant Application – Polley explained the City of Schofield has applied for a Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant to acquire 2.37 acres of land for conservation and public recreation purposes. It is for a proposed boat launch situated along Grand Avenue and Lake Wausau and will enhance the conservation practices within the city and provide increased opportunities to boat, kayak, fish and hunt/trap. State law requires the DNR to notify the County of jurisdiction of this application. Chairman Gibbs has asked that the Commission look at the options of supporting or opposing the application. The Commission is not obligated to take action. Polley said that enhancements to parks and recreational opportunities as well as the preservation of the County’s natural resources are identified as goals and objectives in the Marathon County Comprehensive Plan. Other benefits include additional access to Lake Wausau and clean up of the property to bring it to more of a natural park state. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Opall to recommend to the DNR that the Commission supports the City of Schofield’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Application. **Motion** carried by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.

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 - Big Eau Pleine Campground Electrical Upgrade: Contracted electrical upgrades are being completed the week of 10/25 and site restoration is underway. Big Eau Pleine Disc Golf Course: Tee pad installations are complete for this season with three holes remaining for next spring. Big Eau Pleine Road: Staff will be replacing culverts along the main park road the week of 11/1 in preparation for pavement work next spring. BEP park will be closed the week of 11/1 for these repairs. Memorial Benches: Staff is preparing sites and forms for memorial bench installations in several city and county park locations. Water Systems: Winterization procedures are underway for facilities/areas that are currently done for the season. I.e., Pools, sports facilities, restrooms and irrigation systems. Dells of the Eau Claire High Bridge Re-decking: Staff is completing trail work and site work for future (winter) access to the work site. This project will begin when staff complete other ongoing projects. Amco Park Restroom: Installation of new vault toilet took place on 10/26 with site remediation to follow. Sports Complex Irrigation System: Contractor will work with staff on the installation of a strainer

system along with replacement of the RPZ/backflow preventer. This work will be completed this fall. Marathon Park: Boat and camper storage is complete for the season. Both sheets of ice are in use. Routine Operations/Programs: Mowing Operations-mulching at County parks as well as Nine Mile ski trails, Urban forestry program-planting will be complete the week of 11/1, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events, and equipment maintenance and repair.

B. Assembly Bill 604 Update – Polley said Assembly Bill 604 was first introduced two weeks ago, heard at a public hearing, and was voted on by the Assembly on October 27th. The Senate companion bill has not been introduced yet. When it was first introduced, the bill allowed the Dept of Administration to designate public property for temporary resident use meaning they can give permission to families or individuals to set up camp in public properties whether it's a public building or public land. The first amendment brought forward stated that the Department of Administration couldn't put it in a local government's lands or public spaces without their permission unless the local unit of government was petitioned by a citizen and didn't respond within thirty days. A second amendment was brought forward that defined public property as property other than county fairgrounds or public parks. That amendment did change concerns about public parks and buildings being designated as temporary shelters. Polley said this is a bill being brought forward to try to help with the homelessness issues in communities. Park representatives will continue to watch the bill as it gets introduced to the Senate to see if it stays in its current form. Discussion followed.

8. Announcements

A. Tour of Seidler Property Scheduled for Friday, November 12, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

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

C. Future Agenda Items – Seidler Property Donation

9. Adjourn – Motion by Opall, second by Herbst to adjourn at 11:00 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 7-0.