

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: February 4, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Meeting Location: Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Connie Conrad, Gary Gisselman, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, Dennis Smith

Excused: John Durham, Allen Opall

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation, Forestry Director, Greg Freix-Assistant Director of Operations

Others present: John Beatty, Alan Christensen – Town of Ringle Chairman

1. Call to Order – President Gary Gisselman called the Park Commission meeting to order. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

2. Public Comment Period – Alan Christensen, Town of Ringle Chairman, requested that because the Town of Ringle is plowing a Mountain Bay trailhead parking lot in Ringle and not charging the Park Department for doing so, that the fee the Department is charging for use of that area during their Harvestfest event be reduced or waived. Polley thought as a cooperative agreement it could be waived and would look into.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 7, 2020 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Smith, second by Seefeldt to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 Park Commission meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

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

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Adoption of a Revised Appendix A – Parks, Recreation and Forestry (PRF) Casual, Seasonal and Temporary Wage Rates – Polley explained that each year it is getting more and more difficult to attract seasonal staff. As the Park Department was posting positions for the 2020 season it was recognized that departments were posting different wages for positions of similar nature. It was also recognized that all County departments except for the PRF Department follow the Countywide Shared Classifications of Chapter 9 of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. An Appendix A for the PRF Department has been adopted for some time that list specific rate steps based on years worked for all seasonal PRF Department positions. The current Appendix A limits flexibility of staff to adjust wages based on the market. The Countywide Chapter 9 sets a maximum rate for all positions allowing flexibility for position rates within an allocated budget. In working with Employee Resources it was determined that the PRF Department still needs a separate Appendix due to the number of different payroll codes there are, however replicating the format of the Countywide Chapter 9 would establish consistency among departments and give the PRF Department flexibility in seasonal hiring. Polley discussed the updated Appendix A and said that it would better align the Department with the County’s pay plan as well as giving the Department flexibility with their budgeted amount to adjust the seasonal rates. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Conrad to adopt the revised Appendix A of the PRF Department Casual, Seasonal and Temporary Wage Rates and forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for their consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Project Update – Nine Mile Cross Country Trails: Grooming operations continue around the clock based on heavy customer use, weather changes and events. Big Eau Pleine Park and Eau Claire Dells Campground: Firewood processing operations are underway in the south unit (BEP) firewood storage area. Routine Operations/Programs: Snow Removal Operations; Urban forestry program-tree trimming, removals; Building and structure maintenance; Shelter reservations and Special Events, Equipment maintenance and repair, Sports Facilities (Marathon Park Indoor Ice Arenas)

B. Program Update – Chinese New Year – UW Extension organized the County’s first ever Chinese New Year celebration. Our department was a partner for the event and assisted with the facility and day of activities. The event was very successful with over 765 people attending and another 50+ vendors and performers. The event was action packed with performances, cooking demonstrations, Mandarin lessons, martial arts demonstrations and much more. Badger State Games & Ironbull Winter Triathlon – Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area hosted the 2020 Badger State Winter Games (BSG) Nordic Skiing on Saturday, January 25th and the Ironbull Winter Triathlon (also a BSG event) on Sunday, January 26th. Prior to each event the area received a great deal of snow so our grooming staff worked around the clock to make sure the trails were groomed and ready for the events. The events went very well and staff has received many nice comments on the quality of the trails. BSG Nordic Skiing offered 12 events for participants to compete in. According to the online results, 382 people participated. The first Winter Triathlon for Ironbull included Nordic skiing, fat tire biking and snowshoeing. There were 25 individual participants and 7 teams.

7. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – tentatively April 7, 2020 at 2:00 pm, Rm 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403. (The March 3, 2020 meeting may be cancelled depending on the need for a meeting.)

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

8. Adjourn–Motion by Smith, second by Peckham to adjourn at 2:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.