

**DRAFT**  
**MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION**

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

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

Park Commissioners present: Connie Conrad (via phone), Allen Opall, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, James Wadinski, Jean Maszk,

Excused: Dawn Herbst

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Marcus Aumann-Asst. Director of Community Services, Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Joe Tucker-County Forester

- 1. Call to Order** – Director Polley called the Park Commission meeting to order at 2:05pm. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Park Commission Meeting - Motion** by Peckham, second by Opall to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 Park Commission meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.
- 3. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Election of Officers – Nomination and Election of Park Commission President and Vice President – Polley discussed the Commission’s setup and function. Nominations for President were opened. **Motion** by Opall, second by Maszk to nominate Conrad for President. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast to elect Conrad as President. Nominations were opened for Vice-President. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Seefeldt to nominate Opall as Vice-President. **Motion** by Opall, second by Conrad to nominate Peckham as Vice-President. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast to elect Peckham as Vice-President.
    2. Discussion and Possible Action Appointing a Representative from the Commission to Serve as the Liaison to the Wausau/Marathon County Parks and Recreation Foundation – The bylaws of the Foundation say that one member of the Park Commission will be an automatic member of the Board of Directors on the Park Foundation. Having a member of the Park Commission sit on the Parks and Recreation Foundation Board of Directors was established to assist in carrying over the policy concerns of managing the park system and recreational facilities to the Foundation. The Foundation meets quarterly on the third Tuesday of every other month at 4:00pm. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Maszk to appoint Rick Seefeldt as the representative from the Park Commission to the Park Foundation. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.
    3. Future Meeting Day and Time – Discussion occurred on holding Park Commission meetings on the same dates as the Environmental Resource Committee meetings. These are held the Tuesday before the first Thursday of every month. **Motion** by Seefeldt, second by Peckham to hold the Park Commission meetings on the Tuesday before the first Thursday of every month at 10:30am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration - None
- 4. 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
- 5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
  - A. 2021 Capital Improvement Project Requests – Polley discussed the Capital Improvement Projects which include playground replacement, westside master plan, Big Eau Pleine road repairs, park restroom replacement project, Big Eau Pleine horse barn replacement, Marathon Park marquee. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Conrad to approve the Capital Improvement Project requests and forward them on to the Capital Improvement Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

## **6. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion**

A. Big Eau Pleine Forest Management Plan – The forest of Big Eau Pleine County Park over time has been cut over leaving the current forest lacking in important species diversity, “Old Growth” trees and different age classes. Joe Tucker, County Forester discussed a forest management plan for the park and gave recommendations to promote species and structural diversity, wildlife habitat and a new age class of trees for different areas of the forest to be completed over time. A recommendation is also that many of the forest types be managed according to sustainable forestry practices to promote their health and vigor. Questions were answered and discussion followed.

Seefeldt left the meeting at 2:55pm

B. Implementation of Recommendations Pertaining to COVID-19 – Polley discussed a list of park facilities that were open or closed. She has been working with the County Health Department Director and the County Administrator on following the Health Department’s recommendations for government and businesses. Signs have been put up at the park facilities with guidelines for the public to follow. On the County side, everything is open for general use with guidelines except for playgrounds which are signed as closed. The signs are guidance for people to follow but there are no barriers or enforcement. The City Council will be deciding if the City pools will open or stay closed for the season. Polley thought the Splashpad would open if the pools did, but wanted to verify that with County administration. City Council is also going to decide if staff will work with baseball/soccer to schedule them on City athletic fields. Currently all athletic fields are open to the general public but staff was not scheduling, grooming or lining them for organizational use. The Sunny Vale Complex and the Sports Complex are not usually open to the public for general use because they are scheduled facilities. Questions were answered and discussion followed.

Opall left the meeting at 3:30 pm.

C. Project Update – Dells Campground Road: Staff is preparing the campground road (saw cutting, shouldering and culvert installation) for a new asphalt overlay scheduled with the Highway department for the second week of June. MPB #1: Dasher board project will begin Monday June 1. Staff is salvaging materials from existing structure and preparing for contractors to begin work. Refrigeration system will run during installation to maintain cool temperature in the building. Marathon Park Farm Museum: Quotes were submitted and a contractor was selected to begin work on the roof repairs from the winter snow load collapse. Routine Operations/Programs: Mowing Operations; all three mowing crews are in routing mode with limited staff. Urban forestry program; Tree planting is in progress; tree trimming, removals, stump grinding Horticulture; Greenhouse plants are ready to be planted in outside beds and flower baskets are in house. Building and structure maintenance. Shelter reservations and Special Events; Equipment maintenance and repair at Shooting Range Marathon Junction; Train is being prepared for summer use. Restroom Maintenance; increased maintenance (daily) and staffing due to COVID 19 recommendations.

D. Program Update - Marathon County Parks 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> of 2020 will be postponed to 2021. The future date is to be determined and will be based on the availability of the band and fireworks that were scheduled to help the County celebrate 100 years of County Parks.

## **7. Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – June 30, 2020 at 10:30 am, Rm 2, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – Chapters 1000 & 2000 of the County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan

**8. Adjourn–Motion** by Maszk, second by Peckham to adjourn at 3:40pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.