

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

Date and Time of Meeting: September 1, 2020 at 10:30 am

Meeting Location: Conference Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Connie Conrad, Allen Opall, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, James Wadinski (via webex), Dawn Herbst

Excused: Jean Maszk

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Director, Marcus Aumann-Asst. Director of Community Services

**1. Call to Order** – President Conrad 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 August 4, 2020 Park Commission Meeting - Motion** by Peckham, second by Opall to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 Park Commission meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - Discussion and Possible Action on the Proposed Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department 2021–2022 Facility and Program Fees – The proposed 2021–2022 fees were previously distributed to Commission for review. Polley explained that approval of the fees is recommended at this time to set the shelter rates for the following year. This allows the department to allow users to reserve shelters 12 months in advance. Staff is recommending adjustments to the fees that include a 2% increase in the shelter fees for 2022 to keep up with CPI increases, increase to the Nine Mile Daily Bike Pass (12 and older) from \$4 to \$5 so it matches the Mountain-Bay State Park Trail Daily Pass Fee, \$1/night increase to all individual campsite rates, \$5/night increase to all group campsite rates, added a non-commercial rate for the Marathon Park infield, added non-commercial, livestock event commercial and non-livestock event commercial rates for the Poultry Barn in Marathon Park, added a sports field weekly rate for organized youth use, and increase the winter storage rate from \$1.90/foot/month to \$2.00/foot/month. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Seefeldt to approve the proposed facility and program fees. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

**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 - Expanded Position Request to Expand the .6 FTE Motorized Recreation Coordinator to .75 FTE – Polley explained that last year when our Park Ranger retired after 37 years of service to Marathon County a .6 FTE Motorized Recreational Coordinator position was created. Prior to our Park Ranger absorbing the Motorized Recreational Coordinator’s responsibilities in 2005, the position was a full-time position. The Motorized Recreational Coordinator works an average of 24 hours per week however more than 24 hours per week is required September through April leaving less than 24 hours per week available May through August. Marathon County has 29 snowmobile clubs that maintain the county’s snowmobile trails. These clubs get reimbursed \$300/mile for their work. ATV clubs get \$100/mile for their work on ATV trails. This reimbursement is completed through a state grant program and the state requires the County to provide a position that manages these grants. Over the past year the work load for this position has been evaluated and it is apparent that more hours per week are needed May through August. Additional demands on this position include updating agreements with each club, maintaining current trail maps and website information and grant administration of bridge replacements. Staff is recommending an expansion of the .6 FTE to .75 FTE allowing for an additional 300 hours allocated to this position. One-half of this position will be funded through the recreational trail grants. Additional funds for this position are currently within the department’s budget. The increase to the department’s budget as a result of the allocation increase will be found within the existing budget and no further tax levy will be requested.

Aumann had these responsibilities at his former position with Clark County and felt with the sheer number of miles Marathon County has and the number of volunteer clubs that it is a lot to manage. Areas he felt that require more attention include contract language between the County and the Clubs and between the Clubs and the landowners. He also said that there are a lot more steps and paperwork requirements for bridges now than there ever has been in the past. This system has a lot of miles so there are a lot of bridge projects needed to keep it running. Polley said County Administration is in support of expanding the position as long as the Department absorbs it in its budget. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Opall, second by Herbst to forward the recommendation to expand the .6 FTE Motorized Recreation Coordinator to .75 FTE position to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

## **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. Project Update - Marathon Park Ice Arena Compressor Room: Refrigeration controller installation is still in progress. Controller panel should arrive by August 31 with multiple days of wiring to follow. MPB's Sound System: A vendor has been chosen for the sound system via the RFP process. Polley discussed some of the Covid-19 plans for the upcoming indoor ice season. Staff will work with the contractor to install the system for the upcoming indoor ice season. Sunnysvale Softball Complex: Park improvement projects have started. New scoreboards are ordered, infield renovations are underway, new water supply lines will be trenched in and concession building work will begin. Routine Operations/Programs: Mowing Operations; Urban forestry program-tree trimming, removals, stump grinding, EAB treatments in progress; Building and structure maintenance; Shelter reservations and Special Events; Equipment maintenance and repair; Shooting Range; Marathon Junction; Campgrounds-Additional Firewood processing is expected to be completed prior to Labor Day weekend; Restroom Maintenance-increased maintenance (daily) and staffing due to Covid-19 recommendations.

B. Program Update - Aumann said the animal market sale was a spinoff of the Fair and went fairly smooth. The Monster Truck Rally required a lot of administrative time on the front end but the event itself went well. Aumann said the organizer did not follow through on City requirements so could not sell alcohol during their event. Polley said there is policy regarding events and when they must schedule their event by because of the steps needed that involve other governmental agencies. It can be difficult or impossible to accommodate events that give short notice. Polley said the County's direction when Covid started was that the public facilities need to be made available to the public to use, so the Department has allowed rentals of all sizes in its facilities. Most of them have been private events which are given Health Department recommendations about reducing the spread of Covid-19. The Monster Truck event has been only one large event open to the public that has scheduled and it became apparent that a different standard other than just providing them with Health Department recommendations is needed for anything similar. For future public events being held during the time of Covid-19, any event organizers will have to work with the Health Department and submit a plan to the County on how they are going to follow the Health Department and CDC guidelines that are in place at the time. Polley said Department staff is also going to work with other County and City staff to take a look at the City Special Use Permit and the reservation forms the Department uses and go over the processes involved. Seefeldt hoped there could be more marketing of the grandstand area at Marathon Park for future events. Discussion occurred on the history of selling alcohol at events and fencing requirements at Marathon Park.

## **8. Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – September 29, 2020 at 10:30 am, Rm 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

**9. Adjourn**—**Motion** by Opall, second by Herbst to adjourn at 11:30 am. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.