



MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 2:30pm

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

Park Commission Members - Gary Gisselman (President), Jacob Langenhahn (Vice-President)
Commissioners: Connie Conrad, John Durham, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, Dennis Smith

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement - *To provide a park and forest recreation system that will meet the needs of our current and future generations, preserve and protect the County's open space, water, historical, cultural, and natural resources; and provide recreation opportunities that are designed to enhance the County's quality of life.*

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order – Park Commission**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 5, 2019 Park Commission Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Discussion and Possible Action Accepting a Donation for a Shelter at Eastbay Sports Complex
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
 1. None
5. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None**
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Project Update
 - B. Program Update
7. **Announcements**
 - A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – April 2, 2019, at 212 River Dr., Rm. 3
 - B. Future Agenda Items – Ordinance Updates, Spring Park Tour, Cost Recovery
8. **Adjourn**

Signed /s/ Jamie Polley
Presiding Officer or Her Designee

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD

(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)

Date February 27, 2019 Time 8:45 am

By Jodi Luebbe

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Date _____ Time _____
By _____

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 2:00 pm
Meeting Location: Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Park Commission members present: Connie Conrad, John Durham, Gary Gisselman, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, Dennis Smith

Park Commissioners excused: Jacob Langenhahn

Staff present: Jamie Polley, Dan Fiorenza

Others present: Brian Kowalski-City Pages, Representatives from Wausau Nordic Ski Club - John Burke, Russ Wilson, Gary Zimbric, John Beatty

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

2. Public Comment Period – John Burke, President of the Wausau Nordic ski club and representative on the Marathon County Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee explained that the ski club has been looking into the feasibility of snowmaking at Nine Mile Forest. They had a technical feasibility study, economic feasibility study and a water assessment done. The proposal is to look at about 3.5-3.7 km of ski trail starting at the chalet area going out to the main street and the northern lighted loop area. The system would be heavy on infrastructure which hopefully would make it more affordable to operate. The ski club would fundraise and then turn it over to the County to operate. Snowmaking would make Nine Mile a much more predictable, quality ski destination which would benefit the local community and attract visitors as well. It would help with ski programs and the large ski events held there. Burke discussed a couple of other ski areas where snowmaking is being done. In the last several years it has been tough to open up Nine Mile before January. Snowmaking would involve a two week period in December to make a sufficient amount of snow on that trail to an 18 inch depth which would last into early spring. Polley said the County is waiting to receive one report and then will start reviewing the proposal. Because Nine Mile is a County Forest it will first go to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee, then to the Forestry/Recreation Committee, and then to Park Commission. A lot of things need to be discussed including County costs and impacts on deer hunting.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 8, 2019 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Durham, second by Smith to approve the January 8, 2019 Park Commission minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

4. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Discussion and Possible Action Amending the 2019 Fee Directive – The majority of the 2019 fees had been previously approved except for the Eastbay Sports Complex and Sunny Vale Softball Complex. Staff was waiting for the seasons to finish so that the usage numbers could be reviewed. Staff looked at revenues and expenditures and how fees were being charged especially how people were paying for field usage at Eastbay Sports Complex. The current fee directive has multiple fees based on the size of the field and the user. Staff is recommending a simplified fee structure based only on the size of the field. Fiorenza mentioned that the player fees were increased to keep in line with the County’s goal of having a seventy percent recovery rate. For softball, staff looked at how rates were being charged. Staff would like the game fees to include adult usage and youth usage. Tournaments would be based on the user, if it’s a youth tournament they would be charged the youth rate and then charged the staff time on top of that. Field lights and labor costs did not change. A future Park Department goal is to look at cost recovery and wage fees at the park facilities in general. Polley mentioned that the only fee left to bring back to Commission after the season is evaluated is the 2019-2020 ice fees. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Conrad to approve the fee schedule as presented. Motion **carried** by voice vote.

B. Project Update

Marathon Park MPB/Ice Arenas: Daily programs and arena maintenance operations ongoing. Youth Hockey, High Schools, Wausau RiverWolves, Central Wisconsin Storm and Public Skating. Locker rooms are being painted around the rental schedule. New accumulator is installed in the compressor room. Nine Mile Trails/Grooming Operations: All trails have been rolled and groomed with the exception of the Alps (to be completed later this week). Operations Building Project: Storeroom remodel and reorganization to improve allocation of space and efficiency of locating products and supplies is

almost complete. Campground Firewood Processing: Set for wood processing has begun at Big Eau Pleine Park and work will proceed and continue around other winter and weather operations. (100 cords). Mountain Bay Trail: Intersection gates are removed. Repairs, painting and new safety reflectors are in process. Routine Operations/Programs: Snow removal; walks, trails, parking lots and roads. Urban forestry program; tree trimming and removals. Building and structure maintenance. Shelter reservations and special events. Equipment maintenance and repair.

C. Program Update

Nine Mile – very slow start of a season to say the least. But with the small snowfall on January 23rd the crews did a remarkable job and we were able to open on the 24th. Unfortunately Badger State Nordic and Triathlon had to be cancelled. Special Olympics is scheduled for February 8th.

Many large returning and new events are being worked on for 2019 including; Marathon County United Spring Soccer Tournament, Wausau 24 Mountain Bike Race, Wausau Hmong Festival, Softball Tournaments, Ragnar Trail Run, Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge, Youth Rugby Tournament, Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, and maybe even the return of “Dodgeball”

Marathon Park Ice Arena – Public skate attendance is way up this year. Regular customers consisting of Marathon County Youth Hockey, Wausau West Hockey, Storm Girls Hockey, East/Merrill Hockey, Timberlines Figure Skating, and several Adult Open Hockey groups continue to keep the Ice Arena a busy place this winter.

RiverWolves – Attendance has been averaging about 300 and the RiverWolves organization is pleased with the season overall. They are starting an organized adult league in February.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution - None

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None

7. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 1:30 pm, Rm 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – CORP Discussion, April-Ordinance Updates, Future - Spring Park Tour, cost recovery

8. Adjourn – Motion by Smith, second by Peckham to adjourn at 2:35 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

AGENDA SUMMARY

4A1. Discussion and Possible Action Accepting a Donation for a Shelter at Eastbay Sports Complex

Marathon County United Soccer Club (MCU) approached the department in the winter of 2018 with the desire to construct an open air shelter at the Eastbay Sports Complex near the middle of the soccer fields. The structure will provide a covered location for participants to get out of the sun and light rain. The shelter will also be used for specific event needs (registration, first aid area, etc.).

MCU has pledged \$5,000 towards the shelter and applied for, and received two grants. \$5,000 from the Walter Alexander Foundation and \$20,000 from the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. The Parks, Recreation & Forestry department will contribute up to \$20,000 in funds from the 2019 Challenge Grant and/or a combination of these funds and labor from PRF staff. The total cost of the shelter is approximately \$50,000.

The Commission is asked to approve the project of an open air shelter and accept the funds from MCU.

6A. Project Update

Snow removal and snow grooming operations have been persistent for the last two plus week period and looks to continue into March based on weather predictions.

Marathon Park MPB/Ice Arenas:

Daily programs and arena maintenance operations ongoing.

Youth Hockey, High Schools, Wausau River wolves, Central Wisconsin Storm and Public Skating.

Last day of ice in MPB #2 was February 25.

Last Day of ice in MPB #1 will be March 15

Nine Mile Trails/Grooming Operations:

Entire system is open with an average of 70 plus hours of grooming per week based on continuous snowfalls and abundant use.

Campground Firewood Processing:

On hold for snow based operations; work will proceed and continue around other winter and weather operations. (100 cords).

Mountain Bay Trail:

Intersection gates are removed. Repairs, painting and new safety reflectors are in process.

Routine Operations/Programs:

Snow removal; walks, trails, parking lots and roads.
Urban forestry program; tree trimming and removals
Building and structure maintenance.
Shelter reservations and Special Events
Equipment maintenance and repair

6B. Program Update

Ice Arena – we are working on establishing a new ice scheduling protocol along with a new rate structure that will be brought back for approval in April.

Disc Golf – two winter tournaments took place over the last couple months at the Big Eau Pleine. Badger State Games and the Ice Bowl. The Ice Bowl is an annual tournament that our department sponsors with a cause to gather food and money for a food pantry. This year the tournament gathered 700 pounds of food and \$1500. All proceeds went to the Community Center of Hope in Mosinee.

Pickleball – we are working with the Greater Wausau Area Pickleball Club to bring Pickleball to Eastgate Hall in Marathon Park. The facility is underutilized during the week. This would be a great way to promote another healthy activity in Marathon County and give us greater utilization of this facility during a low use period.

Stomp The Swamp – snowshoe race run by Jay and Judy Punke for many years at Nine Mile. This event was held on February 24th. Proceeds from event come back to the department.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge – each year at Sunny Vale Lake, hundreds of jumpers brave the cold to raise money for Special Olympics. This event is to be held February 22-23rd.

Future events – details are being worked out as we continually assist our groups so they can be successful in the upcoming season of events. The events include; Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge, Romp the Swamp Epic, Softball Tournaments, Wausau Hmong Festival, Wausau 24, Big Eau Pleine Trail Run, NICA High School Mountain Bike Race, Ragnar Trail Run and numerous other fundraisers, walks, etc. It is shaping up to be another very busy year in 2019.



24 x 34 Shelter

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