

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 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, Rick Seefeldt, Dennis Smith
Park Commissioners excused: Jacob Langenhahn, Pat Peckham
Staff present: Jamie Polley, Dan Fiorenza
Others present: Andrea Larson – Executive Director IronBull

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.

Public Comment Period – none brought forward

Approval of Minutes of the March 5, 2019 Park Commission Meeting – Motion by Conrad, second by Seefeldt to approve the March 5, 2019 Park Commission minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. IronBull Update – Andrea Larson, IronBull Executive Director explained that IronBull is a non-profit organization that will consist of different types of races/events such as running, off-road cycling, canoe/kayak, multiple sport triathlons, and emerging sports. The races/events would have a recreation and an extreme component. There are three being held this year including the Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge which they are sponsoring, an ultra-Marathon and a gravel bike race. She discussed an economic plan from the Wausau Chamber of Commerce where there is an initiative to rebrand Wausau as an extreme sports capital. IronBull’s goals also include tourism and the economy because they are looking at the bigger economic stimulus of attracting people to the area by showing them that central Wisconsin is a great place to live. Marketing of IronBull will occur at a young professionals conference, a business expo, a media day, and on their future website. IronBull will be tied into as many existing events as possible and has reached out to local civic organizations for help at events. Conrad gave history that IronBull came about while the Parks Foundation was looking for ways to fundraise and bring more awareness to the parks. One of the members, Bill Bertram, was instrumental in coming up with the IronBull concept and the name. IronBull is working on a memorandum of understanding with the Parks Foundation and other partners because they want to give back to the community. Larson explained that it wouldn’t happen right away, but for example if the Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition is a partner they would receive a certain percentage of revenues from a race. A lot of the mountain bike trails are on County land so that would mean monies being put back into the infrastructure. Polley mentioned that the representative from the Parks Foundation on the IronBull Board is Bill Duncanson. Polley is the representative from the Parks Department on the IronBull Board. The Parks Department will be working closely with IronBull as a lot of the events will be on either City or County facilities. Right now it is an event like other events that come in and the partnership may grow into something more in the future. One challenge in making this successful is that the infrastructure is aging and needs investment. Conrad stressed the importance and need for collaboration so that the benefits could be enjoyed by all. Durham thought the long term goals were for the extreme sports to grow participant wise and he wasn’t sure how easy that would be, but he thought it was an interesting concept. Polley said when looking at branding the area as an outdoor recreation mecca and extreme sports capital that IronBull is one component of that. Branding the area is also about marketing what is here already. There will be a lot of people or family members coming for a day looking for a family outing and will want to know what there is here to do. It may not be to the extreme level but it’s either an outdoor individual or organized activity. Other entities such as Granite Peak, the Kayak Corporation, CWOCC, etc. have their own things and will need to come together for this as well.

Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 19 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances – Polley explained that the proposed amendments were recommended by the Chief Ranger to enhance the violation descriptions and better define the use of signs to manage park facilities. The amendment also establishes the penalty upon conviction of the ordinance that previously did not exist. The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed changes to Section 19.15(6) for Wausau parks.

Terminology to exclude individuals from City park facilities was approved by the Wausau Common Council in 2013, but was never incorporated into the County's ordinance. This amendment is a housekeeping item to align the Marathon County ordinance with changes already made to the City ordinance. **Motion** by Durham, second by Conrad to forward the proposed amendments to Chapter 19 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances to the Environmental Resource Committee and then to County Board. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

B. Project Update – Water Systems (primarily restrooms at this time): Inside plumbing and fixtures are being reassembled. Meters will be installed as weather allows. Nine Mile Trails/Grooming Operations: Nine Mile skiing has recently closed for the season. Flower Program: Greenhouse is operational and seed planting is in progress. Mountain Bay Trail: Intersection gates are removed. Repairs, painting and new safety reflectors are in process. Marathon Park MPB/Ice Arenas: Boat and camper storage pickups are in progress. Campground Firewood processing: Nearing completion at both campgrounds (100 cord) Upcoming General Park work (as spring thaw dictates): Snow fence removal, barricade and gate openings, park cleanup. Routine Operations/Programs: Routine operations continue such as snow removal, tree trimming, removals, and stump grinding, equipment maintenance, equipment repair, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events.

C. Program Update - Staff is working on establishing a new ice rate structure for the 2019/2020 season which they will bring to Commission in May. Eastbay Shelter – a letter was sent to an environmental engineer with the DNR on March 15th asking for permission to modify the closed landfill cap so we can build the shelter. We hope to get the response back within the next week so we can continue with plans for a 2019 installation. Eastbay Sports Complex – We are ready for another very busy year again at the Eastbay Sports Complex. The complex opens up with over 100 teams from throughout Wisconsin competing at the MC United Marathon Cup Soccer Tournament May 3-5. MC United will also host a Fall Soccer Tournament. In the middle of those tournaments there will be a Youth Rugby Tournament, Wausau Hmong Festival, Central Wisconsin Soccer League Play, Adult Soccer Leagues, Wausau Youth Soccer Association season, several camps, and the Northwest Plains Ultimate Frisbee Championships.

D. Thank You Letter from MC United Soccer – Polley said MC United Soccer sent a letter to Park Commission thanking them for their support in allowing a shelter at the Eastbay Sports Complex.

Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm, Rm 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

B. Future Agenda Items – ice rates, possible update on the County Outdoor Recreation Plan, parks tour

Adjourn – Motion by Seefeldt, second by Durham to adjourn at 2:40 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.