



# MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 2:00pm

**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:*** *Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

## Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order – Park Commission**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 5, 2019 Park Commission Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. None
  - 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**
  - A. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 19 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
  - A. IRONBULL Update
  - B. Project Update
  - C. Program Update
  - D. Thank You Letter from MC United Soccer
7. **Announcements**
  - A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – May 7, 2019, at 212 River Dr., Rm. 3
  - B. Future Agenda Items
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](mailto: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 Mar 28, 2019 Time 3:00 pm

By Jodi Luebbe

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

## DRAFT

### JOINT FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AND MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AND REGULAR MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Joint Meeting and Regular Commission Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 1:30 pm and 2:30pm  
Meeting Location: Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

Forestry/Recreation Committee members present: Arnie Schlei, Rick Seefeldt, Jim Bove  
Park Commission members present: Connie Conrad, Gary Gisselman, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt,  
Dennis Smith  
Park Commissioners excused: John Durham, Jacob Langenhahn  
Staff present: Jamie Polley, Dan Fiorenza, Greg Freix, Tom Lovlien  
Others present: Andrew Bremer and Dan Borchardt – MSA representatives, Rick Barnes, news media

**Call to Order** – Chairman Arnie Schlei called the Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting to order. President Gary Gisselman called the Park Commission meeting to order. Official notice and the agenda for the meetings were posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

**Public Comment Period** – none brought forward

#### **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution**

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - 2020-2024 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Discussion on the 2020-2024 County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update with Consultant - Andrew Bremer, Senior Planner with MSA gave an overview of the timeline for plan development. Currently MSA is working on inventory and background data collection. They are starting to do some needs assessments and anticipate launching a survey that will be available to the public for about a month. A public involvement meeting will be held at 6pm on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Community Room in the Wausau Library. At that meeting they will report on the survey results and gather additional input. Then they will start developing preliminary plan recommendations and draft the plan which will go through a plan review and adoption period.

Commission members suggested the introductory wording not indicate that ten to fifteen minutes are needed to take the survey but rather that the survey would take a few minutes or that it is brief. Barnes questioned if in the future they would cover more specific and unique areas in the parks and forests instead of just general parks and forests. Bremer said that MSA did not intend to do a follow up survey but that the Department could do so in the future. Polley thought what would come out of the plan is evidence that they need to have more specific plans for many of the bigger recreation areas. This is more of an overview of where they want to get to and then they will narrow it down from this plan. This will help the Department find more about what the taxpayers want. Bremer discussed the first couple of questions. They ask about the importance of the trails, parks, and forest units to the user, how satisfied the user is with the variety and quality of them, which amenities the user would like to be added, improved, or expanded either by public, non-profit or private entities within the County, and how much use each of the parks are getting. Barnes questioned how they handle a situation like the Eau Claire River where Weston has developed a boat landing promoting more paddle traffic but the landings are fragmented because of the different jurisdictions involved yet it's a huge potential resource. Polley said if the County provides a boat launch or beach, the river or lake is mentioned and the County works in conjunction with other entities but the DNR has jurisdiction over the waterways in most cases. Lengthy discussion occurred on the best way to collect useful information regarding the rivers and lakes. The remaining questions ask if there is somewhere outside the County that people go to use the same type facilities as in the County, what specific types of recreational facilities people are commonly using, how satisfied they are with the facilities, how they feel about current fees, how they would direct future funding for improvements, the need for certain programming, an opportunity to provide comments, and a couple of demographic questions.

Survey outreach includes the Department websites and Facebook page, emails to a database of recreation users, press releases, County newsletter, flyers for posting or placing in grocery bags. Other entities that can help with outreach include libraries, schools and local recreation clubs. There is an election during this time period which is also an opportunity to have information available. The public meeting will be held at 6pm on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the library in an open house format.

Staff had been asked to go through the previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and indicate items that were completed, items that were not completed but should be carried forward and items that were not completed but shouldn't be carried forward. These recommendations will be discussed at future meetings. Commission and Committee members will also be asked to take another survey about what they feel are the most notable strengths, weaknesses about each facility and the number one improvement they would like to see at each. This helps MSA when coming up with recommendations.

**Motion** by Seefeldt, second by Bove to adjourn the Forestry/Recreation Committee at 2:26pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

#### Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - Discussion and Possible Action Accepting a Donation for a Shelter at Eastbay Sports Complex - Polley said that the 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 such as registration or a first aid area. 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 and 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 Department 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. Questions about the shelter were answered. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Seefeldt to approve the open air shelter project and accept the funds from MCU with gratitude. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

#### Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Project Update - Snow removal and snow grooming operations are persistently ongoing for the last two plus week period and it looks to continue this way into March based on weather predictions. Marathon Park ice arenas daily programs and arena maintenance operations are ongoing. The last day of ice in MPB#2 was February 25 and the last day of ice in MPB#1 will be March 10. The entire Nine Mile cross-country ski system is open with an average of 70 plus hours of grooming per week based on continuous snowfalls and abundant use. Campground firewood processing is on hold for snow removal operations. Mountain Bay Trail intersection gates are being repaired and painted. Routine operations continue such as snow removal, tree trimming and removals, equipment repair, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events.

B. Program Update - Staff is working on establishing a new ice scheduling protocol along with a new rate structure that will be brought back for approval in April. Two disc golf 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 the 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. Staff is working with the Greater Wausau Area Pickleball Club to bring Pickleball to East Gate Hall in Marathon Park. This would be a great way to promote another healthy activity in Marathon County and provide greater utilization of this facility during a low use period during the week. The Stomp the Swamp Snowshoe Race run by Jay and Judy Punke for many years at Nine Mile was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the event come back to the Department. The Special Olympics Polar Plunge was held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> at Sunny Vale Lake where hundreds of jumpers brave the cold to raise money for Special Olympics. Future event details are being worked out as staff continually assists groups so they can be successful in the upcoming season of events. The events include; Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge, Rom 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.

#### Announcements

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

B. Future Agenda Items – ordinance updates, spring park tour, cost recovery, snow making at Nine Mile

**Adjourn** – **Motion** by Conrad, second by Seefeldt to adjourn at 2:45 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

**AGENDA SUMMARY**

5A. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 19 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances.

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.

6A. IRONBULL Update

Andrea Larson, Executive Director of the IRONBULL will attend the meeting to provide the Commission with an update of the organization.

6B. 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 is closed at this time due to lack of snow.

**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 cords).

**Upcoming General Park work (as spring thaw dictates):**

Snow fence removal  
Barricade and gate openings  
Park Cleanup

**Routine Operations/Programs:**

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

6C. Program Update

**Ice Arena** – staff is working on a new ice rate structure for the 2019/2020 season. We will bring this to commission in May.

**Eastbay Shelter** – a letter was sent to an Environmental Engineer with the DNR on March 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Proposed amendments to the Marathon County Code of Ordinances:  
Chapter 19, Parks and Recreation.**

~~Strikeout text is deleted.~~

Shaded text is added.

**Sec. 19.01. - General, ~~administrative~~ **administration** and terms.**

(6) *Additional rules, permits, exceptions.*

(a) *Additional rules.* Rules and regulations may be made governing the use and enjoyment of all lands, structures and property owned, leased or administered by the County and under the management, supervision and control of the Commission. Any person who shall violate such rules or regulations or who refuses to subject himself **or herself** thereto may be excluded from the use of such facilities~~y~~. **No person shall disregard posted rules and regulations or engage in any activity contrary to posted notice.**

**Sec. 19.14. - Schedule of cash deposits, County parks.**

Section	Title	Deposit
<b>19.01(6)(a)</b>	<b>Additional Rules</b>	<b>20.00</b>

**Sec. 19.15. - General administration and terms.**

(6) *Additional rules.* Rules and regulations may be made governing the use and enjoyment of all lands, structures and property owned, leased or administered by the City of Wausau and under the management, supervision and control of the Committee. **No person shall disregard posted rules and regulations or engage in any activity contrary to posted notice.** Any person who shall violate such rules or regulations or who refuses to subject himself **or herself** thereto may be excluded from the use of such facilities~~y~~. **The decision of the Director to exclude individuals from the use of park facilities shall be final and the City of Wausau elects not to be bound by the provisions of Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes, with respect to administrative procedure in this regard.** [WMC 9.20.020(o)]

**Sec. 19.24. - Schedule of cash deposits, Wausau parks.**

Section	Title	Deposit
<b>19.15(6)</b>	<b>Additional Rules</b>	<b>20.00</b>

**ORDINANCE #O-\_\_\_\_-19**  
**Amending Sec. 16.06, Sec. 16.08, Sec. 16.10, Sec. 19.01, Sec. 19.14, Sec. 19.15 and Sec. 19.24**  
**of the General Code of Ordinances:**  
**County Forest Use Regulations, Posted Rules and Regulations, and Update the Schedule of**  
**Cash Deposits**

WHEREAS, sec. 28.11(3)(b), Wis. Stats., authorizes the county to “[e]stablish regulations for the use of the county forests by the public and to provide penalties for their enforcement”; and

WHEREAS, sec. 27.05(1s), Wis. Stats., authorizes the county to “[m]ake rules for the regulation of the use and enjoyment of the county parks and open spaces by the public”; and

WHEREAS, sec. 27.075, Wis. Stats., authorizes the county to exercise legislative and enforcement powers within parks located in cities within Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, the Wausau Common Council on August 13, 2013 and March 26, 2019 voted to amend sec. 9.20.020(o) of the Wausau Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Wausau Park and Recreation Committee on March 11, 2019 voted to amend sec. 19.15, and sec. 19.24 to mirror the Wausau Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Forestry/Recreation Committee on April 2, 2019 voted to amend sec. 16.06, sec. 16.08 and sec. 16.10; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Park Commission on April 2, 2019 voted to amend sec. 19.01, and sec. 19.14; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee on April 4, 2019 has approved the same; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon that hereby amends sec. 16.06, sec. 16.08, sec. 16.10, sec. 19.01, sec. 19.14, sec. 19.15 and sec. 19.24 of the General Code of Ordinances, pursuant to the attached.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND RESOLVED that said ordinances shall be effective upon passage and publication as prescribed by law.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2019.

FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PARK COMMISSION


ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE


Fiscal Impact: None.





MC United Soccer Club  
P.O. Box 1071  
Wausau, WI 54402

March 15, 2019

Marathon County Parks Commission  
Mr. John Durham  
Mr. Jacob Langenhahn  
Mr. Rick Seefeldt  
Mr. Gary Gisselman  
Mr. Dennis Smith  
Mr. Pat Peckham  
Ms. Connie Conrad  
c/o Marathon County Parks Department  
2112 River Drive, #2  
Wausau, WI 54403

Dear Members of the Marathon County Parks Commission:

On behalf of MC United Soccer Club, I would like to thank the members of the Marathon County Parks Commission for approving and allocating the \$20,000 Challenge Grant towards the construction of a covered shelter at Eastbay Sports Complex (ESC).

This grant, in combination with funds awarded to MC United Soccer Club from the Caroline S. Mark Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, the Walter Alexander Foundation, and the Holtz Krause Community Fund ensures that the shelter has the funds necessary to proceed. MC United has also allocated funds to the project as well.

This shelter will provide a much-needed space for players and families to picnic and relax between games, as well as provide shade and rain cover. We envision that coaches will also use the shelter for team meetings and gatherings. Longer-term, this investment will help MC United and other groups that use ESC to partially offset the costs of rental tents for tournaments and other special events.

Together, we will improve the amenities available at the Eastbay Sports Complex. Thank you for your support. We look forward to partnering with the Marathon County Parks Department on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sharon E. Belton'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sharon E. Belton  
President