

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

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm  
Meeting Location: Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

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, Greg Freix  
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 April 2, 2019 Park Commission Meeting** – **Motion** by Conrad, second by Seefeldt to approve the April 2, 2019 Park Commission minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

Discussion and Possible Action by Committee – Request to use Edgar-Fenwood Trail for IronBull Event - Andrea Larson, IronBull Executive Director explained that IronBull is having a gravel bike race event on October 19<sup>th</sup> and is asking for permission to use a portion of the ATV/UTV trail between Edgar and Fenwood. Larson described the possible race route which will start at the 400 Block and include Brokaw, Athens, the Scotch Creek Preserve in Edgar, if approved a portion of the ATV/UTV trail, a portion of the snowmobile trail at Nine Mile, Mosinee Hill, possibly Rib Mountain State Park, private lands and then end at the 400 Block. This event would include a 120 mile race and a 60 mile race. This will be the first year for the event and they are hoping to appeal to local riders by having some features that are not normally open to bikes. Larson said the race directors feel that the trail does not have to be closed to ATV/UTV's. A sign that says caution bikers ahead should be placed so that they are aware the bikers will be there. She said this is not uncommon, there are a lot of gravel rides on forest roads which are still open to ATV/UTV's. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Conrad to approve the request to use the Edgar-Fenwood trail for an IronBull event for this year and then review to see if any issues arose before approval for future years. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

A. 2020 Capital Improvement Project Requests – Polley explained that the County may bond for some projects this year. They will still be ranked and she doesn't know if everything will be approved. She discussed the first project which is an electrical upgrade at Big Eau Pleine Park campground. It would change the electric from 30 amp to 50/amp service which is consistent with what new campers are requiring. There have been quite a few outages each summer requiring personnel to troubleshoot and fix. This upgrade would accommodate large campers and is a good economic investment as this is an area where the Department generates revenue. Conrad felt these campers also patronize area restaurants, shops and gas stations which is good for the community. The next project is playground replacement which is a high priority. The typical life is fifteen to twenty years and the newest one the County has, not including the one at the Eastbay Sports Complex, is from 1999. The oldest playground dates back to 1991. Polley would like to set up a replacement schedule for the playgrounds like the one that has been done on the City side. The major reason this project ranks so high is because the surfacing needs to be updated. The next project is the Marathon Park ice arena dasher boards which are very old. Both the Riverwolves and the Youth Hockey group will have letters as to their concerns with the boards. These groups are willing to help with funding this project. The next project is the Marathon Park ice arena refrigeration controller. The refrigeration system was installed in the 1970's and is still functioning but there never was a controller for it. Now there is a controller available and it will allow staff the ability to access changes from remote locations and also to control ice temperatures. The energy savings itself could recover the cost of the project within a year and a half. The next project is Marathon Park pickleball courts. This project would turn the two tennis courts at Marathon Park into six pickleball courts. This would mean there would be a total of nine pickleball courts which is an economic boost because with nine courts pickleball tournaments could be brought in. The local pickleball group's goal is to help fund eighty percent of this project. The next project is Big Eau Pleine Park road repairs. The road is in very poor condition from the A-frame building into the park. This should be a multiple year project because funds do not go very far. The initial road was constructed with a rotten granite base which doesn't hold up as well

as today's road base does. The cost involved is to over-excavate when a portion is reconstructed and put in proper road base which will result in a longer road life. The next project is to replace the marquee sign at Marathon Park. It would replace the current one with a similar sign that has LED bulbs and newer technology. The next project is to update the master plan for Marathon Park. This idea is coming out of the County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and will look at the overall park to determine the best use of it, how the fair fits in and its needs and uses as well as the layout of the park. Historical buildings will stay, it's more a matter of usage. Any planning will be done in conjunction with the Fairboard. Gisselman would like to see other entities in the area taken into consideration or involved such as the school district and the University. The last project is the annual rolling stock which is funded fifty percent from the County and fifty percent from the City. **Motion** by Peckham, second by Conrad to approve and move all the projects on to the Environmental Resource Committee with a change to the Marathon Park Master Plan priority to raise it higher from a two to a one. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

### **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

A. Discussion and Possible Action Amending the 2019 Fee Directive –The final fee that was evaluated for the 2019-2020 fee directive are the fees for Marathon Park Multipurpose Buildings Ice Usage. The ice usage concluded in March and staff has evaluated the current fees. A meeting was held with all stakeholders on April 3, 2019. The current fee directive has multiple fees based on the time of the rental and which rink was being utilized. Staff is recommending a simplified fee structure based only on ice usage. This change will clarify the fees, allow for more efficiency and is reflective of the current use. It will go from a structure of six different rates to two rates: \$145/hour for all ice and \$525 for all high school games. All hourly rates are pre-tax. **Motion** by Conrad, second by Seefeldt to approve the change in fees for Marathon Park Multipurpose Buildings Ice Usage. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Setting a Date for a Spring/Summer Parks Tour – After discussion it was decided that the Department will hold a spring/summer parks tour on Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> from 10a – 3p similar to the one that was held this past fall. The tour will consist of looking at parks that are located in the western half of the County.

C. Project Update – Water Systems (primarily restrooms and sports facilities at this time): Meters are being installed and plumbing fixtures are being reassembled. Irrigation system work to follow. Boat Launch Sites: All piers will be installed prior to opening of fishing season. Eastbay Sports Complex and Sunnyvale Softball Complex: Initial field maintenance is complete and ready for first spring games and tournaments. Flower Program: Greenhouse seed planting and transplanting is in progress. Marathon Park: Boat and Camper storage pickups is almost complete. General Park Work: Park cleanup will continue into the next two weeks. Campgrounds: Campgrounds are being prepped for upcoming use. Seasonal staff is on site. Spring road, trail and parking lot grading is underway; Road limits came off on Monday May 6. Routine Operations/Programs: Urban forestry program; tree trimming, removals, stump grinding; building and structure maintenance; shelter reservations and special events; equipment maintenance and repair.

D. Program Update – Mountain Bay Cup – Eastbay Sports Complex was the site of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Mountain Bay Cup run by Marathon County United Soccer Club. 110 teams from throughout the State participated. Additionally Marathon County United Soccer Club has a record 26 teams participating in State and Classic Leagues this spring. Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge – Our department will assist again with this event. There are 3 and 8 hour courses with a 24 hour course planned for next year. Eau Claire Dells Park will be the hub for activity on May 25<sup>th</sup> with the exact routes kept secret until the day of the event. Chase'n Chocolate – 1.5K Walk/5K run scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> at Marathon Park. Benefitting the Women's Community.

### **Announcements**

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 2:00 pm, Rm 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403  
B. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

**Adjourn** – **Motion** by Conrad, second by Peckham to adjourn at 3:15 pm. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.