

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, August 6, 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, John Durham

Park Commissioners excused: Jacob Langenhahn

Staff present: Jamie Polley, Greg Freix

Others present: MSA Consultants on the 2020 – 2025 County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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 July 30, 2019 Park Commission Meetings – None, minutes will be approved in September

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

Discussion and Possible Action by Committee – 2020 – 2025 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Discussion on the 2020 – 2025 County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update with Consultant – The plan provided an in-depth analysis of how well the County’s existing park and forest facilities satisfy current needs. Marathon County currently provides 33,970 acres of parks and forest lands. The geographic analysis notes that there are very few areas that are not within a twenty minute drive time for residents of the County. It was noted that there are underdeveloped parks that have to be taken into consideration. A qualitative analysis was done through a survey that received 1,194 responses. Within the survey people generally think that the County parks and forest units are really important to the quality of life in the County. This received a score of 91 on average out of 100 which is very high. The average satisfaction remained high. Regarding which amenities people would like expanded, added or improved the number one request was trails and the second highest request was for active recreation opportunities. Other survey information included questions regarding safety and accessibility, general use, activities and programing, and funding opportunities. There were 289 written comments received. Of the 289 comments the most written comment was regarding running water/flush toilets/showers. There results of the public meeting for the plan that was held on April 30th was discussed. High priority needs for this region identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan include both road and mountain biking, bird and wildlife watching, camping, canoeing/kayaking, and cross country skiing. The consultant discussed the goals in the plan. Commission members gave comments and suggestions regarding the policies and strategies for reaching the goals. The consultants will incorporate the comments Commissioners made into the plan. Polley said if any Commissioners have a recommendation for a specific park they should let her know. Staff is currently working on recommendations based on its recent park inventory. The next steps are continued plan development, an additional staff meeting and then the plan will come back to Commission for final recommendations.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

Project Update - Three substantial storms /weather events have impacted several park properties in the last couple weeks. Most notable are Big Eau Pleine Park and Marathon Park. Park staff will be involved in cleanup and removal activities in the next few weeks. Marathon Park: Tree damage cleanup and removal to continue after Wisconsin Valley Fair. County Forest Units (Leather camp, Kronenwetter and Nine Mile): Culvert installation/replacement in progress along with trail restoration. Shooting Range: Granite removal and turf restoration on 600 yard range (near target stations). Big Eau Pleine: Disc golf course trail maintenance and concrete tee pads. Routine Operations/Programs: Urban forestry program; tree trimming, removals, stump grinding, Building and structure maintenance, Shelter reservations and Special Events, Equipment maintenance and repair, Mowing Operations, Sports Facilities (Eastbay Sunnyvale Softball Complex), Campground Operations

Announcements

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

Adjourn – Motion by Durham, second by Peckham to adjourn at 4:00 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.