

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: March 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Tom Kilian, Lou Larson, Tom Neal, Pat Peckham (c)-(via webex), Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Director, Marcus Aumann - Assistant Director of Community Services - (via web-ex), Andy Sims – Assistant Director of Operations-(via web-ex), Mark Dorow-Recreation Superintendent-(via web-ex), Aaron Ruff-CWOCC-(via web-ex), Katie Rosenberg-(via web-ex)

1. In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Kilian at 4:30pm.
2. Public Comment – none brought forward
3. Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2022 – **Motion** by Peckham, second by Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft February 7, 2022 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Approving Phase 2.1 of the Sylvan Hill Bike Park Improvements – Polley explained that this is a continuation of a project that was started in 2021. The Central Wisconsin Off Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) has raised the additional funds for the remaining work to expand the skills area and to construct a dirt jump zone. The next step in the process is to issue a request for proposal for the planned work. The Department will then enter into an agreement with the approved contractor for the work to be completed. Ruff described the dirt jump area and the skill building area. Peckham commended CWOCC for all their work and fundraising for this valuable project. **Motion** by Larson, second by Neal to approve phase 2.1 of the Sylvan Hill Bike Park Improvements and to allow a Request for Proposal to go out for the project. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
5. Discussion and Possible Action Restructuring 0.75 FTE Motorized Recreation Coordinator to 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator – Polley explained that this is more of an information item because it is a County position and they are not asking for any budget amendments. The 0.75 Motorized Recreation Coordinator who mainly does the snowmobiling/ATV trails program is leaving to take a full-time position elsewhere. Staff would like to change the position to make it a 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator with 0.50 doing recreational motorized work mainly in the winter and the other 0.50 as a recreation coordinator to help in the summer with the aquatics program. Currently there is only one full-time recreation staff person and a goal of the Department is to increase recreation programming on both the County and City side. Long term, the idea is that eventually these two will become separate positions again. Polley discussed funding for the position. There is no proposed change to the 2022 or 2023 budget. Funding will be available in the 2022 budget for the additional 0.25 FTE portion of this position due to the vacancy of 2 FTE positions at the beginning of this year. In 2023 the additional 0.25 FTE will be funded through the reduction of a part-time aquatic position and increased revenue. Raising the recreation options will also increase revenue so that will help offset this position over time. Polley wanted Committee to be aware of it and thought it would be good to know if they support it because a big portion of it is for aquatics on the city side. **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to support the recommendation to restructure the 0.75 FTE Motorized Recreation Coordinator to a 1.0 FTE Recreation Coordinator. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Park Facility Roofing Color and Material – Polley explained that the parks currently have a number of buildings with roofs that are traditionally red. The Department is finding it more difficult to acquire the “Cottage Red” shingles for the facilities. Staff questions how critical it is to have the same color at all the parks or if they can have discretion to go to some other earth tone shingle color if necessary. Also, staff questions if the Commission is opposed to installing metal roofing material in lieu of asphalt shingles. The upfront cost of metal is higher but the increased life span of metal roofing is desirable. Marathon Park is where the red roof is predominantly seen and in other parks it might not be as noticeable so they will stay with the red shingles at Marathon Park. The Park Commission had moved to stay with similar colors as now or a uniform color throughout the parks, but to use metal roofing where appropriate. Sims explained that the metal roofs would be considered more for the enclosed buildings than the open shelters. **Motion** by Neal, second by Watson to approve staying with red as well and give staff discretion to look at metal roofs where applicable. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

7. Educational Items

A. Park Update – Riverside Park: Kitchen update is complete including tile, cabinets and countertop. Women's restroom has been painted and tiled. Men's restroom has been painted, will tile after the next weekend rental. Pools: CO2 systems will be installed in all three pools to reduce the use of sodium bicarbonate and acid resulting in an overall savings. Sylvan: Tubing Hill: We will be assessing conditions on Monday to see if we can remain open through the weekend. Water is currently pooling at the base of the hills which is causing difficult conditions. Sims updated that ponding pretty bad probably are going to make the call to close. Ski Trails: We have received positive feedback from users regarding grooming this season. These trails see a significant amount of traffic from walkers, which is a significant challenge to groomers and skiers. Urban Forestry: The ash trees at 3M Park will be removed this winter with several being replaced later in the year. An RFP for tree and stump removal has gone out and a contractor will be selected shortly. Congratulations to Andy Sims who received an award from the WI Department of Natural Resources for his work reutilizing ash wood. Please read the article here: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/dnr-recognizes-wausau-city-forester/ar-AAUvRJx?ocid=hplocalnews> Routine Operations/Programs: Snow/Ice removal, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events, equipment maintenance and repair.

B. Riverside Park Remediation Update – Polley said there wasn't an update at this time, they are still waiting for the remediation plan to come forward.

C. Conditions for Former Rosemurgy Site Adjacent to Two Hearts Dog Park – Polley had reached out to the DNR about the former Rosemurgy parcel at Committee's request. Mr. Thompson's response stated that if the City takes possession of the property, then it will be responsible for the investigation and cleanup, unless the City acquired the property through very specific legal means. The current owner can sell the property, they are required to disclose the contamination on the property to potential purchasers. It's unlikely that this property would impact the remediated dog park site. The main risk at the Rosemurgy site is in the soil and as long as exposure is minimized, the risk should be minimal. Mr. Thompson currently does not have a contact for the original causer of the contaminants however if/when he gets that information, he will push the causer to perform the cleanup.

8. Future Agenda Items – Dog Park update, Riverside Park remediation, update on plans for Barker Stewart Island or any other park with some upcoming activity

9. Next Meeting Date – Monday, April 4, 2022 at 4:30pm the regular meeting at Council Chambers, City Hall.

11. Adjournment – **Motion** by Larson, second by Watson to adjourn at 5:15pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.