

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: April 4, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Members Present: Tom Kilian-(via webex), Lou Larson, Tom Neal, Pat Peckham (c), Sarah Watson
Others Present: Jamie Polley-Director, John Kahon – City Forester

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 Chairman Peckham at 4:30pm.
2. Public Comment – none brought forward
3. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2022 – **Motion** by Larson, second by Watson to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft March 7, 2022 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Approving an Agreement with MSA Professional Services to Update the 2017-2021 City Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Polley explained the most recent plan on file is 2017-2021 and the updated CORP will be for 2022-2026. MSA had updated the County CORP in 2019 and the goal is to have uniform documents to make them easy to utilize by staff. Eventually the goal is to have one outdoor recreation plan for the Wausau and Marathon County park system. MSA has submitted a proposal that will update all areas of the City CORP and provide usable information and estimates for infrastructure needs and maintenance. It will include capital and staffing needs and cost estimates. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Larson, second by Neal to approve the agreement with MSA Professional Services to Update the City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2022-2026. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
5. Discussion and Possible Action Authorizing the Execution of Lease for Radtke Point Park and Grace Park with the City of Schofield – The lease between the City of Wausau and the City of Schofield for Radtke Point Park and Grace Park expired on March 10, 2022. The City Attorney’s office has been working with the City of Schofield to renew the leases. The leases were approved by the Airport Committee on March 16, 2022. **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to recommend to City Council the authorization of the execution of the lease for Radtke Point Park and Grace Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
6. Introduction of New City Forester and an Update of the Urban Forestry/Emerald Ash Borer Plan – Polley introduced John Kahon who started as City Forester on November 29, 2021. John gave some background information about himself. He discussed the Emerald Ash Borer infestation sites that have been found in the City and said they have done well with their Emerald Ash Borer management plan for the City trees. The concern now is with private residence trees and starting to make sure there is space at the wood waste yard for residents. Residents are encouraged to call the City if they suspect their boulevard trees are infected. They should call a private arborist company about trees on their own property. Questions were answered. Polley said they will follow the plan for the City trees but it may be altered somewhat as they find pockets of infestation. Neal mentioned the policy about healthy trees being a priority during street construction projects. Kahon has had been meeting with the engineering department trying to reinforce what the previous City forester had been working on.
7. Educational Items
 - A. Park Update – Athletic Park: Seasonal work has begun in preparation for the upcoming baseball season. Brockmeyer Park: We have been in coordination with vendors on some replacement parts for JoJo’s Jungle. These repairs will be completed this spring. Riverside Park: All updates will be completed the week of 3/28. Men’s restroom has been painted and will be tiled after the next weekend rental. General Maintenance: ADA compliance work has been ongoing per the recent audit. Routine Operations/Programs: Snow/ice removal, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events, equipment maintenance and repair.
 - B. Riverside Park Remediation Update – There is no update at this time.
 - C. Barker Stewart Island Update – It is planned to bring the goats back after July 4th to continue with vegetation management. The Bird Club has installed more trees and has some informational signage on bird habitat that will be installed this spring. The Finance Committee has approved reallocating the funding for the shelter design on the island to complete

the shelter design on the south river front. Staff will determine next steps for a site design on the island. If funding is needed for an architect the request will be submitted with the 2023 CIP requests.

D. Dog Park Committee Update – The past Committee members have been contacted to see if they were interested in continuing to serve on the Committee and all but one can continue. Polley will work with the City Clerk’s Office to put out a call for any other interested citizens and then a meeting will be set.

8. Future Agenda Items – Riverside Park remediation update

9. Next Meeting Date – Monday, May 2, 2022 at 4:30pm the regular meeting at Council Chambers, City Hall.

10. Adjournment – **Motion** by Larson, second by Neal to adjourn at 4:10pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.