

*** All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with our City's Core Values ***



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the Park and Recreation Committee of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the: **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU**
 Date/Time: **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5:15pm**
 Location: **City Hall (407 Grant St, Wausau WI 54403) - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
 Members: **Lou Larson, Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson**

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1 Public Comment (Up to 3 minutes per person at Chair's discretion)
- 2 Approval of Minutes of the May 5, 2024 Meeting
- 3 Discussion and Possible Action on Operations of Riverlife Concession Stand
- 4 Educational Items
 - A. Project Update (Skate Park, Athletic Park, Alexander Airport Park Pickleball, Brockmeyer Park, Facility Use, Seasonal Tasks)
 - B. Wausau Pools Update
- 5 Future Agenda Items - Recreational Immunity Overview
- 6 Next Meeting: Monday, July 7, 2025 at 5:15pm, Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403)
- 7 Adjournment

Lou Larson, Chair

Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may view the meeting live over the internet on the City of Wausau's YouTube Channel <http://www.tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>, live by cable TV, Channel 981, and a video is available in its entirety and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail Jamie.polley@marathoncounty.gov with "Parks Committee public comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, if agendaized, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and transmitted to the Daily Herald newsroom on 5/29/25 @ 3:00 p.m. Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Winnie Parker, Park Office (715) 261-1550.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Polley, Dept. Staff, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Eric Lindman, Lance Leonhard, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Wausau Events, Public Access, Wausau River District

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: May 5, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Parks and Recreation Committee Members Present: Lou Larson (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen,

Excused: Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director, John Kahon-City Forester, Thomas Nicksich-Project Engineer

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 at 5:15pm.

1. Approve Minutes – April 7, 2025 – **Motion** by Neal, second by Lukens to approve the Park and Recreation Committee November 4, 2024, minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 4-0.
2. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Urban Forestry Presentation – John Kahon presented the Emerald Ash Borer Plan (EAB Plan). The EAB Plan was updated in 2020. Since 2021, of the 6,000 ash trees identified in the city of Wausau, 1,695 have been removed. The goal is to remove an average of 375 ash trees per year, which puts the department on track for complete removal and replacement in 12 to 15 years. There are 3,317 inventoried ash trees in the wooded rights-of-way, a portion of which are getting injections to maintain them so they can be removed at a manageable pace. Last year, 742 trees were injected; in 2023, 948 trees were injected; and in 2022, 873 were injected. In 2025, the focus for injections will be the northeast portion of Wausau. The goal is to slowly thin and replace the trees, as opposed to clear cutting all at the same time. If, however, a resident asks for an ash tree to be removed, the request will be honored. This year, 806 of the remaining trees are not on the injection list. These trees are either in rough shape, on a poor site, or are very small trees, and are the focus of the removals. Each year, fewer ash trees are being injected, and more trees are being removed and replaced. There are some residents who want to maintain ash trees on their boulevard. If they contact the department and pay for professionals to inject the tree, the tree is allowed to remain. Total tree removal has increased from 800 per year to 900 per year, while roughly 540 new trees are being planted; this is a deficit of 360 trees per year. The trees being planted are 2-inch diameter trees, which are impactful and quite sizable. Grant Planting – Legacy Trees won the Departmental bid to purchase trees for replanting, and, because of their pricing, the Department was able to plant 415 trees, rather than the 300 expected. In the spring, 180 of those trees were already planted and the remainder will be planted this fall. The focus for pruning is on the smaller trees, so that as they grow, they will be strong, healthy, and have a good structure. There is tree loss due to street construction projects. There are many things to consider when deciding whether to keep a tree, but the decision tends to hinge on the assessment of the standing, survivability, and long-term staying power of the tree. Nicksich presented about curb stability, water runoff, and frost heave on the roads. One foot of aggregate is left behind the curb to help protect the integrity of that curb and the soil behind the curb, which protects the road from frost heave and the buckling that can result. The width of the roads per city ordinance for all residential streets are between 33 and 37 feet at the back of the curb. The width is determined by traffic patterns and whether bike lanes are required. Utilities and services are typically seven feet deep and do affect the trees themselves. In the past five years a tree root barrier has been installed with each tree planting. This prevents the tree roots from growing into the sidewalks.
3. Education Items – None
4. Future Agenda Items – A special Committee Meeting may need to convene due to Riverlife Concessionaire having to pull out for the summer due to family life concerns.
5. Next Meeting: Monday June 2, 2025, at 5:15pm, Council Chambers, City Hall 407 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403
6. Adjournment – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Lukens to adjourn at 6:35pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Operations of Riverlife Concession Stand

The concession vendor for the Riverlife concession stand has decided not to move forward due to a difficult medical diagnosis that will require their full attention in the months to come. Staff reviewed several options and is providing the committee with three options:

Option 1 -

Advertise a short term (2025 summer only) RFP for a vendor to utilize the concession stand to sell ice cream and snacks.

Things to consider with Option 1 - Concession stand will most likely not be open before July 1. Equipment has to be purchased, permits must be received, and staff must be trained. If no proposals are received it will be too late for other options in 2025.

Option 2 -

Purchase an ice cream vending machine to be utilized for 2025 only. The cost of the vending machine is approximately \$3,000 - \$8K and minimal staff time will be needed to restock the machine. However, increased staff time would be required to clean the area. The machine could then be moved to another location when a longer-term vendor is obtained through the new RFP process for 2026.

Option 3 -

Do nothing for 2025 and issue a new RFP later in 2025 for 2026 and beyond.

The question had arisen about the PRF department operating the concession stand. At this time of the summer, we are still filling the other positions we currently have open and may not be able to get adequate staff for another program. In addition, the concession stand does not include any equipment therefore equipment would need to be purchased. Funding was not budgeted for the additional staff or equipment that would be needed.

If the Parks and Recreation Committee feel that offering ice cream is necessary at this location for 2025, Staff then recommends Option 1 with Option 2 as the alternative if no acceptable proposals are received.

The preliminary feedback from Committee members is to do nothing for 2025 and put out a new RFP later this year for 2026 and beyond. The Committee is asked to determine the best option for the operation of the concession stand for 2025.

4. Educational Items

A. Project Update (Skate Park, Athletic Park, Alexander Airport Park Pickleball, Brockmeyer Park, Facility Use, Seasonal Tasks)

Oak Island Skate Park:

- Skatepark prepped for contractor who began the site work on Memorial Day. Concrete ramps will be placed the week of June 2.

Athletic Park:

- Clubhouse renovation is complete
- Woodchucks begin the week of May 26th

Alexander Airport Park Pickleball:

- Pickleball court is paved, and fence is under construction

Brockmeyer Park

- Restroom leak repaired, splash pad leak isolated

Facility Use:

- Youth baseball is on full swing on the city diamonds

- Shelter rentals are very busy with graduation season upon us
- Restrooms are all open and being cleaned on a regular basis
- In process of cleaning the exterior of all park shelters including the application of home defense to keep down spider webs

Seasonal Tasks:

- Flower baskets installed 5/26
- All docks/kayak launches are now installed
- All restrooms/irrigation should be operational
 - o Exceptions:
 - Woodson Kayak Statue – repairs ongoing
 - 400 Block fountain – activator install in progress

B. Wausau Pool Update – Staff will provide the committee with an update on staffing, dates and hours of operations and any maintenance items.

- All pools are filled, chemicals are balanced, final preparations for opening are underway.
- Hiring is going well, we are very lucky to have many returning guards from last year and with the three guard classes we ran this spring, we have almost 20 new guards ready for the season.
- There will be one more guard class on June 9th, 10th and 11th and that class is full (10 guards who all plan to work for us).

- Memorial and Schulenberg will open for the season on Saturday, June 7th.
- Kaiser will open on June 16th (we hold swim lesson training, guard training and the June Lifeguard class here the week of June 8th).
- Hours of operation will be 12:15pm-7pm (Lessons run until 11:50am, so this allows enough time for staff to get ready for Open Swim).
- Memorial will close for the season on Saturday, August 9th.
- Schulenberg will close for the season on Sunday, August 10th.
- Kaiser will then stay open until Sunday, August 17th (staying open a week later than last year).