

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: August 2, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Brockmeyer Park, 4200 Stettin Dr., Wausau WI 54401

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

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Director, Patrick Hoerter

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 – July 12, 2021 – **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft July 12, 2021 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.
4. Discussion and Feedback on Potential Barker Stewart Island Shelter Designs – The City has hired Galbraith Carnahan Architects (GCA) to determine if the historic mill building could be rebuilt on Barker Stewart Island utilizing the existing timbers. Per the RFP, GCA is to design a shelter utilizing the existing timbers, provide cost estimates once a design is picked and develop construction documents for future bidding of the shelter construction. GCA visited the site where the historic mill building timbers are currently stored and determined that 25-30% of the timbers could be reused. The timbers are not structurally sound enough to utilize to rebuild the building. Upon the discovery of the timber condition, GCA developed two preliminary designs. Polley discussed the two design options. Option ‘A’ is the modern aesthetic that uses the salvaged timbers exclusively for the roof structure. It is 24’-0” x 80’-0” [1,920 SF]. Option ‘B’ is the vernacular historic mill aesthetic that uses the salvaged timbers on the north and south ends of the shelter as beams, columns, and rafters. It is 30’ – 0” x 70’ – 0” [2,100 SF]. Polley asked Committee for feedback regarding the options. Staff will also present these options to the Historical Society and the Community Foundation. Based on the feedback given from all interested parties an option will be chosen for cost estimating. There are no current funds allocated to the construction of this shelter. It is anticipated that the shelter will be funded through fundraising.

Polley said a smaller open shelter was picked because of visibility and also there is no direct traffic to it. The hurdle of having a shelter on the island is getting equipment and party supplies to it and also parking. A couple members preferred Option ‘B’ over Option ‘A’. Members also had concerns about homeless people and use of the shelter. Discussion followed on some of the homeless issues in the parks.

Kilian arrived at 4:50pm

Ideas raised included having individual shelters around the island or around a replica of the sawmill. Neal felt having something like a beer garden would offer a public amenity and the City would have more control over the area. Polley mentioned that this has been a long process because of the historical significance and long term plan of those who took the building down with the idea to rebuild it and keep the history in the area. Now it has been found that 25-30% of the timbers are useable so the City will have to determine if it is something they still want to pursue. Neal wondered if the old wood could be used in aesthetic ways like framing something or building benches. Peckham had thought the building was going to be assembled in a different location by the kayak course. Polley said that was another option and from the meetings she attended, Barker Stewart Island was the first choice. Polley sensed that the Committee had some hesitation about putting the shelter on the island because of use and security. Neal thought a shelter with a vendor would be more viable than an unattended shelter. Peckham thought if it was placed on Barker Stewart Island that different park rules would be needed there.

Polley felt if the Park Committee had strong feelings that this may not be the best use of the Island or has other ideas of how to better use the Island, she sees that as a separate discussion about having a masterplan for the island aside from the shelter. Whatever that would include whether its smaller shelters, or vendor type thing, or different landscaping, etc. and that should come out of the Park and Recreation Committee. If in discussions with the Historical Society everyone feels it’s better suited, if the option is to reuse that timber, then maybe it doesn’t have to be in a park and it could be anywhere else in the City. Or if everyone feels that because only 25-30% of the timber can be used then they don’t rebuild it, but re-utilize the timber in other ways. They could store the good timber and use it in other future development. Committee members agreed

that Barker Stewart Island was not the best location for this shelter. Staff will review other locations and determine if the timbers will be utilized or repurposed.

5. Educational Items

A. Park Update - Urban Forestry/Horticulture - Storm damage cleanup: Another significant windstorm moved through Wausau on Wednesday, July 28. Goats on Barker Stewart Island - The goats will be leaving the island on Thursday, July 29. The Community loved seeing the goats on the island and it was a unique way to reduce the invasive species on the island. The goats did not eat all of the invasive plants however they did make a big difference in the vegetation. Staff will further assess the impact the goats have made to determine the future tasks needed to control the invasive species. Bike Share - The City Attorney is still working on the contract with Tandem Mobility. Once that is finalized we will have about of month of set up and rebranding before the bikes will be redeployed. Swimming Pool - The swimming pools are still open and being well attended. Having each pool closed one day per week has been well received. The pools will close August 15 for Kaiser, August 8 for Schulenberg, and August 7 for Memorial. A full summer pool report will be provided to the Committee at the September meeting. Playgrounds - Several small completion items are in progress on the three playgrounds recently installed: Scholfield Park: path work; asphalt – still working with DPW on this Forest Park: PIP surfacing complete; light installation complete, path work will happen in partnership with DPW Pleasant View Park: path work; asphalt – Still working with DPW on this. 3M Park: Playground is currently being installed. It is a very unique playground and the only Hydra playground currently in WI. ADA Study Barrier Corrections - Staff continues on corrections for ADA guidelines. Small correction levels include small plumbing fixes, fixture and grab bar relocations in restrooms, tree path obstructions, adding ADA approved picnic tables, etc. Routine Operations/Programs - Mowing Operations, Urban forestry program; Ash tree injections (EAB), stump grinding, tree trimming, removals. Building and structure maintenance. Shelter reservations and Special Events; Equipment maintenance and repair. Restroom Maintenance. Swimming Pools

B. Riverside Park Testing Update – no update

6. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

7. Next Meeting Date – Moved to Monday, September 13th at 5:30 due to Labor Day holiday.

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