

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: September 6, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Members Present: Dawn Herbst (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Kilian, Sarah Watson, Lou Larson
Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director

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 Chair Herbst at 4:00pm.
2. Public Comment or Suggestions – A citizen felt the street tree ordinances should be updated. Steve Roberts, 206 E Campus Drive spoke about his reasons for being against the proposed WPS easement that had been recently denied by the CISM Committee.
3. Approve Minutes – August 1, 2022 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Kilian to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft August 1, 2022 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Accepting the Proposal from Spohn Ranch, Inc. to Design the Wausau Skate Park – Polley explained that the City Council had approved \$225,000 of ARPA funds to be utilized to replace the skateboard park that is in Oak Island Park. The City has also received a \$25,000 Community Enhancement Grant from the Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin. The project will be completed in two phases, design and construction. Request for proposals were advertised for design services. Proposals were opened on August 16, 2022 at the Board of Public Works. Polley discussed the evaluations for the proposals that were submitted and the reasons why staff recommends the acceptance of the proposal by Spohn Ranch, Inc. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Kilian to accept the proposal from Spohn Ranch, Inc. to design the Wausau Skate Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
5. Discussion and Possible Action Reviewing the 2023 Preliminary Budget and Supplemental Budget Requests – Polley explained that staff is still finalizing the budget. At this point the increased revenues slightly outweigh the expenditure increases for the non-personnel budget so it will be neutral or reduced. Personnel expenses will see an increase for 2023 and are currently still being calculated as the County completes a class and compensation study. Polley discussed in-depth the four supplemental requests which include: 1) pool pump maintenance and non-ash tree removals, 2) Increased Emerald Ash Borer removal, replacement and treatment, 3) Increased tree plantings, 4) Invasive species control and treatment. The budget and supplemental requests will be presented to the Finance Committee and City Council during the budget process.

Lukens commented that she had received requests about keeping pools open later in the summer. Polley explained a supplemental request was brought last year to keep one pool open a week or two longer and it was not approved. She could submit it again if Committee wanted her to. Questions were answered and discussion occurred on the invasive species control and treatment request which is to fund the goats for 6-10 weeks (2-3 visits/year) and additional management options if needed. Areas being treated need multiple treatments within one year to increase the success of controlling the species and there also have been additional request for control in other areas of the city such as the southeast side neighborhood. Kilian thought they needed to get a little more aggressive and diversify their approach on how they deal with invasive species as they look at funding to address this. He would like an inventory of the invasive species in the city done so when an approach is implemented it's from a more systematic equitable way. Polley said this supplemental is just for next year and in the future staff can do an inventory to get a better idea of where the invasives are. **Motion** by Lukens, second by Watson to recommend the 2023 preliminary budget and four supplemental budget requests as submitted. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-1 with Kilian as the dissenting vote.

6. Educational Items

A. Wausau Woodchucks Update - The Wausau Woodchucks have ended their 2022 season and made it to the playoffs. Staff has met with the Woodchuck ownership to review this past season and discuss changes or initiatives for future years. One new initiative that the Northwoods League is exploring is the development of a softball league that is equivalent to the Woodchucks. This is an endeavor that the Woodchucks ownership is exploring and supportive of at this time. If a softball league were to come to Wausau additional conversations will begin regarding facilities

and scheduling. Dual use of the ballpark would require a synthetic turf infield and a clubhouse for the additional team. Staff will keep the Committee informed of this possibility as more information is available. If this were to be pursued approvals would be sought through the correct committees. Polley mentioned that the video board that Council approved last year will be installed in the spring with the Woodchucks paying for most of the cost.

6B. Park Updates - 400 Block - Listening loop has been installed to replace the assistive hearing devices that were within the park. This will improve the ability for those with hearing impairments to hear the stage. The work to fix the cracks within the columns will begin at the end of September. Wausau Whitewater – Held their kayaking competitions the weekend of August 20. They had a ceremony to celebrate the completion of nine years of improvements. Bull Falls Park – Staff is working with the Wausau Police Department to add a light to the park. Wausau Pools – pools are being winterized following a very successful season. Staff that oversees the pools will provide the committee with a summary of this year's season at the October meeting.

6C. Riverside Park Remediation Update - On August 10, 2022, the City Council approved a resolution modifying the 2022 budget for Riverside Park Preliminary remediation work. The WDNR has concluded the Remedial Action Options Report (ROAR). The budget amendment will pay for the disposal and delineation testing required to receive approval from the Marathon County landfill to accept the material and to collect the recommended delineation soil samples prior to excavation activities. Once this is complete bid specifications will be developed for the remediation. It is anticipated that the remediation will be bid yet this year. Kilian requested that composite soil testing results be provided to Committee. Polley will give his request to the Public Works Director.

6D. WPS Powerline Easement in Scholfield Park - WPS has submitted an easement proposal to the City to replace overhead lines on the south and east side of Randolph and Burke Street near Scholfield Park. The proposal was reviewed by CISM and denied. The City Council will be reviewing this request at a future meeting. This item is to inform the Parks and Recreation Committee that if the easement is denied, WPS has the ability to utilize their existing easement along with west boundary of the park property. WPS was working to get the Committee a drawing for this meeting of any changes or impacts to the park if this option is considered. Polley said the study wasn't completed as of this afternoon. She was informed the study was to put the wires on the monopoles that are there so if that is done there will be no impact to the park. If the monopoles can't support the wires and they choose to use that easement then they may have to use guy wires for those poles. The guy wires don't impact the park ballfields or trails because the easement is wide enough but it does impact maintenance because staff will have to mow around the guy wires. Roberts spoke again but Polley informed him she didn't have any other information on the powerline and it's not for this Committee to discuss because it's not a park issue. If guy wires are used it would only be an informational item because they have the right to use the current easement within the park.

7. Future Agenda Items – 2022 Pool Operations Review

8. Next Meeting Date – October 3, 2022 at 4:30pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau WI 54403

9. Adjournment – **Motion** by Kilian, second by Lukens to adjourn at 5:00pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.