

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: November 4, 2024, 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, Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley – Parks Director, Colleen Thomasgard, John Robinson, Anne Marie Abuzzahab, Andrea Sczygelski

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 – October 7, 2024 – **Motion** by Neal, second by Rasmussen to approve the Park and Recreation Committee Minutes as written. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Memorial at Stewart Park – The city has received a request from a number of families who were part of the ballet school, to dedicate the stage in Waltraud Karkar's name, calling it the Waltraud Karkar Amphitheater and place a 3D cast bronze plaque to the amphitheater wall. This dedication would honor her commitment to the arts and her impact on our community throughout the years in a place that was dear to her heart. Mr. Robinson spoke of Madam Karkar's contributions and vision of revitalizing the amphitheater in Stewart Park that goes back to 1980's. In addition, she was the founder of the Central WI School of Ballet and held outdoor performances at the amphitheater each summer. Questions were answered and discussion followed. Discussion includes additional questions on park naming that will be brought back to the committee at a later date. **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Lukens to approve the installation of a memorial at Stewart Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Approving Native American Land Acknowledgement marker in Riverlife Park – Colleen Thomasgard presented the placement of a marker at Riverlife Park for Native American Land Acknowledgement. Because the location is being placed in a park the request is coming to this committee for approval/denial before it goes onto the Plan Commission and City Council. The name of Wausau stems from five (5) different native American tribes that considered the Wausau area home. It would be nice to have a land acknowledgement for the current and future residence and visitors of the area to know the expanded history of the place and the people that were here. Questions were answered and discussion followed. **Motion** by Neal, second by Watson to approve the Native American Land Acknowledgment Marker in Riverlife Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Educational Items

A. Park Updates – The third Save Station was installed at Athletic Park next to the new concession stand and the entrance gate. Athletic Park Turf Project is near completion. 400 Block perimeter concrete was poured, and the safety bollards will be installed. The stage has been power washed. The old caulk has been removed, cleaned, and will be repainted. At the last meeting John Kahon, City Forester, gave an EAB and grant update. He's working on the RFP for the tree-planting portion. We have been busy winterizing all the parks in the city and county, and shutting down all the water in the parks, which include the fountains and bathrooms.

B. Events – We had a successful Halloween event this year in partnership with the River District but had to cancel the Scary Skate portion due to issues at the second ice rink. Businesses along the 400 Block who didn't think they were going to participate ended up joining in and want to do this event again next year. Questions were answered.

5. Future Agenda Items - Park Ordinance Updates, Re-naming Stewart Park, Concession Stand Vendor RFP

6. Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. Council Chambers (City Hall 407 Grant Street Wausau, WI 54403)

7. Adjournment – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Neal to adjourn at 6:03 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.