

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: November 7, 2022 at 4:30 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, Anne Jacobson-City Attorney, Jason Valerius-MSA Consultant, Sandy Kelch-Director of the Community Outreach Task Force

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 4:30pm.
2. Public Comment or Suggestions – Sandy Kelch – Director of the Community Outreach Task Force spoke about the proposed littering ordinance and wanting to find ways that agencies can work together with the Park Department and Committee to keep the parks and City clean and not punish the unhoused but to do something in a caring and compassionate way.
3. Approve Minutes – October 3, 2022 – **Motion** by Kilian, second by Larson to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft October 3, 2022 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Adopting the Updated City Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2027 – Jason Valerius, MSA Consultant, discussed details of the plan including its purpose; information about Wausau; mission, goals and objectives; analysis of needs and demands; recommendations and existing parks inventory; and implementation. He identified some areas that would benefit from additional park development. He gave highlights from the community survey and mentioned that all the parks have high, medium and low priority listed in the plan. He discussed some of their recommendations which include adding more kayak launches, enhancing the webpage to include a parks location map, establishing a community wide wayfinding system that identifies key parks and bicycle routes along primary transportation corridors, expanding recreational programs for youth ages 2-17, and implementing low maintenance plantings and landscaping. Kilian requested that the recommendation to remove the shelter at Big Bull Falls Park be taken out of the plan and if it would ever be replaced that it be as an open shelter. Polley explained that had been a carryover from the previous plan. She will speak with staff about what maintenance is needed for the shelter and note those needs specifically under the shelter. Polley noted that ADA accessibility is identified in the plan and is something the Department is working on. Polley mentioned there is a section pertaining to bike and pedestrian facilities. A document was just received from the City Planning Department that identified the MPO Plan so that will be incorporated into the document. **Motion** by Larson, second by Kilian to update the City Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2027 and move it to City Council for adoption. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Table Donation to Two Hearts Dog Park – Two concrete type table are being donated and would go underneath the shelter. Polley mentioned that these would be a different style than what is in the rest of the parks. **Motion** by Watson, second by Larson to approve accepting the donation. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
6. Discussion and Possible Action Amending Municipal Code Chapter 9.04.040, 9.20 and 12.56 - Polley explained that the proposed amendments are recommendations to clarify some of the ordinances. In Chapter 9.04 General Offenses under 9.04.040 Littering prohibited, the recommendation is to change the sentence to read, No person shall “leave or” throw any glass, rubbish, waste, “*personal items*” or filth upon the streets, alleys, highways, public parks, etc. This was recommended based on items left in the parks that may not meet the definition of garbage such as blankets, towels, baby gear, etc.

Jacobson felt Ordinance 9.04.040 would typically go to the Public Health and Safety Committee because it’s going to have general overall applicability not only to the parks but to the entire City and that Committee would be the ones that would typically change those chapters of the Code. She understood that Polley had brought this item here because it was happening within the parks. Kilian felt having a legal opinion on search and seizure of “personal items” was important. He also didn’t want to see, if someone was penalized, that it was used as a method to ban them from a public park for a period of time. Polley discussed the protocol the Department follows from the housing chapter in the ordinances when it deals with personal items in a park that’s part of a dwelling. Jacobson said her office would

be willing to do more research on any questions that Kilian had. Lukens noted her district has had some issues with large items being left repeatedly on a boulevard.

Polley discussed the rest of the amendments and the reasons why the changes were proposed. Under Ordinance 9.20.010 the words “*paved trail*” were added to places vehicles usually cannot be driven on and the words “*paved roads*” were changed to “*established roads*” for consistency in the ordinances. Under Ordinance 9.20.020 the words “*groomed*” and “*snowshoe*” were added to clarify that people cannot walk, hike, run or allow dogs on these types of trails when they are groomed for their activity. Under Chapter 12.56 Street Trees, additional language was added to cover illegal removal of trees and shrubs and to allow the City Forester to address Emerald Ash Borer concerns both in the public right of way as well as working with homeowners of private trees. Questions were answered and discussion occurred. **Motion** by Lukens, second by Watson to recommend that Ordinance 9.04.040 Littering prohibited is sent to the Public Health and Safety Committee and to recommend the changes to Chapter 9.20 Park Regulations and Chapter 12.56 Street Trees are sent to the City Council for approval. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

Educational Items

A. Park Updates – Tree Planting – Arborists planted 213 trees this fall. Peace Sculpture – Peace sculpture bollard lights installed, Memorial Bench – Memorial bench installation at Fern Island, Athletic Park Video Board Prep – Athletic Park prep work complete for video board installation, Pier Removals- All docks and fishing piers have been removed for the season, Water Systems-Water winterization is well under way, Sylvan Tow Rope-Sylvan Hill tow line repair is substantially complete, Dog Park Signs-Dog Park donor signs have been installed and the three informational signs with the story of Deb and the name of the park have been delivered and will be installed this as time allows.

B. Riverside Park Remediation Update – Polley said that there was no information to report at this time.

6. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

7. Next Meeting Date – Dec. 5, 2022 at 4:30pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau WI 54403

8. Adjournment – **Motion** by Lukens, second by Larson to adjourn at 5:35 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.