

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: December 6, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

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

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Director, Anne Jacobson – city attorney, Andrew Sims – Assistant Director of Operations

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 – November 1, 2021 – **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft November 1, 2021 minutes with a change to the wording under 6B. Assembly Bill 604 Update that the wording “this is one bill of many being sent to the *House*” be changed to “this is one bill of many being sent to the *Assembly*”. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Donation of Park Land Adjacent to Westview Terrace Park – Larson said considering the discussion from the last meeting he didn’t see where the property would be of any use or value to the City. Neal thought some trees could be planted in the area and it could be made into more of a non-maintained natural triangle of land. Peckham said he hadn’t checked the City ordinance, but there are prairie areas within the City and that is something the homeowner could do on their own. Watson felt a natural area would compliment the park nearby. **Motion** by Larson, second by Neal to thank the owners for their offer but to decline it and possibly give some assistance from the City Forester on how the homeowners could change it to a natural area. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

Kilian entered the meeting at 4:40 pm.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Approving of Revisions to the Park Naming Guidelines and Criteria and Sponsorship Policy for the Parks and Park Facilities – Polley explained that this Committee had reviewed and approved the Park Naming Rights Criteria and a Sponsorship Policy in April of 2021. Prior to going to the City Council for final adoption, the City Attorney’s office reviewed the documents and made several changes. Most of the changes were formatting and the reduction of redundancies. The content and overall goal of the documents remain the same. The Department would like to have one set of naming rights criteria and one sponsorship policy for both the City of Wausau Parks and Marathon County Parks. In developing the criteria for park naming and a sponsorship policy it was important to develop guidelines and criteria that the Committee and Commission can utilize to make an informed, impartial decision on the naming of City and County parks and park facilities and obtaining sponsors for the parks and parks facilities. The Park Commission has approved this item at their meeting last week. **Motion** by Neal, second by Larson to approve the Park Naming Guidelines and Criteria and Sponsorship Policy for the Parks and Park Facilities as revised. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

6. Educational Items

A. Park Update – Sylvan Hill: Pump house plumbing complete, snow making started 11/28 with two snow guns. Daytime temps and humidity are limiting production, however evening temps are allowing for average output. Construction of boardwalks for the bike trails is underway. Vistas: The majority of our vistas have been maintenance cleared. City Forestry: A new Park Forester was hired and began working on November 29. His name is John Kahon. Crews are working on small and large tree maintenance pruning. General Park Maintenance: Parks have been barricaded in preparation for snow. Snow removal equipment is in the process of being assembled. Routine Operations / Programs: Snow / Ice Removal, Building and structure maintenance, Shelter reservations and Special Events, Equipment maintenance and repair

B. Dog Park Committee Update – Polley had reached out to the existing Dog Park Committee members and all but one were interested in continuing. Staff will advertise this Committee for any additional people interested in serving on it.

C. Riverside Park Testing Update – Polley explained that the letter from the DNR was their written response to REI’s request. The letter goes directly to REI and REI will come up with their final remediation plan. Lindman had told Polley that the plan is anticipated to be completed in mid-December. He had also clarified to her that this whole study had originally started because of the railroad corridor, even though they were talking about the park as a separate issue, and then started to encompass the park so the letter refers to that whole area including the park. Peckham questioned whether REI brings

their remediation proposal back to Committee to approve and it's then sent to the DNR or if REI sends it directly to the DNR for their reaction first. Polley said she would clarify that with Lindman. She understands Committee's preference is to see the proposal before it goes to the DNR.

D. Urban Forestry Grant Award – Sims explained that the Governor had ordered an emergency after the storm in late July which enabled the Department to apply for this grant. Several communities applied for and received it as well. The City received about half of the \$26,000 it applied for. Funds will be used to cover the costs associated with the cleanup such as tree removals, restorative pruning, and future planting needs.

7. Future Agenda Items – Kayak Launch Update, 2022 Work Plan, 2021 Year in Review, status of property to the north of the dog park

8. Next Meeting Date – Monday, January 3, 2022 at 4:30pm the regular meeting at Council Chambers, City Hall. (Peckham will not be able to attend this meeting)

9. Adjournment – **Motion** by Watson, second by Neal to adjourn at 5:05 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.