

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: March 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Gary Gisselman, David Nutting, Pat Peckham (c), Dennis Smith, Tom Neal
Others Present: Greg Freix-Assistant Director of Operations, Robert Mielke-Mayor, Eric Lindman-Public Works Director, Tom Kilian, other interested parties

1. In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Peckham at 4:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment – none brought forward

3. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Nutting, second by Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft February 3, 2020 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Execution of Lease Agreements for Alexander Airport Park and Airport Sports Park – Alexander Airport Park and Airport Sports Park are located on property that is part of the Wausau Downtown Airport. This property is not currently utilized by the airport and has been developed and maintained for park purposes. The lease that the City had for use of this property as park property has expired. The Committee is asked to recommend to the City Council the execution of a new five year lease for these parks. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Nutting to approve the execution of the lease agreements for Alexander Airport Park and Airport Sports Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Riverside Park Soil Testing Locations – For the four test locations Lindman had looked at drainage patterns and the low areas but said any of the tests could be moved if Committee wished. Peckham had thought if storm water washed into the park from the area of the culvert outfall any contaminants would go towards the river but questioned if they would go down and sideways instead. Lindman thought a lot of it stays down along the bank which has been tested and he thought dioxins adhere to soils where they are at pretty tightly unless there is a lot of soil erosion. Lengthy discussion occurred on the location of the four test spots. Members seemed to favor moving the test that was placed furthest to the north to a more southerly location. Discussion followed on its placement and if it should be placed more out in the park area or closer to the hill. Peckham and Smith were interested in testing where people are going to be.

Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street, Wausau – discussed his group’s recommendations which would be to sample at both the surface and at the A-Horizon, to perhaps strike the northern sample, to take a sample in the former ponding location of which there is one very close, to move the one sample to the west closer to the edge of the forest where they took their sample. Their most significant request is to test between the culvert inlet and the culvert discharge. He felt members were discussing the most elevated area in the park and it’s the areas around the forest where the runoff concerns would be.

Neal was interested in testing at both the surface and at the A-Horizon. Lindman said that wasn’t initially in the proposal that they had, they have always just been taking one sample and typically it’s at the base of the A-Horizon. If Committee wants them to take a look into these samples from the lab it would increase each around \$700-\$800. Peckham said his logic and he understood Lindman’s thoughts to look for tests to be some distance from the tests that were just done by the Citizens for Clean Wausau who did them near the bottom of the hill. Peckham thought they would move out from those tests having established what they are in that general area and go out further afield and find out what’s out there. Lindman said some of the thought process when selecting locations was not to test right next to or within twenty feet of the existing test but to get the boundaries and determine if the values were declining as they get into the park. Nutting was comfortable with those locations and with moving the one location. Smith thought Committee should keep in mind that that they are trying to find out if areas are polluted and are also trying to find out the areas that are not polluted so that they know those are safe. Lindman clarified the location that Committee wanted the northern most test moved to.

Kilian didn’t feel the testing plan could be supported without some of their requests being accommodated. There would need to be a sample between the culvert inlet and the culvert discharge taken at both the surface and at the base of the A-horizon. They had been comfortable with four tests if the hot spots were going to be looked for and not test in areas that have very little indication of ever being problematic. Kilian clarified for Peckham that the sample would be in the forest area between where the culvert discharge is and the park at the bottom of that hill, below the outlet of the culvert. Smith said if they already know

the other ones showed exceedance he thought it was logical to construe that the test they are going to do now is going to show exceedance. Kilian agreed and then he would expect the City to deal with it like he felt the City should have done many years ago. Smith said if they have the test results that previously showed exceedances and now do these then they would have a comparison if it has gotten better or worse. Kilian agreed and thought with the half-life it may have waned so much over time that there is not an exceedance there anymore which would be the best outcome.

Motion by Neal to accept the addition of that test site that Kilian outlined, second by Smith. Peckham questioned what it would cost to do five tests instead of four. Lindman said if they are going to test both the surface and the base of the a-horizon it would be another \$700-\$800 for each so \$1500. Neal **amended** his motion to add a fifth test near the outfall of the culvert and move the location of the northern most test as had been previously discussed, second by Smith. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Naming the Dog Park, 2 Hearts Dog Park – A request by Brian Stolzman to name the new dog park “2 Hearts Dog Park” was made to the Dog Park Special Committee on February 3, 2020. The naming of the park is in honor of Brian’s late wife Deb Stolzman who passed away last year after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Deb was the first president of the New Life Pet Adoption Center near Marathon City. She had a love for animals and a love for the community. She worked for Midwest Communications and was involved in many community organizations. The Dog Park Committee established an amount of \$17,500 that would be required to name the park after Deb. The 2 Hearts for Deb Foundation is committed to raising the set amount. The Dog Park Committee is recommending approval of the naming request to name the dog park 2 Hearts Dog Park to the City Council.

Brian Stolzman, 3420 Horseshoe Spring Road, Wausau, spoke about his late wife, the meaning of 2 Hearts, and that this is a great way to continue her legacy and do something for the community. **Motion** by Neal, second by Nutting to accept the proposed naming of the dog park as 2 Hearts Dog Park. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

7. Educational Items

A. Dog Park Special Committee Update – The Committee has raised \$73,259.25 to date and an additional \$20,000 has been requested to be allocated from the City CIP budget.

B. Project Update – Sylvan Recreation Area: Routine grooming continues on the tubing hills and cross country ski trail system. Snowmaking “trial” is underway to determine the number of machines that can be used during snowmaking operations. Cross country ski trail grooming continues; use has been steady. Ice Rinks: Rinks are maintained daily as use is ongoing and weather conditions are cooperating. Vista Clearing: Continuation-staff has been working on removing and/or reducing vegetation in designated vistas as time allows. Athletic Park: Prep work (snow removal and utility work) continues for upcoming outfield light replacement and Phase IV construction. Routine Operations/Programs include snow removal operations, urban forestry program-tree trimming, removals, stump grinding, building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events, equipment maintenance and repair.

8. Future Agenda Items – Boileau Park usage report

9. Next Meeting Date – April 6, 2020 at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall.

10. Adjourn – **Motion** by Neal, second by Nutting to adjourn at 5:30p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.