

DRAFT
CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: October 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Parks and Recreation Committee Members Present: Dawn Herbst (c), Tom Kilian, Carol Lukens, Sarah Watson
Excused: Lou Larson
Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director, Eric Lindman – Public Works 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 at 4:30pm.
2. Public Comment or Suggestions – none brought forward.
3. Approve Minutes – September 11, 2023 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Kilian to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft September 11, 2023 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Reviewing the 2024 Parks, Recreation & Forestry City Budget Allocation – Polley explained the budget request for 2024 has an increase of 5.5% over the 2023 budget. She discussed increases in personnel costs, utilities, gasoline, refuse collection fees, registration and tuition due to new CDL training requirements, and in insurances. Due to the implementation of Workday and the cost to deliver services, \$22,383 was included in the budget for City park services completed by the County such as bill paying, financial reporting, employee recruitment and hiring. Revenue was increased by 6% based on past final revenue numbers, increased fees, increased demand and to offset costs of services. Due to the increased cost of equipment, the County Human Resources and Finance Committee has recommended a 20% increase to rolling stock for 2024 as part of the budget process which is the first increase to this fund in 10+ years. Polley discussed the small project budget of \$110,000 the Department receives to help with deferred maintenance.
5. Educational Items
 - A. Park Updates – Athletic Park – Safety net will be replaced this fall. First base concession area pavement has been removed for plumbing adjustments. New asphalt will be installed once the plumbing work is complete. Pleasant View – roof has been replaced and the chimney repaired. River Edge Trail – north of Bridge St. will have the pavement replaced by DPW. Riverlife Concession Stand – HVAC ductwork repair/redirect to be completed this fall. This is the recommendation to allow the HVAC unit more space and airflow to work properly. Riverside Park – ADA path is complete to the playground (paving by DPW). Scholfield Park – Fountain has been replaced as well as plumbing changes were completed to bring meter above ground. Four individuals have been fined for illegal dumping. Sylvan Tubing Hill – magic carpet was installed at the hook-up locations. Tenth Street Park – an ADA path is complete to the playground (paving by DPW). Oak Island Restroom – will be removed at the end of October. The concrete slab will be installed this fall and the restroom constructed over the winter. Skate Park – construction documents are 90% complete and are being reviewed by staff. The park construction will be bid during the winter for spring 2024 construction. Staff will determine how much of the concrete work can be completed in house. This will be determined with the bid results. Winterization – Water winterization is underway and many fountains and bathrooms will be closed beginning in mid-October. Park Cleanup and Vandalism – Encampments at Brockmeyer, Eau Claire River Conservancy, Farmers Market, Hammond, Pleasant View, and Oak Island. Hammond Park and Kickbusch Plaza have had an increase in the amount of vandalism and garbage left in the park requiring multiple cleanups per week by staff.
 - B. Great Pinery Heritage Waterway Overview – The Wausau & Marathon County Parks & Recreation Foundation is proud to complete that the Great Pinery Heritage Waterway (GPHW) that has been designated as Wisconsin's 21st water trail and the first such water trail in Central Wisconsin. The GPHW paddling trail starts its journey at the historic Hat Rapids Dam in Oneida County and finishes its travels at the Lake DuBay Dam in Portage County. The scenic, urban, and historical water trail is 108 miles in length, the 4th longest water trail in the state. The GPHW connects today's paddler with the history, events and people of the river that runs through our heartland from ancient times to the 20th century. Polley discussed the signage that will be at some of the boat landings.

C. Riverside Park Remediation – Lindman discussed remediation done at the park and what work remained. A report will be completed and sent to the DNR. Staff will then wait on the DNR’s decision and determinations on anything that might have come from off site. Kilian discussed concerns he had about the exceedance levels on private property adjacent to the city property. He discussed protective cleanup levels the DNR and DHS had collaborated on for Superior and levels in Wausau. He compared socio-economic levels of both areas. He felt there was major disparities in the level of protectiveness in how these two areas were dealt with and hoped they could work with regulators about this. He also discussed and wanted to know more about the samples taken around railroad ties compared to other samples because of differences in the profiles. Lindman noted that staff is looking at City owned property at this point to submit for closure. The DNR is the one who will decide whether further testing is going to be required.

6. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

7. Next Meeting Date – The next regular scheduled meeting will be at 4:30pm on November 6th, 2023 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau WI 54403.

8. Adjournment – **Motion** by Watson, second by Lukens to adjourn at 5:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.