

*** All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with our City's Core Values ***



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the Park and Recreation Committee of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the: **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU**
 Date/Time: **Monday, December 4, 2023 at 4:30pm**
 Location: **407 Grant St, Wausau WI 54403 - Council Chambers**
 Members: **Dawn Herbst, Carol Lukens, Tom Kilian, Lou Larson, Sarah Watson**

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (All items listed may be acted upon)

- 1 Call the Meeting to Order
- 2 Public Comment or Suggestions
- 3 Approve Minutes - November 6, 2023
- 4 Discussion and Possible Action Amending Municipal Code 9.21.050 Controlled Areas.
- 5 Educational Items
 - A. Park Updates (Athletic Park, Oak Island Restroom, Christmas Trees, Sylvan Hill, Urban Forestry, Vandalism/Encampments)
- 6 Future Agenda Items -
- 7 Next Meeting Date - TBD
- 8 Adjournment

Jamie Polley, Director

Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may view the meeting live over the internet on the City of Wausau's YouTube Channel <http://www.tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>, live by cable TV, Channel 981, and a video is available in its entirety and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail Jamie.polley@co.marathon.wi.us with "Parks Committee public comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, if agendaized, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and transmitted to the Daily Herald newsroom on 12/01/2023 @ 11:45 a.m. Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Jodi Luebbe, Park Office (715) 261-1560.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Polley, Dept. Staff, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Eric Lindman, Lance Leonhard, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Wausau Events, Public Access, Wausau River District

4. Discussion and Possible Action Amending Municipal Code 9.21.050 Controlled Areas.

The Wisconsin River is a body of water which is regulated by all the cities, villages and towns that border the water. Each entity has the same language within their code of ordinances to regulate the water. Currently the City of Wausau's municipal code 9.21.050 established the controlled areas on the water and allows the Central Wisconsin Water Ski Show Team, Inc. the ability to have a pick up and drop off area at D.C. Everest Park for their practices and shows. The Water Ski Show Team has requested the use of Bluegill Bay Park for their water ski shows instead of D.C. Everest Park that they currently utilize. Their request is included in the packet.

D.C. Everest and Bluegill Bay Park are both County parks. The Park Commission will be discussing this change in use to the county parks on Tuesday, December 6th. If they approve the change, all entities regulating the water are asked to amend their municipal code to allow the waterski pick up and drop off locations at Bluegill Bay Park for the purposes of waterski practices and shows.

The Parks Committee is asked to amend Municipal Code 9.21.050 to reflect this change contingent on the Park Commission's approval of the park usage.

5A. Park Updates

Athletic Park:

- The broken water valve has been replaced.
- Safety net has been replaced with some adjustment needed in the spring.

Oak Island Restroom

- Staff has poured the slab and the rough-in plumbing is complete. The structure will be constructed over the winter.

Christmas Trees

- Christmas trees have been installed at the 400 Block, CoVantage, City Hall, and Courthouse.

Sylvan Hill: Snowmaking operations began 11/27 with the planned opening date of 12/15

Urban Forestry:

- Tree care operations are routine at this point.

Vandalism/Encampments

- Vandalism at 400 Block, Hammond, Kickbush Plaza, Memorial, and Scholfield.
- Encampments were cleaned up at Fern Island and Farmer's Market/RET.

7. Next Meeting – The January meeting date falls on New Years Day. The Parks Committee can cancel the January meeting or reschedule it to Monday, January 8th at 6:30pm following the Human Resources Committee meeting.

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: November 6, 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, Randy Fifrlick – Economic Development Manager, Gary Gisselman

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 – October 2, 2023 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Kilian to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft October 2, 2023 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Proposed SCS Swiderski Riverlife Development Pertaining to Park and Open Space – Polley explained that the General Development Plan for the SC Swiderski mixed-use development project in the Riverlife area was approved by City Council in October. The development is set very close to the trail on the south and west sides of the development. Staff has indicated the need for a minimum 12-foot-wide trail along the river for maintenance access and the installation of the piers. Staff has recommended a maintenance strip along all sides of the trail similar to what is within the development south of the proposed development. The proposed development does not allow for this. Staff is recommending that a maintenance agreement be established to require that the developer be responsible for maintenance from their building to the trail including weeds and growth where the development meets the trail. In addition, with the proposed development, the east end of the trail along the south side of the development would need to be relocated. In addition, this development is zoned as planned unit development (PUD) and the developer will be required to pay park dedication fees at the rate of \$400/single-family unit, \$500/duplex unit, and \$200/apartment unit.

Discussion about the proposed development took place. Randy Fifrlick, Economic Development Manager, explained that when this development was discussed they wanted to make sure there was the opportunity to make it feel like a public space. On the river side they wanted to emphasize that this is lower to the ground and the idea is to have a commercial retail component on that side of the building. Lukens prefers it's within the property lines and that the City has the access that it needs. Kilian agreed and thought it would be best if the development made adjustments if that was an option. Gisselman, 319 Park Ave., 5th District Alderperson said these are the initial plans and the City should ask the developer to accommodate what it sees. He felt the development was intruding into public space which the City should be advocating for rather than letting the developer determine what that is. **Motion** by Kilian, second by Lukens to recommend to the Plan Commission that the developer construct the development within the property boundaries of the lot, and maintain at least a three-foot maintenance strip along the riverfront trail. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

5. Educational Items

A. Park Updates – Athletic Park – Bullpen piping was updated to tie in the clubhouse and the concessions area to rest of park; bullpen concrete around Leine's Lodge has been installed; a valve that we found was damaged on E. Wausau Avenue has been repaired, concrete still needs to be poured; the park is ready for winter, the elevators are closed off, sandbags have been placed to keep moisture out. Ballfield Irrigation – Irrigation for the infield at Memorial and Scholfield Parks has been installed and is ready for use next year. This was funded by Wausau Youth Baseball. City Diamonds – We edged and worked on the infield at Brockmeyer and Oak Island Parks. Mowing – Still have some parks we would like to get to for leaf mulching purposes. Oak Island Restroom – has been removed. The materials for the restroom will be delivered at the end of November. The concrete slab will be installed this fall and the restroom will be constructed over the winter. Riverlife – HVAC ductwork repair/redirect has been completed. Staff will monitor the facility to make sure it works properly; docks have been taken out at the wharf; ADA launch has been removed for the winter. Skate Park – plans and bid documents are complete. Staff will work with designers to set bid dates this winter. Stewart Park – Work to winterize the wall will take place the week of November 6th. Sylvan Hill – Light and pole were replaced on hill 2. Urban Forestry – 4 ash removed from around gazebo at Sylvan

Hill and 2 elms planted, ash were heavily EAB infested, stumps still need to be removed; the fruit tree plantings in 10th Street Park did have some fruit this year-expect more next year. Vistas – We have cleared out the majority of vistas along the riverwalk trail, riverlife and vistas within parks. This is typically a fall task. Winterization – All seasonal water systems have been winterized. Fishing piers and kayak launches are being removed. Tennis and pickleball nets are also being removed.

6. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

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

8. Adjournment – **Motion** by Watson, second by Lukens to adjourn at 5:00pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

9.20.030 Pickup and drop area.

There is designated a water ski (pickup and drop area) in the Wisconsin River on the southeasterly side of D.C. Everest County Park ~~Bluegill County Park~~ for the water ski club authorized by the Park Commission to conduct water ski practices and performances.

(Ord. 61-5404, § 1, 2009, File No. 87-0532; Ord. 61-5176, § 1, 2002, File No. 87-532; Ord. 61-4616, § 1, 1987.)

9.21.050 Controlled areas.

The following areas are (slow-no-wake) areas:

- (a) On the Big Rib River beginning at the upstream (west) edge of the U.S. Highway 51 southbound bridge and proceeding downstream (east) to a line 600 feet downstream (east) of the U.S. Highway 51 northbound bridge;
- (b) On the Big Rib River beginning at a point 2,400 feet upstream of the confluence of the Little Rib River (also described as the common corner of Sections 32 and 33, T29N, R7E and Section 4 and 5, T28N, R7E) and proceeding upstream (westerly) 3,100 feet;
- (c) Under County Highway N Bridge;
- (d) The Bluegill Bay County Park lagoon;
- (e) Within 100 feet of the boat launches at D.C. Everest County Park in the City, ~~except there is designated a water ski (pickup and drop area) in the Wisconsin River on the easterly side of D.C. Everest County Park for the Wausauqua Water Ski Shows, Inc., during times of practice and performance and for the general public at all other times;~~
- (f) Within 100 feet of the boat launch at Oak Island Park in the City;
- (g) Within 150 feet of the boat launch and/or dock at Memorial Park in the City;
- (h) Within 200 feet of the boat launch on Kort Street in the village of Rothschild commonly known as St. Therese's;
- (i) Within 150 feet of the shoreline beginning at the boat launch pier and proceeding southeast approximately 250 feet to the lagoon inlet at Bluegill Bay County Park in the town of Rib Mountain except where there is designated a water ski pickup and drop area in the Wisconsin River for the Central Wisconsin Water Ski Show Team Inc., during times of practice and performance ;
- (j) From the dam on the Eau Claire River proceeding west to a line 75 feet west of the Grand Avenue Bridge.

(Ord. 61-4816 (1(part), 1993; Ord. 61-4643 (1(part), 1988.)

(Ord. No. 61-5880 , § 3, 3-23-2021)

Underlined = Added Text

Strikethrough = ~~Deleted Text~~

Request for Additional Services

Purpose: The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a desire to always provide high quality recreational services and facilities. With restricted financial and personnel resources the Department needs a process to evaluate requests for additional services. Additional services being defined as additions to programs and facilities or new programs and facilities.

In order to fully evaluate and stimulate thought on the complete aspects of additional services, please provide the Department with a request that includes the following (all items may not pertain and may not be known by requestor):

- Please describe program or facility where additional services are being requested.

Bluegill Bay County Park.

- Please describe additional services/facility being requested.

Moving the Water Walkers Show Team ski site from DC Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park and creating a premier ski site capable of hosting tournaments such as the division II nationals, flaunt-it swivel ski competition, and world record "big pull" attempts. This site would ideally include a permanent building near the show area/water for the team to store ski equipment, concession equipment and to sell concession products, have electricity, flushable bathrooms, and running water all in the same building. The site would have a concrete slab stage area, asphalt walkways, seating, and a sandy section of shoreline area without rocks for the skiers and public to easily get in and out of the water.

- Why do you think this additional service/facility is needed?

The team has outgrown the DC Everest ski site and we are seeking to find a better-suited site that can accommodate a higher quality ski show for the community. Also, the DC Everest site is too narrow to have a ski jump in the channel, a major part of any ski show. We now have about 100 active members and about 50 less active members. We have also been competing annually at the Wisconsin State Waterski Show tournament in Wisconsin rapids with a 2021 1st place win in division 3.

Ideally, I would like to see the team ski exclusively at a Wausau location. (We currently also ski on Lake Dubai in Portage County). We would also move our ski jump to Wausau from its current location on Lake Dubai. Part of the reason for wanting to ski exclusively at a single Wausau location is that we will have more time for practice to work on developing the team members' skills and our team will further grow because the individual level of commitment required and team operating costs will be reduced.

We will also be able to and would like to bring commerce and tourism to the area by having the capabilities to host tournaments and events. The 2021 division II national tournament hosted in Shawano brought in 53 individual competitors and 9 ski teams from around the country (mostly the Midwest) for a 3 day event. Including participants, family, and judges I estimate more than 1,000 people were brought into the city for a long weekend.

- What exactly is being asked of the Department (funding, maintenance, construction)?

Help with planning, funding, construction, maintenance, etc. The team is willing to help with this as much as possible. We have a local contractor on the team that lives in Rib Mountain. We also have some experience with grant writing and can provide labor for some tasks.

- What are the total costs for the additional services/facilities (not only initial costs but future costs)?

\$500,000 estimated total project cost. The team would provide, own, maintain, and insure all the docks, jump, and lifts that are intended for the team's use. I don't want the cost to prevent this from

becoming a reality, lets discuss what is possible. It could be possible for the team to start skiing at Bluegill, instead of DC Everest, as early as 2023 without much site improvement. The expensive part of the plan is creating the premier site capable of tournament hosting, and the ski storage building/concession pavilion.

- How would it be funded (what is the County/City being asked to contribute, what is the group willing to contribute, grants, donations, etc.)?

Funding could be from a combination of grants, private and team contributions, Marathon county, and Rib Mountain/Wausau.

- Who will provide maintenance in the future (will it be turned over to the Department upon completion, will there be maintenance funds put aside, group to provide some maintenance, who repairs damage, etc.)?

The park department would ideally be responsible for future maintenance. Some areas of the building and improvements could be planned for other public benefits as well, not exclusively for the ski team. Some areas would need to be team exclusive areas such as the equipment storage and concession storage area.

- What are the expectations of the County/City once it is complete?

Maintain the building and site no differently than any other park property.

- What is the timeline for completion?

Phased completion. 5 to 8 years. Starting in 2023.







