

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.