

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: December 4, 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

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 – November 6, 2023 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Lukens to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft November 6, 2023 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action Amending Municipal Code 9.21.050 Controlled Areas – Polley explained that the department received a request from the Waterski Association to move their current use at DC Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park. The Park Commission will discuss the move itself in January and decide whether they feel Bluegill Bay can handle it based on the current uses there. The DNR will have to approve whether the waterski group can move their jump. The water is also regulated by all the municipalities that touch it. The county owns the property which is within a municipality so this municipal ordinance change would include the City of Wausau, Village of Rib Mountain, City of Schofield and the Village of Rothschild if they were to move. The wording in the ordinance will change from DC Everest Park to Bluegill Bay Park. The only municipality that has taken it to their board so far is Rib Mountain who has agreed to change the ordinance if the County allows the change of the land use.

The Park commission will be discussing the plan which would be using Bluegill Bay Park Wednesday and Sunday nights. It's possible the Park Commission may look at a trial year which would require the ordinance change. Kilian requested if the transition is made if there is a way to see if that void could be filled at DC Everest Park with other activities that people could attend there. Polley will task the Recreation Superintendant with coming up with some ideas. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Lukens, second by Watson to amend municipal code 9.21.050 and forward to City Council contingent upon the Parks Commission approval of the park change. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.

5. Educational Items

A. 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/Rivers Edge Trail.

6. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

7. Next Meeting Date – No meeting scheduled in January unless needed for actionable items.

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