

**DRAFT**  
**CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date/Time: May 6, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall  
Parks and Recreation Committee Members Present: Lou Larson (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson  
Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director, Attorney Anne Jacobson, Kody Hart

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.

1.. Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the 2024-2026 Term of the Parks and Recreation Committee – Hart opened nominations for Chair. Neal nominated Larson for Chair and Larson accepted the nomination. Hart asked twice for any other nominations. **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Watson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Larson as Chair. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0. Larson asked for nominations for Vice-Chair, Rasmussen nominated Watson for Vice-Chair. Larson asked for any other nominations. **Motion** by Neal, second by Rasmussen to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Watson as Vice-Chair. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

2. Establish Regular Meeting Date and Time for the 2024-2026 Term of the Parks and Recreation Committee – meetings will be set for the first Monday of every month starting at 5:15pm.

3. Approve Minutes – March 4, 2024 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft March 4, 2024 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Repair Trail Overlook on Pick n Save Section of River Edge Trail - It has been brought to the City’s attention that there is damage to the wall and paved area of the overlook on the River Edge trail by Pick n Save. An engineer looked at the area and determined that the wall was not sufficiently supported with material when it was installed in 2002. Due to the insufficient material, the paver surface is sinking and there is significant settling issues around the drain pipe. This sinking is pushing weight against the wall causing the wall to crack. At this time the cost to replace the overlook is unknown and would require further investigation. The City has two options. One option is to repair/replace the overlook. In consulting with two local engineering firms it was estimated that the cost to investigate the wall and design the plans to repair the structure would cost approximately Between \$28,000-40,000. A second option could be not to replace the overlook and eliminate that area at this time leaving only the trail. Removing the overlook and fixing the trail would cost approximately \$25,000 and is work that could possibly be completed by parks staff. Funding has not been allocated for either option. The Committee is asked to advise the Park Commission on the desired option. The Park Commission will then make a request to the City Finance Committee for funding.

Attorney Jacobson noted time was a bit of an issue as they are in violation of their easement for not maintaining and repairing the overlook. Questions were answered and discussion followed. Members have not seen this overlook area being highly utilized. They prefer it to be turned into green space with some natural landscaping possibly putting benches there, this could possibly be done through the Parks small projects fund. **Motion** by Neal, second by Lukens to send a recommendation to the Park Commission to eliminate the overlook and turn into a green space with pads for benches. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

5. Educational Items

A. Intergovernmental Agreement Process Update – In 1974 pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 27.075(1), the City delegated authority, through a resolution, to the County to govern, control, improve, and care for public parks, parkways, boulevards and pleasure drives. The County accepted this delegation through a resolution. Through these resolutions the City dissolved their parks program, transferring all employees and equipment to the County and both the City and the County abolished their respective park commissions/committees and formed that Park Commission. The Park Commission was established to assume the powers and duties of both the City and the County, as provided for in secs. 27.02 thru .06; 27.08 thru .15; and secs. 66.527, Wis Statutes governing parks and recreation. Wisconsin Statute 27.075(4) also states that the City may enter into necessary contracts with the County, and appropriate money to pay the County for the reasonable expenses incurred in rendering the park services assumed. To date there has not been a formal contract for services. The County has managed and maintained the City parks based on the stipulations

laid out in each resolution and the City has appropriated funds for these services based on the same stipulations of each resolution. In 1992 the previous Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director developed a draft contract that was never presented to either entity. Updated intergovernmental agreement has been developed and will be presented to the County and the City for approval. The agreement memorializes the practices that the County and the City have been operating under for the past 50 years to effectively and efficiently manage the city and county park systems. The agreement does not include any changes to current operations but rather sets clear expectations of what the City expects of the County. Staff has asked to present to both the City Council and County Board in May providing both bodies the history of the department and current operations. The Intergovernmental agreement will then be presented to the Park Commission, Environmental Resources Committee and County Board in June and City Finance Committee and City Council in July.

Members shared their opinions on the value of having this Committee. Polley said that Committee structure would be a further discussion and wasn't a part of the intergovernmental agreement.

B. Park Updates – 3M Park – In the process of bringing the water meter out of the ground to satisfy cross connection issue. Airport Park – Parking lot reconstruction has been completed, in the process of bringing the water meter out of the ground to satisfy cross connection issue. Athletic Park – We had an isolation valve failure and we are now compiling quotes to complete the work, crews are preparing the field and stadium for the season. Pools – Kaiser and Memorial pool basin joint caulking completed by Northern Caulking, pools being prepped for filling. Oak Island Park – Concrete work completed on new restroom, waiting on new doors and installation of the windows to complete the restroom. General Maintenance – Docks have been installed at several parks with remaining docks to be placed within the next few weeks, “no drinking before 4 pm” signs have been installed in all the parks, mowing routes are starting up this week, rehabbing turf damage from contracted snow removal at City Hall, City baseball has started and is in full swing at 5 ball diamonds, MC United Soccer is utilizing has Airport and Brockmeyer in addition to the Peoples Sports Complex for their 140 team soccer tournament 5/3-5/5, 19 Fruit trees were planted in Brockmeyer Park by a Community group for Earth Day, A Community Group is also assisting to re-landscape parts of JoJo’s Jungle on 5/2 and 5/4.

6. Adjournment – **Motion** by Neal, second by Lukens to adjourn at 5:25 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.