

*** 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.

Meeting of the: **WAUSAU ARTS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU**
Date/Time: **Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 4:00 pm.**
Location: **City Hall (407 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403) - MAPLE ROOM**
Members: Sarah Watson, Tom Fleming, Alora Koval, Keith Montgomery, Mara Mullen, Shannon Pueschner, Sean Wright

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

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission
3. Approve the meeting minutes for April 26, 2023
4. Discussion and Possible Action on approving Native American land acknowledgement marker in RiverLife Park.
5. Discussion and Possible Action on approving Boy with the Boot sculpture at 3rd and Jackson Streets
6. Next meeting date: TBD
7. Adjournment

This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Daily Herald newsroom on **10/8/2024 @ 4:00 p.m.** Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Planning Department at (715) 261-6760.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (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) 261-6590 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 even the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, Committee Members, Lenz, Jacobson

WAUSAU ARTS COMMISSION

Time and Date: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: Tom Fleming, Kathy Foley, Mara Mullen, Sarah Watson, Sean Wright
Members Excused: Linda Prehn, Alex Eichten
Others Present: Brad Lenz

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Welcome and Introductions

Lenz called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and introductions were made. Lenz said that a new Chair and Vice Chair should be elected at the next meeting.

Approve minutes of December 1, 2022 meeting

Motion by Foley, second by Fleming to approve the minutes. Motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on process for selecting next Poet Laureate

Lenz said that Dawn's term is up this fall. The process for selecting the next poet should begin soon. He said the idea would be to have the new poet introduced at the Central Wisconsin Book Festival in the fall. He said we could follow a similar process as last time, which was having a subcommittee review and make a recommendation to this commission. He said the members from last year's subcommittee are willing to help again, and they may have another person interested.

Foley said the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets met in Wausau last year and there was an event at the art museum. She said Dawn did a lovely job representing Wausau as our Poet Laureate. She said the Poet Laureate is an excellent program to continue and people should be reminded that the literary arts are part of the broader arts community.

Lenz added that the subcommittee has expertise in this area, and he thought they did a good job of vetting the applications last time.

Watson asked when the RFP would go out and when approvals would be needed. Lenz said that city council should probably approve the nomination in early September. This commission should make their recommendation in August. The subcommittee will need time to review the applications and there will need to be a window for the applications to be open. He thought the window should open sometime in May and stay open for 4-6 weeks.

Foley suggested that the notice hit social media and the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, in addition to the State Poet Laureate system.

Fleming made a motion to follow the same selection process as last time using the same subcommittee. Foley seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Update on Rotary sculpture at 146 W. Washington Street

Lenz said that Council approved the new design and confirmed the location. He said after that, the MOU between the City, Rotary, and the artist was executed. He said that staff is meeting with the artist at the site on Friday to go over final details on lighting, concrete work, and anything else. Lenz displayed the most recent rendering. The committee discussed the design and prior versions of it.

Update and discussion on funding for future public sculptures

Lenz said that an application was submitted to a local Foundation seeking funding for a new public sculpture, similar to what was done for the “In the Pines” sculpture. He said that although we were encouraged to apply, the application was not awarded.

Watson asked if there is a plan for where new sculptures would go. Lenz said that a master plan was done a few years ago by a UW-Madison student, but there isn’t a specific location determined for the next one. He said there are options, depending on who funds it and what their preferences may be. He said an alternative could be working with WOZ on something for the mall redevelopment site. Foley agreed with that suggestion. Wright noted that public art can enhance the gathering spaces. Discussion followed.

Lenz mentioned previous discussions of rotating or temporary installations, and said this body could assist others who might take up such a program. Foley said there are examples in other cities, but they take seed money and management. Watson asked about murals and adding them to publicly owned property. Discussion followed on the role of an arts commission with murals and the maintenance of them.

Next meeting date

Nothing was discussed for this item.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Fleming; seconded by Foley. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.



1899

1943

FIRST TEACHERS TRAINING SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN



Rural Teacher Training needs became apparent in Marathon County before the turn of the century. John F. Lamont, Marathon County School Superintendent, investigated the problem and urged Senator A. L. Kruetzer to introduce legislation in the 1887 session of the Wisconsin Legislature. The Marathon County Board appropriated \$12,000 for construction of a building, completed in October 1902, to house classes for the Training School for Teachers and the Agriculture and Domestic Economy. Classes began September 11, 1899 in the Humboldt School in Wausau with Professor Oliver E. Wells as Principal at a salary of \$1800 per year and Miss Rosalia Bohrer as Teacher at \$1300 per year. In the ensuing 43 years, 48 faculty members graduated approximately 1444 teachers, most of whom taught in 365 rural schools to broaden the outlook, knowledge and social contacts for all people.

Erected 1972



Eastern Terminus Ice Age National Scenic Trail

This site marks the Eastern Terminus of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1960 and Wisconsin's first State Scenic Trail in 1967. The Western Terminus is in Interlaken State Park on the Minnesota border near St. Croix Falls.

Commemorating the Wisconsin Glaciation, which ended about 10,000 years ago, this 1,200-mile trail highlights the landscape formed by the forces that shaped much of North America.

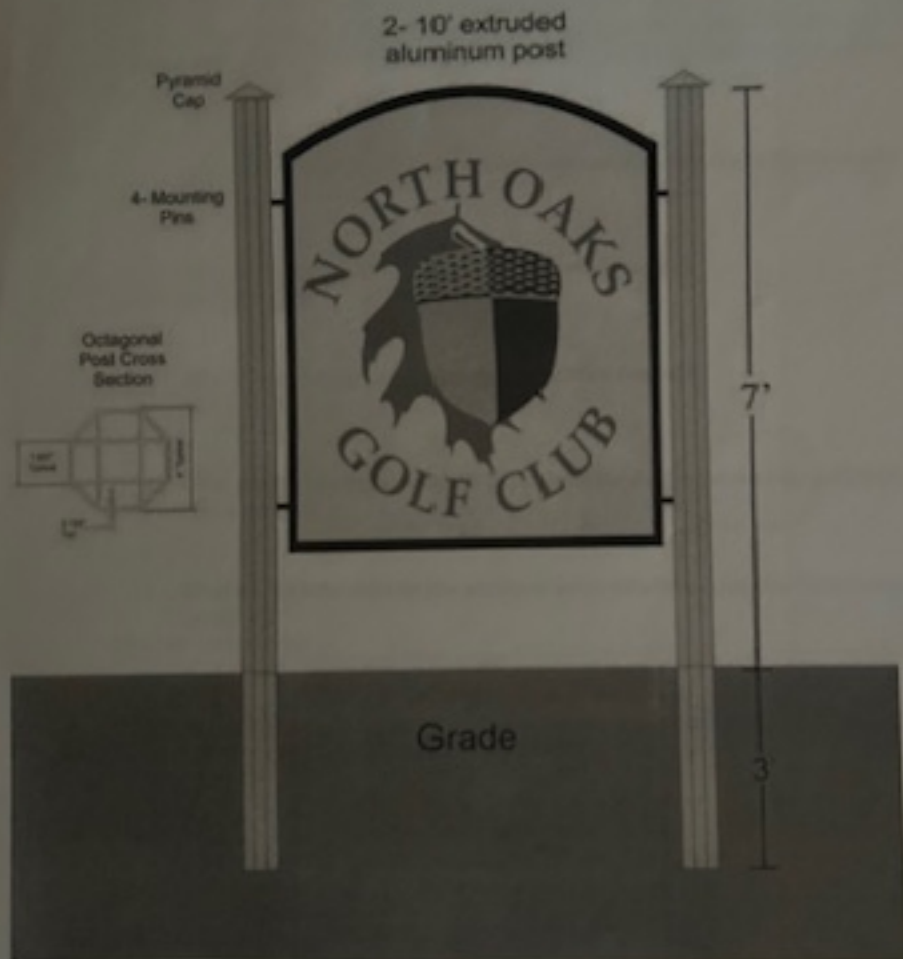
The National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and thousands of citizen volunteers cooperate in the development and management of the trail.

Plaque provided by the Door County Historical Society with
assistance from the National Park Service
2009

2 Post Mount

2 photos Ice Age Teachers College

Large markers are manufactured to suspend between 2 posts with 4 pins inserted into the sides of the marker and pre-drilled holes in the posts. The posts are inserted 3' into the ground with approx. 7ft. of post above grade for mounting the marker. The posts can be set in concrete or soil as desired.





Wausau Land Acknowledgment Journey

My wife, Colleen, and I began this project in the winter 2023. We were guided by Wisconsin Act 31, <https://dpi.wi.gov/amind/state-statutes>, the statutory requirement that all school districts provide instruction "...on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of Wisconsin's eleven federally-recognized American Indian nations and tribal communities." The second guiding influence was two treaties relevant to the Wausau area. These were between the U.S. government and the Menominee (1836 Cedar Point Treaty) and the 1837 White Pine Treaty with the Ojibwe.

Our goal is to help residents of Wausau become more aware of the original people of this land and to acknowledge that their descendants are still here. In short, the history of the Wausau area predates the logging industry.

Our journey was not linear. We began with the knowledge that modern day geographic boundaries and maps do not reflect how native people view the land. We also came to realize that what is factual to some may be contentious to others. Ultimately, we met with and/or corresponded with all 12 Native American tribes residing in WI. Each is a sovereign nation with its own government. We initially used tribal contact information from Act 31; however, ultimately our primary contacts became each Tribe's Historical Preservation Officer.

Every step of the way has added value to the process. Ideally, a Land Acknowledgment Statement (LAS) is accurate, respectful and has three components referring to: past, present and future. We believe that the current wording in version 12 of the LAS embodies these principles. Its text has been approved by all five tribes with history in this area. The marker's title reflects the Native American names for the area as well as its current name, Wausau.

The Wisconsin River's central importance to the area through time is emphasized by the marker's proposed site within Riverlife Park. The site is within the boundaries of both the Cedar Point and White Cedar Treaties. Its location along the park's river pathway will allow joggers, bikers and pedestrians of all ages to read its words and reflect upon their meaning.

The marker's initial location was to have been on Clarke Island at the Wausau Chamber of Commerce (WCC). This past summer, it became apparent that the central goal of the LAS needed to be separate from the history of that site, a decision that both parties agreed with. Mr. Eckmann of the WCC suggested that we meet with Mayor Diny to discuss other potential sites, which we did in June 2024.

The Mayor was supportive of our project and provided us with a number of key contacts within the city and county. These people include: Brad Lenz (City Planner), Jamie Polley (Parks, Recreation & Forestry) and Blake Opal-Wahoske (Marathon County Historical Society). Meeting with the Wausau Arts Commission on October 15 represents our first step after approval of the proposed site by Ms. Polley on September 27.

The marker itself is cast aluminum with a black background and silver lettering. If approved, it will be manufactured by Sewah Studios, the maker of markers for the WI State Historical Society. It is mounted on two metal posts in cement, does not require lighting and there is no maintenance. If the marker is damaged or vandalized, we would pay for its repair and there will be provisions in our will to maintain the marker. It will be installed by Mike Hase who has worked on numerous historic preservation projects in our community. The production time of six months would lead to installation in 2025.

We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Michael and Colleen Thomasgard

Wasa Wausau Howasara

Wausau occupies the historic and contemporary lands of the Menominee and Ho-Chunk Nation whose shared origin stories connect them to this region of the great lakes. There is also historical evidence of Potawatomi and Sokaogon Ojibwe villages in the area and of Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe hunting and fishing camps. In several Algonquin languages, including Menominee and Ojibwemoin, “Wasa” translates to “Far Away Place.” The Ho-Chunk name for Wausau’s location is “Howasara” referencing a forest.

The 1836 Cedar Point Treaty with the Menominee Tribe ceded (yielded to retain other rights) to the U.S. government a land corridor three miles wide on each side of the Wisconsin River from roughly Wausau to Plover. The treaty allowed settlers access to waterfalls to power sawmills. In 1837 another treaty made with several Ojibwe bands ceded millions of acres of nearby forest that allowed lumbering on an even larger scale (White Pine Treaty 1837). This treaty is one of the foundations for the continued privilege of hunting, fishing and gathering wild rice by the Ojibwe people as well as ongoing resource management.

The influx of settlers into the Wausau area progressively displaced native people from their ancestral territories. Attempts to assimilate them adversely affected the retention of their traditional language and culture. Despite these challenges, they continue to live here, even to this day. Indigenous peoples have valued this region for its clean air, land and water since time immemorial. The people of Wausau share these same values and want the river to remain an essential part of our lives.

Erected 2025

Characters and spaces: 1657 (v12, 8/20/24)

Native American Land Acknowledgement Marker

-Size: ~5 ft x 7 ft

-Lighting requirements: None

-Anchor in concrete per attached photos

-Installation by Osswald Lawncare & Landscaping *

-Maintenance: Trimming around concrete base (Jos Osswald is drawing up plans, probably would include several boulders place on smaller stones)

-Shape: Like the Teacher College Marker (per attached photo; since it's not done for WI Historical Society, no seal at top nor any photo)

-Lettering and Background: Silver on Black (attached photo, similar to Ice Age Trail Marker)

-Produced by: Sewah studios www.sewahstudios.com in Ohio. They also make the WI State Historical Markers. *

Sewah Studios is the only known marker manufacturer that uses an electrostatic powder paint process in production. This green process provides a much more durable finish to withstand harsh weather.

Although Sewah is the leading manufacturer of cast aluminum historical markers

* Paid for by Michael and Colleen Thomasgard

Location Map

N

Wisconsin River

RiverEdge Parkway

Proposed Marker Location



RiverLife Apartments



4. Discussion and Possible Action Approving a Request to Relocate the Boy with Boot Statue

The City owns a statue called the Boy with the Boot. This statue originally was in Hammond Park from the early 1920's to 1980. After it was vandalized several times it was removed. The statue was later refurbished by the Kiwanis and became a fixture in the Wausau Mall. Since the mall has been removed the statue remains safe with the Parks Department. The department recently received a request from Becher Hoppe, representing the mall site redevelopment team, requesting that the City approve the placement of the Boy with the Boot Statue within the new development. A proposed location for the statue is below. The group indicated that their initial plan is to remove the statue each winter and replace it with a seasonal decoration.



The Committee is asked to approve the placement of the Boy with the Boot statue within the mall redevelopment area and direct staff to develop an agreement for the use of the statue.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Approving Repairs to 10th Street Park Wall and Funding Recommendation

It has come to our attention that the wall along the east side of 10th Street Park is failing. The wall currently has a bow in it, likely due to water coming across the sidewalk that is sloped toward the backside of the wall. As a result of this past winter a large pocket of the wall failed in its full depth. That area has been restored however there are several other areas of the wall that are in need of work, mostly tuck pointing. In reviewing the wall with City Engineering we believe that tuckpointing will only be a Band-Aid approach as the likely cause is water behind the wall. Our department and Engineering are in agreement that backfilling the wall would be the best long-term solution to maintain the integrity of the sidewalk/road and reduce maintenance costs. The other option would be to completely rebuild the wall which would be more difficult and most likely more costly. We are not aware of any historical significance to this wall as it is purely utilitarian in its function.

Engineering has assisted our department in developing a preliminary plan and estimate for the 10th Street wall. This plan assumes the majority of the wall stays and we fill behind it. The top approximately 1-2 foot of the wall and the fence would be removed. The estimate also assumes all the walk to be replaced. With the tipping and damage to the walk it may be tough to do spot replacements. Funding for this project is not included in the 2024 budget. Funding could be identified or this project could be included in the 2025 budget. If approved, and we are able to identify funding, Engineering will assist with writing the bid package.

The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation to backfill the wall to the height of the existing sidewalk stabilizing the wall that supports the sidewalk and 10th street and replacing the sidewalk. The Committee is also asked to recommend to the Finance Committee that funding for this project be included in the 2025 budget.