

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: September 3, 2024, at 4:16 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Parks and Recreation Committee Members Present: Lou Larson (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Neal, Lisa Rasmussen, Excused: Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director, Doug Diny-Mayor, Anne Jacobson, City Attorney

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 5:15pm.

1. Approve Minutes – August 5, 2024 – **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft May 6, 2024, minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 4-0.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Accepting a Donation of Land Located at 508 E Wausau Ave – 508 E Wausau Ave is adjacent to the Athletic Park neighborhood park. The house in this lot recently burned down and the property

owner, Ya Yang, would like to donate the property to the City. The house has been removed and only a garage remains. Staff believes this lot could be additional accessible parking for the Woodchucks/Athletic Park and move our ADA parking to this parcel. In exchange for the donation Mr. Yang is only asking for recognition of the donation

when the lot is developed and that the lot continue as public use. Mr. Yang served on both the City Council and County Board in the past. Staff would like the Committee to recommend acceptance of this donation of land to then be brought forward to the full City Council. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Rasmussen, second by Lukens to accept Ya Yang donation of 508 E Wausau Avenue property. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 4-0.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Approving the 2025-2026 Parks and Recreation Facility and Program Fee Schedule – The proposed 2025-2026 Facility and Program Fee schedule was reviewed. Staff is recommending adjustments to the fee schedule that include a 3% increase to most fees including the shelter fees (2025 & 2026); no new fees have been added at this time. The 3% increase was a directive given from County Administration for county

facilities. For the past several years it has been our practice to make the same increase the county makes to the city. The fees that need approval are highlighted in yellow. Approval of the fees is recommended to set the shelter rates for the following year. This permits our department to allow users to reserve shelters 12 months in advance. The increases proposed are to keep in line with Capital Improvement Project increases and the increased departmental staffing and equipment costs. Questions were answered and discussion followed. **Motion** by Neal, second by Rasmussen to direct staff to approve the 2025-2026 Parks and Recreation Facility and Program Fee Schedule as written. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 4-0.

4. Discussion on Parks and Recreation Committee Structure – The committee discussed the possibility of amending the Parks and Recreation Committee Structure and how that would affect finance, authority, governance, ordinances,

and codes. Director Polley proposed creating a County Parks and Rec Committee much like the City Parks and Rec Committee to oversee their respective areas. Then the Parks Commission would continue to meet quarterly to oversee

areas that affect both city and county on things like fee schedule and to monitor and update policies and ordinances. The Parks Commission is made up of three (3) City Council members and three (3) County Board members and one

(1) member at-large that both city and county agree upon that does not reside in the City. The City of Wausau Parks and Rec Committee is a standing committee that, per ordinance, must advance certain items to council, examples of such items include procurement, contracts, resolutions, and budget requests. Further Discussion followed.

Consensus

of members is to keep the City of Wausau Parks and Rec Committee structure as it stands and to direct Jamie Polley,

Director, to conduct research into the creation of a County Parks and Rec Committee.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Setting the October Meeting Date Due to Staff Conflict and November Meeting Date Due to Election – The Committee decided to keep the October 7, 2024, meeting date and requested Jamie send an alternate. The November 4 meeting date will remain unchanged but will be moved to the Maple Room and will be recorded by audio rather than video.

6. Educational Items

A. Park Updates – SaveStation. A grant was received to install AED SaveStations that are operational yearround.

They are heated, cooled, video monitored, and alarmed. The first AED SaveStation will be installed on the 400 Block and will be covered for a much-anticipated joint press release in combination with the mayor's office, the Fire Department, and the Parks, Rec, and Forestry Department. The Fire Department would like to include education

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with this unveiling in conjunction with their heart safe initiative to be a heart-healthy community. The second AED SaveStation will go in at River Life to the south of the concession stand, and the third station will go in at Athletic Park. Two more stations are coming next year; one will go in the Sports Complex, and we have yet to determine where the fifth one will go. This initiative will educate the public and increase the chances of survival of cardiac arrest by greatly decreasing response times. Events – Summer events are winding down as we had our last Concert on the Square at the 400 Block and The Blues Fest. The Canoe and Kayak Corporation had two very successful backto-

back weekends of kayak championship competitions, during which some individuals qualified for the World Competition held in Germany. The corporation is hoping to hold the World Competition here in 2029, but to be considered they need to host two more major events here in Wausau. We had the Wausau Marathon along with Art World and Art-in-the-Park, all in Marathon Park; the Beer and Bacon Festival is September 13-15; and Ragnar is the

following weekend at Nine Mile.

7. Future Agenda Items - Park Ordinance Updates, 10th Street Park Wall, Proposal for the Madam Karkar Memorial

at Stewart Park, Update on EAB Plan

8. Adjournment – **Motion** by Neal, second by Lukens to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 4-0.