

**DRAFT**

**CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date/Time: June 5, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Dawn Herbst (c), Lou Larson, Tom Kilian, Carol Lukens, Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director, Brad Lenz – Community Development Director, Anne Jacobson – City Attorney

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 by Chair Herbst at 4:30pm.
2. Public Comment or Suggestions – none brought forward.
3. Approve Minutes – May 1, 2023 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Larson to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft May 1, 2023 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.
4. Discussion and Possible Action on Mill Building Update – Polley explained that the City had dismantled the Stone Mill building in 2012 and wanted to keep it for historical purposes. After determining Barker Stewart Island wasn't the best location for it another possible idea is in the planned south riverfront development area. In January 2022 the Finance Committee approved the remaining CIP funding for the development plan of Barker Stewart Island be utilized to complete the design of the mill building. Staff has been working with the architectural firm Galbraith Carnahan Architects (GCA) to develop a plan that would reflect the historic look of the mill building, utilize some of the original wood and provide utilization by the community. The wood has been evaluated as to whether the building could be rebuilt or replicated and it's estimated that thirty percent of the wood is reusable. Lenz discussed the south riverfront plan and the idea for the mill building which is to make it a permanent market structure. Kilian requested that a future a public meeting be held in the Island Place Apartment's lobby for those residents to give input.

Polley said staff had been told to finish the design of the mill building and give a cost estimate. It will be up to City Council whether they want to build it or build it somewhere else. She had it as an actionable item in case Committee saw anything in the plan they didn't like and wanted to change. The design puts together the look of the old stone building utilizing some of the existing timber as accent pieces. The roof style and interior are similar to the old 1883 building. Lenz gave historical context that this was the first site in Wausau to have electricity and in 1984 when a City survey was done it was the last remaining sawmill from those early days so its significant in that sense as well. Funding for the project is yet to be determined. The timbers have been stored with a resident for a long time so the City should decide what they are going to do with them. Polley will bring this item back for action to release the wood because if only a small amount is going to be used, if this building is ever built, they will keep the wood they want for construction and relocate it to a site the City controls. Polley noted the cost estimates will be higher in future years.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Skate Park Update – Polley explained that the skate park design is complete. The design includes two phases. The first phase includes new features such as ramps, rails, stairs on a new concrete base. The second phase will add a new concrete base for existing equipment and refurbish the existing ramps. Doing the design in two phases will be based on funding. The City has provided funding and a grant has been received from the Community Foundation. Two more grants have been applied for and if those are received then they will have the budget necessary for the cost estimate of the first phase. The big cost to the second phase is the concrete surfacing which is the ideal surfacing after that the existing ramps could be refurbished over time. Spohn Ranch is going forward with the final design and specifications. Phase 1 will be bid out and then the alternates for phase 2 will be concrete as the first alternate and the ramp refurbishing as the second alternate. Depending upon how prices come in and the amount of funding secured if they can enough to do at least all the concrete right away that would be ideal. Polley was hopeful that if the timing goes right that this could be brought back to Committee in August so the contractor could do some of the work this year. Questions were answered.

6. Educational Items

A. Park Updates – Barker Stewart Island Bridge – Barker-Stewart bridge decking replacement is nearly complete, the side areas are remaining and will be completed as staff time allows. Lincoln Tot Lot – Lincoln Tot Lot Playground has been removed. The installation of the new playground will begin the week of June 5. Pools – Preparing pools for start-up. Pools open Saturday, June 3. Wharf Docks – Riverlife Wharf docks will be installed the week of June 5. Scholfield boat launch will be closed for two days to stage the equipment and components of the docks. Briq’s – Briq’s is now open for the season at Riverlife. Athletic Park – Woodchucks first game was May 31<sup>st</sup>. Season is now in full swing. Urban Forestry – Tree planting is almost complete in the boulevards and parks. Staff will have planted 328 trees this spring with a total planned planting of 450 trees once complete. Large urban forestry grant has been submitted to assist the department in routine pruning, tree plantings and tree removals. Hanging baskets have been installed and crews are installing plants in the planting beds. Spring planting is substantially complete.

B. Riverside Park Remediation Update – A prework meeting took place on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Public Works will be voting on the contractor’s request to provide an irrevocable letter of credit in lieu of the payment/performance bond on Tuesday, June 6. Once approved the work will be scheduled. Work on remediation is progressing and the work will be completed as directed by the WDNR in the RAOR.

Discussion occurred regarding the procedure and funding for installing signage and covering of an area to prevent public access between the sampling location P10 and P12 in the interim before the remedial activity starts. The Department of Health Services had recommended this be done in a letter received by Alder Kilian after he had asked them to look at the last set of samples. Larson said as chair of CISM he would contact Lindman the next day to find out what the procedure is to start on the signage in-house.

7. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

8. Next Meeting Date – The next regular scheduled meeting will be Monday, July 10, 2023 at 3:15pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau WI 54403.

9. Adjournment – **Motion** by Kilian, second by Lukens to adjourn at 5:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.