

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: August 5th, 2013 at 5:00pm Location: City Hall (407 Grant Street) – Council Chambers
Members Present: Jim Brezinski, Gary Gisselman, Robert Mielke, David Oberbeck (c)
Members Excused: David Nutting
Others Present: Lisa Rasmussen–Councilperson, Bill Nagle–Councilperson, Bill Duncanson–Director, Peter Knotek-Asst. Director, Anne Jacobson–City Attorney, Tara Alfonso–Asst. 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. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Oberbeck at 5:00pm.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Mielke, second by Gisselman to approve the July 1st, 2013 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Park Ban Policy – Discussion and Possible Action on Updating Policy Allowing Persons to be Banned from Parks – Duncanson said that in response to incidents of inappropriate behavior in parks having reached unacceptable levels, the Chairpersons of the Park and Recreation Committee and the Public Safety Committee have worked with the Mayor and Parks, Police and City Attorney staff to strengthen existing personal conduct policy, ordinance and procedure. The proposed policy will enhance the existing policy covering how to deal with people that are misbehaving and ban them from access to parks.

Duncanson explained that for a number of years there have been problems with individuals misbehaving in the parks. Most obvious are the people that drink in public, fight, urinate, break bottles, pass out, etc. This behavior is occurring more and more, particularly in the downtown parks. There are some park ordinances that talk about excluding people from parks if they violate rules and regulations but there is not clear policy and language on how to do that. Based on the growing police calls, ambulance calls, and observations of park staff a decision was made to see if something could be done to clarify the ordinances.

Alfonso said the police don't want to have to wait until a disorderly conduct event has occurred to address inappropriate behavior. Under the ordinances now, when they want to remove a person from a park they have to wait until a grievous event has occurred that would violate the ordinance. With this ban they could exclude a person from using parks for a period of time and wouldn't have to wait every time until the person gets to the point where they have to issue a citation or arrest the person for criminal behavior. This is a tool where if someone has violated the appropriate behavior the City expects from people in parks, they can be excluded from parks for a period of time. Regular people who want to use parks are being dissuaded from using them because of what's going on and it is getting to be a significant problem. Rasmussen gave some information about trends that the police department is seeing. She said the police have asked for a tool to manage the people engaging in these behaviors. At first they wanted a wholesale policy to lock down alcohol in parks at all times other than organized events but decided to try first to address the behaviors of individuals who are behaving completely inappropriately rather than try to change the policy for an entire City after it has been opened up and the vast majority of park users are behaving appropriately. She mentioned there is an appeal process for someone who has been banned.

Oberbeck said this deals with people that impact the citizen's ability to enjoy public spaces. Alfonso explained the reference to suspending Chapter 68. She said it allows the City to shorten time frames so that a person has ten days to appeal instead of 30 days. She said this is a uniform application of a policy against people who would be found to be exhibiting inappropriate behavior. That is defined in one respect as committing or attempting to commit a crime or a violation of City ordinance. Officers in a park can decide if persons should be banned because of that behavior. Because behavior has happened, it forms the basis for the possibility of banning someone from the parks and officers can step in before the pattern begins again. Questions were answered. Gisselman is concerned about the larger issue in society causing increases in these problems. **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Mielke to direct staff to proceed with necessary steps to implement this policy. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Park Ban Ordinance – Discussion and Possible Action on Amending Section 9.20.020 Regulation of Persons – Oberbeck read the amendment which says. “The decision of the Director of the Parks Department to exclude individuals from the

use of park facilities shall be final and the city elects not to be bound by the provisions of Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes, with respect to administrative procedure in this regard;" Duncanson said this is the specific ordinance modification the City needs to do to put the policy in action within the city ordinances. **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Mielke to approve amending Section 9.20.020. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Radtke Point Park Erosion Control – Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed 2014 C.I.P. Erosion Control Project at Radtke Point Park - Radtke Point Park is a Wausau Park that was created on airport property in 1968. As such, the current and future needs of the airport control the scope of allowable uses within the park. In 1994 Wausau leased the park to the City of Schofield. Schofield has initiated master planning with Becher Hoppe Associates to improve the park and in the process has identified a significant erosion issue on portions of the lakeshore embankment and stairway below the primary overlook. In discussions it has been put forth that because the land is airport land, it is Wausau's responsibility to protect the land base. Accordingly, the C.I.P. project has been developed based on Becher Hoppe's initial estimates. The estimated cost would be a maximum of \$220,800. The City would apply for a Marathon County Environmental Fund grant for 50% of the project costs. Costs to the City of Wausau would be limited to erosion control and not include park facility replacement or improvement items.

Rasmussen said her understanding is that part of the lease requirement was that Schofield maintained the park. She felt that not only have they failed to maintain that slope, but have installed some amenities encouraging people to go down it to gain access to the water. She also understands that the airport, long range, would like to put in a perimeter access road around the outside of the airport fence which comes through this property and later could be used as an extension of the Rivers Edge Trail. The park leases are stalled so nothing can take place because Schofield wants a long term lease and the Bureau of Aeronautic and FAA require short leases. Her feeling is that if the City of Wausau is required to pay for this with no share from Schofield she would be the first person to advocate that Wausau stops the leasing arrangement and reclaims it as a Wausau park. If the City has to pay 100% of the erosion control costs and then can't even put in the road for the airport to serve its own purposes it would seem to her that it is not in Wausau's best interest to continue to lease the property out to Schofield.

Brezinski agreed with Rasmussen and said there was a lot of frustration expressed at the Airport Committee meeting about the lack of progress in terms of resolving this issue. He said if the City of Wausau has to bear the full brunt of the cost than they should have control over it even if it is not in an ideal location for a Wausau Park. **Motion** by Brezinski to reject the terms of the agreement, second by Mielke. Gisselman did not believe the motion was appropriate in terms of the agenda item and Oberbeck agreed. Brezinski **withdrew** his motion. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Brezinski to recommend approval of the proposed 2014 C.I.P. Erosion Control Project at Radtke Point Park. Gisselman voted yes. Brezinski, Oberbeck and Mielke voted no. Motion **failed**. Vote reflected as 1-3.

Schulenburg Pool Reconstruction Location – Discussion and Possible Action on Whether the Current Location of Schulenburg Pool is Adequate for Intended Upgrades and Whether the Current Location is Appropriate for the West Side Service Area – Duncanson gave history that at one time Wausau had four pools. MacDonald Pool failed and at the time a decision was made not to replace it. In 1987 the three remaining pools were renovated and are still in use. Council is on record at this time to renovate the three existing pools. Duncanson discussed a map that showed the City boundaries in 1960. He said there has been significant expansion since then, stretching out to west and east more so than north and south. The population information shows that in 1970 Wausau had a population of 32,806. By 2000 the population was 38,424. By 2010 the projection was that that it would be at 40,000 which wasn't quite reached.

Rasmussen noted her concerns about moving Schulenburg Pool. She believes the pools were sited where they were because of the river and the location of Schulenburg gives children in that area a safe place to swim. She also did not like the idea of taking away an amenity from one area to serve another. She felt attendance numbers are doing well at this pool. If the demographics showed another pool was needed she would be open to discussing that but not with taking one away from one neighborhood to serve another. Brezinski said he was only open to moving Schulenburg if the site was not favorable. He questioned Knotek about the site. Knotek said that Council approved remodeling the existing pool and a remodeled pool fits almost exactly into the existing site. A rebuild would extend the pool outside of the existing footprint. There is no issue if a remodel is done but the department is working to get as many amenities from the remodel and rebuild into the design. In his opinion the site can accommodate what staff proposes to develop there. Oberbeck questioned if the pool fits without extensive modifications to the site. Knotek said what was approved was the remodel and not the rebuild with the lazy river but they are trying to add as many amenities as they can with the budget they have.

Even though there has been discussion of a lazy river that is not in the remodel plan approved by Council. Oberbeck said he had thought the plan was for a total reconstruction. Rasmussen wondered about the possibility of a lazy river if the tennis courts were removed.

Oberbeck said the pools are called neighborhood pools but they aren't city wide pools. That concerns him as far as the intent of spending millions to renovate and not addressing the changing demographics. He said the west side of the river serves 5 ½ districts which means 3500 people per district and has one pool. The east side serves 5 ½ districts and has two pools. He felt they aren't building towards the future and aren't addressing the overall change in Wausau in 50 years. If the intent of committee is to construct the pools and not address the needs of other areas which are going to be paying for them then he thinks they have to look at how they approach the future and whether there is a need to expand some park facilities to serve people within the west side area. Mielke said that he would stay with the three existing pools but does agree about future needs of expanding districts. **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Mielke to recommend that they continue with the plan that was passed by Council previously and not entertain further discussion to relocate Shulenburg Pool. Rick and Debbie Mohelnitzky spoke in support of keeping Shulenburg pool at its current location. Robert Brown spoke in favor of keeping Shulenburg pool where it is and commended the lifeguards. Debbie Lemke would like to keep Shulenburg pool where it is, Keith Jaeger supports Shulenburg pool and thinks it's a nice fit where it is. Mielke, Gisselman, Brezinski voted yes. Oberbeck voted no. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 3-1.

2014 Budget – Discussion and Possible Action on:

Proposed 2014 Budget - Duncanson explained that there are some questions about the budget yet having to do with personnel services and fixed charges. The County has yet to approve their compensation and classification study so the department doesn't know exactly what the wages are going to be for this next year. Also included in that is the proposal to increase the seasonal wages. Overall he expects it to be a little higher, but not considerably higher than last year. Utility, energy, and insurance costs aren't finalized yet.

400 Block Costs and Revenues – Duncanson explained that in the two years prior to building the Block expenses were in the mid-twenty thousand dollar range. The first year after the Block was built expenses were \$83,000 and this year they are expected to be \$100,000. A big part of the 2014 increase is due to \$13,000 for concrete cleaning and resealing. Vegetation maintenance costs have not gone up significantly. Costs have gone up noticeably for water and electricity. Revenues from 400 Block have been minimal and that situation that needs to be addressed. When special events occur the Clerk's office administers those events and the Parks Department is not seeing anything coming back to it. He also believes the process for collecting in-kind fees that are beyond the total of free in-kind services is not happening.

Fee Directive – The fee directive is worked out at this time of year particularly for shelters which can be reserved a year in advance. Duncanson discussed the proposed fees. Changes are mainly for shelters in 2015 which will have a 3% increase. Discussion followed on budgets and transferring money within city budgets or increasing revenue the City has to work with to help address the 400 Block costs so it can continue to be successful and grow. **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Mielke to approve the fee directive. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Mielke left the meeting at 6:40pm.

Project Update

Kaiser Pool – Knotek reported that staff has met with Aquatic Design Solutions twice, once to examine the existing Kaiser Pool site and once to visit Weston's and Rothschild's pools. Staff will start reviewing conceptual design concepts next week.

Athletic Park – Design work continues on the grandstand replacement and the new neighborhood park at 5th Street and Wausau Avenue. Demolition of the existing grandstand will occur in August.

Future Agenda Items – The 400 Block and how to address costs, Brockmeyer masterplan, bike trails that connect neighborhoods, Radtke Point Park leases.

Next Regular Meeting – moved to Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013 at 5:00pm

Adjourn - **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Gisselman to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 3-0.