

DRAFT
CITY OF WAUSAU – JOINT PARK AND RECREATION AND AIRPORT
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: October 7th, 2013 at 5:00pm Location: City Hall (407 Grant Street) – Board Room
Members Present: William Nagle (c), Karen Kellbach, Bob Mohr, Dick Gehrt, Jim Brezinski, Gary Gisselman, Robert Mielke, David Nutting, David Oberbeck (c)
Others Present: Mayor Tipple, Bill Duncanson–Director, Anne Jacobson–City Attorney, Tara Alfonso–Asst. City Attorney, Mary Anne Groat – Finance Director, Kregg Hoehn – City of Schofield, John Chmiel–Airport Manager, Pat Peckham – City Pages, Judith Miller, Anders Tietz

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 and Chairperson Nagle at 5:00pm.

Radtke Point Park – Discussion and Possible Action on Lease Agreement with Schofield and Erosion Control Project

Duncanson said at the last meeting the Park and Recreation Committee discussed the lease, safety conditions, and the erosion issues. He was directed to make sure that Schofield was aware of the City’s concerns and of some remediation that would be appropriate. Schofield has made some definite improvements since then like putting up fencing and making progress on the playground equipment. Duncanson said he spoke with Hoehn about long term management objectives for the park and that maybe some of the large improvements are not achievable.

Duncanson discussed a different engineering approach to repairing the bank. He suggests using products such as geo-textiles and geo-grids that can be laid on surface, anchored in, and integrated with soil and grasses. He believes access to the lake should continue. The stairs should be reconstructed, additional rip-rap put along the base of the slope, small improvements made to the side hill trail, and fencing along the top of the bank. Duncanson took the concept to three firms having experience with geo-grids. At this time he only had a preliminary estimate from Rettler Landscape and Associates. Duncanson discussed the County Environmental Fund process. He said the project was submitted but not reviewed because it didn’t have a firm budget commitment. He said Wausau and Schofield may have a commitment by the time the budgets are completed in November. The Environmental Resource Committee is going to take up some potential adjustments because there are some general timeline issues on when they accept projects and how that aligns with most municipalities budgeting processes. There may still be some opportunity to obtain Environmental Fund monies in 2014. Duncanson distributed Rettlers preliminary estimate for design and construction of \$209,438.05. If the engineering and design costs were isolated from the construction project that cost would be around \$25,000. He suggests that if this goes forward it would be best to do the project in two phases. If they can do the engineering and design phase for \$25,000 and get half of that from the Environmental Fund that would be \$12,500 left for Wausau and Schofield to split 50/50. They would need \$6,250 from Wausau and \$6,250 from Schofield for the first phase. He said as part of the project submittal to the County a letter of support was received from Mayor Fabel that Schofield recognizes the erosion issue and wants to be part of resolving it and would be happy to work with Wausau on it. There is no firm commitment of monies but that is because they are not to that point yet.

Duncanson feels that regardless of what happens, some erosion controls on the slope needs to be done now. His recommendation is to put up snow fencing with silt fence built into the base of it and stake in hay bales and filter fabric where there are gullies. He recommends they work together on this and stabilize it. He also believes it would be in the interest of both communities for Schofield to continue to have the park. He does not believe higher level developments that would lead to long term day use would work there. He feels something like an improved vista would be better. Mielke questioned what dollar amounts both communities were looking at spending. Hoehn said he could not give a dollar figure because it would have to be according to next years budget. They have some money set aside because they had been thinking of starting the project this spring. There is \$25,000 total left over from the budget they can roll into next year.

Duncanson said part of the lease agreement should be that Wausau staff will utilize its expertise to help Schofield make sure they are staying up to current park facility standards. Brezinski said Schofield has to commit to the short term lease. Hoehn said they asked about a longer term lease because of the major improvements and those are on the back shelf now. Brezinski questioned what length of lease that would make the federal government happy. Chmiel said anywhere from two to five years. Brezinski felt they should be conservative and go with two years. Hoehn said that is what he would present but he doesn't know how they will vote.

Some of the outstanding lease items were discussed. Schofield and Wausau attorneys will work to finalize. Airport Committee members stressed the importance of finalizing the lease under the Bureau of Aeronautics terms so they could continue moving forward on airport maintenance road funding requests. Chmiel said the road plan needs to be submitted in the next thirty to sixty days. Nagle felt it important to get the funding request to the County. Duncanson said next Tuesday the Environmental Resource Committee will discuss the timing criteria which may open the door to 2014 funding. If he can report back to them that there is a funding deal in progress and ask them to give grant approval contingent on both budgets having appropriate monies in them, we may still be able to get funding now. Oberbeck felt it was important that the site is inspected periodically so this doesn't happen again. Brezinski referred to a letter Airport Committee member Rasmussen had written expressing her thoughts on the matter.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Gehrt that: the City of Wausau agrees to a 50/50 funding split on the Radtke Point Park erosion control project and will fund their share of the design phase with 2013 funds contingent on the following: 1) staff be directed to pursue funding from the County Environmental Fund, 2.) that Schofield gets a commitment from their Council to limit park development to current uses, in a timely manner, 3.) that Schofield is willing to commit to a 50/50 funding plan, and that 4.) Schofield has to agree to a lease with a length no more than two years which includes the cost sharing agreement for the repairs that need to be done and is acceptable to Airport and Finance Committees. All of the prior contingent actions must be completed in time for Wausau to meet the current deadline for airport maintenance road funding. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Adjourn - **Motion** by Mohr, second by Kellbach to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.