

DRAFT
CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: November 4th, 2013 at 5:00pm Location: City Hall (407 Grant Street) – Board Room
Members Present: Jim Brezinski, Gary Gisselman, Robert Mielke, David Oberbeck (c)
Excused: David Nutting
Others Present: Bill Duncanson–Director, Peter Knotek – Assistant Director, Anne Jacobson – City Attorney, Nan Giese – City Assessor, Pat Peckham – City Pages

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 Park and Recreation Committee and Joint Park and Recreation Committee and Airport Committee October 7th, 2013 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Knicker Nordic – Nordic Bumps – Discussion and Possible Action on Possible City Support of the Knicker Nordic Introductory Cross Country Skiing “Nordic Bumps” Program Proposed for some Wausau School District Elementary School Grounds – Duncanson said this is a local cross country ski group proposing a concept of creating snow piles on a trial basis at a limited number of local elementary schools in the Wausau School District. The group is working to provide small skis to the schools and has developed an easy to use universal binding system which will fit over any kind of footwear. The idea is to get children outside to be healthy, active, and possibly take up a sport that could become a lifetime activity. Knicker Nordic needs help with making, moving, and shaping snow. Their concept is, with a little electric and water help, to make a big pile of snow at a central location with their own snow gun. They would then need some equipment to help move that snow to the schools. They are planning to talk to private contractors for dump trucks to haul to the schools but may need help with a front end loader possibly through City DPW, Parks, or the Highway Dept. Once the snow is dumped at the schools, the parks groomer could help shape it. The group estimates it would take a maximum of two days to shape all the piles of snow. Park staff could fit it in between other snow activities as time allows. This falls in line with what the County and the City are doing with promoting active healthy lifestyles for its youth. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Mielke to direct staff to explore the possibility of participating in the Knicker Nordic “ski bumps” program. Vote **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Radtke Point Park – Discussion and Possible Action on Safety and Erosion Control Project – Brezinski said that the Airport Committee has approved the two year contract. Oberbeck said there is no money in the CIP budget for the first phase of the erosion control project. Duncanson thought Finance said there may be some money in engineering/DPW projects and it would be part of the airport budget overall. Brezinski assumed the project would be funded in parts and also through the County’s environmental impact fund. Duncanson said he is looking for a starting place to get the project moving and to have a methodology to identify funds that can be utilized to match the County’s environmental impact funds. There is now an agreement with Schofield on how to approach the project and the lease is approved. As far as the erosion control issue Schofield agreed they would do half and the number talked about for design was \$25,000. They have money in this year’s budget to cover half of that cost. The Wausau City airport didn’t talk specifically about that money but the Finance Director made comments that there probably was money available and it would go through the airport. There hasn’t been any action on that. In order to have this project reviewed by the County Environmental fund process, both Schofield and Wausau have to commit to having money in place to do their share. The Environmental Resources Committee may have a hard time dealing with this because there are not firm construction dollars on it. He believes Wausau and Schofield should invest the \$25,000 for design to get firm construction costs and when they go in for the construction portion to the environmental fund they will receive credit for what has already been spent on the design portion as part of the overall cost. The design portion is \$25,000 so each portion will be \$12,500 upfront. Duncanson said the DNR is aware that there is ongoing erosion going into Lake Wausau and they aren’t citing the City because they see action happening. They are waiting to see the design, construction and permitting that will take care of it. Duncanson said the next step is for the Airport Committee to look for where that money can come from and make a recommendation to have it come to City Council because the City needs to commit to their share of design before anything can go forward on this project and Schofield is ready.

River Edge Trail – Report and Possible Action on the Status of the River Edge Trail in the East Riverfront Redevelopment Area – Duncanson explained where the boundaries are for the redevelopment area. He said building the Rivers Edge Trail and its future is tied to the progress that is made on environmental assessment, remediation and design of the project area. The trail cannot be designed much less built until the environmental remediation is done. Starting from the south the trail will probably stay on top of the bank. The Stinchfield Creek will be daylighted so the trail will stay on top of the bank going north because they will need a bridge to cross the stream. There may be an opportunity on the north end to lower the grade, however the limitation is that the property is very narrow there. As remediation occurs soils will be moved around. Duncanson discussed floodplain areas. He said there also has been some discussions about possibly putting in a wharf paralleling the shore. Design of the trail cannot go forward until they know what the final remediation plans are. If everything goes smoothly they may be able to start design next spring. Oberbeck is concerned about the green space on the north end. He believes people want restaurants and urban development. Barker Stewart Island and Oak Island include lots of green space that is close by. Duncanson said it is shown as potential green space at this point in time, however the City has an EPA planning grant that will look at that entire area to see what would be best for that area. Duncanson said the Rivers Edge Trail needs to cross the rail line to be able to get people on and off the trail to Bridge Street. Staff has sent a letter to CN Railroad to formally request that crossing. This will be a long process but it's a logical location to have a crossing to tie into the Rivers Edge Trail. He said if there is going to be higher quality housing in the area for people to live and work downtown parkland dedication requires 9/10 acre for every 100 residents. If a few hundred residents live there they have to consider what green space they would have. Oberbeck wondered if the restriction could be removed or if Barker Stewart Island covered that. He said they should do what the highest and best use is for the property. They need to prepare, set a grade, and pick to allow for development. The elevation changes where they go across the creek so maybe that could begin the start of a boardwalk where boats could come up to. He sees a lot of opportunity and development in that area and not a lot of green space. Oberbeck doesn't think Council has been involved in what the vision is. Duncanson said the concept in the redevelopment plan is that the trail will be built as an asphalt trail early on so potential developers can see that it's in place. They don't want to overinvest in the trail because there will be development right next to it so if the developers want to do something different they will be able to. Duncanson said with the trail on the top of the bank if the City is going to change what that looks like from the water's edge going up the bank to where trail is, it needs to do it before the trail is built otherwise the trail will be destroyed going across the trail to change the bank. Some guidance is needed before the trail is built.

River Edge Trail – Review Examples of Urban Riverfront Development – A slide show of Green Bay, Milwaukee, Stillwater, St. Paul, and Minneapolis riverfront developments was shown. There were examples of different types of paving, decking, bike racks, seating, railings, up lighting, sculptures, statues, pavement, trail elevations, bump outs, stairs, kiosks, street art, public artwork, plantings, signs and trees. Duncanson and Oberbeck discussed restorations of old buildings. There were examples of residential, commercial, park and nature areas along the water. Duncanson and Oberbeck discussed restorations of old neighborhoods and buildings. They noted that Minneapolis/St. Paul communities have strong urban planning and economic development agencies.

Project Update

Kaiser Pool – Knotek discussed a conceptual plan for the pool. Conceptual plan includes pool area, slides, zero depth entrance, interactive fountain, locker room, bath house, concession, shade structures, climbing wall, interactive play structure, gathering area with seating.

Athletic Park – Renovations to the grandstand are on schedule. Major work includes the casting of concrete walls. Designs for the new neighborhood park are 90% complete.

Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, December 2nd, 2013 at 5:00pm

Adjourn - Motion by Gisselman, second by Mielke to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.