

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

Date/Time: March 3rd, 2014 at 5:00pm Location: City Hall (407 Grant Street) – Board Room  
Members Present: Jim Brezinski, Gary Gisselman, David Nutting, David Oberbeck (c)  
Members Excused: Robert Mielke  
Others Present: Peter Knotek-Assistant Director, 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 Nutting, second by Gisselman to approve the Park and Recreation Committee February 3rd, 2014 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Kaiser Pool Project – Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Facility Designs – Knotek discussed pool options. He mentioned the shade structures, the sand play area, the interactive play structure and some issues with the climbing wall. He discussed some of the variances needed on the west, south and east side of the project. He discussed the bath house building and some of the improvements including color, signs, larger overhangs, and an artist screen. Committee made a few more suggestions regarding location of pool sign/signs, sign identifying the park system, Wausau logo sign, lit sign, and also origin date signs. They also gave ideas relating to color, stone, pitch, and texture of the building. Knotek will work on incorporating some of the suggestions.

River Edge Trail – Discussion and Possible Action on the Status of Downtown Trail Segments yet to be Developed – Oberbeck said that the Wisconsin River west channel crossing was one of the high priority items that came out of the west side master plan meetings. Knotek said it is also a safety issue because people are walking that rail trestle. The first priority would be to do the MBX section but there have been some difficulties coming to agreement with the owner. The next priority would be the pedestrian crossing over the Wisconsin River and the idea is to hang a bridge on the north side of the existing trestle. The crossing would land on a parcel owned by Eastbay so the City could either get an easement or acquire the parcel from Eastbay. It could possibly be a nice terminus point with a seating area. Knotek said a third priority would be where the Rivers Edge Trail comes behind Eastbay’s parking lot and out to 1<sup>st</sup> street. Another related area is on the south end of Eastbay where it is a difficult transition now to get people onto Scott Street. The trail could also be better identified there. Gisselman asked if this would be a capital request for 2015. Knotek said he typically submits projects as a capital project request then Finance determines whether or not it can be done out of TIF or if it needs to go to the capital program. There is a lot of excitement about the west side so he sees it as a pretty viable project. Oberbeck felt it was important as far as future development in that area. Gisselman also felt the link to the east side was very important. Nutting felt the entire trail could be better signed. Knotek agreed. Discussion followed. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Nutting that staff proceed in the direction of the Wisconsin River bridge on the west side as a priority development. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Brockmeyer Park Master Plan Review – Knotek said the existing master plan was created sixteen years ago and parking lots, restroom structure, play equipment, soccer fields, and a ball diamond were developed. He said once the County Sports Field Complex is complete everyone is going to need to play soccer there. It has to provide some level of self-sufficiency and it is also an efficiency standpoint for the department. Knotek discussed the field reservations at Brockmeyer and Airport Parks. Knotek said there is no comparison to what the new fields at the Sports Complex will be like. At Brockmeyer Park the soccer field area is about seven acres, there is some land on the north side and also a wooded area that could be re-developed. Oberbeck mentioned how this park is such a central connection for the entire area. Gisselman asked if users will be able to afford the new County soccer fields. Knotek said staff has time to give users notice so they can get it into their

budgets. Major users can also generate some of their own income to go towards game fees by allowing them to use the concession area. Brezinski questioned the ball diamond. Knotek said there are probably a few more fields than needed right now but it is the largest of the youth fields and one of the more desirable ones. Knotek asked if Committee members had any ideas about redevelopment. Oberbeck said he believes people in the area are looking for activities in the park. Some ideas that had been mentioned were tennis courts, sand volleyball, off road bikes, trails, and a fourth pool. Gisselman wondered about the possibility of extreme sport type things. Knotek thought it should be opened up for public discussion. He said the biking community is huge and something like a BMX course might be a good idea. Committee members agreed that public input is needed. They suggested a spring meeting.

Amend Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) - Discussion and Possible Action to Amend the Current CORP to Reflect Things that have Already Occurred or are now Plan – Knotek said Committee had discussed amending the plan to include the Longfellow Tot Lot but that had already been done by the previous Committee. Knotek discussed the amendments which would include adding the extension of the Mountain Bay Trail into the City. This would be done either through easement or parkland dedication from Northwestern Avenue Holdings Company to take the trail under the bridge into the Conservancy and tie it into Kent Street. Another amendment would be to include the new neighborhood park and also include access from Northwestern Avenue to the new neighborhood park regardless of whether it's by using an existing easement or acquiring a new easement. Another amendment related to development of this property is to continue the trail system that will come off Mountain Bay and go through the new subdivision all the way up to Hawthorne Lane which ties into Osswald and up to the Greenwood Hills area. The last amendment to the plan would be in the Eau Claire River Conservancy area, there is one piece of property owned by the City of Schofield and whether through long term lease or acquisition to acquire access to that parcel. Knotek said this is all fairly big picture but it should be in the plan so that it is eligible for funding for trail development. **Motion** by Brezinski, second by Gisselman to approve amending the plan to include the City portion of extending the Mountain Bay Trail, to include the neighborhood park and access from Northwestern, to approve the development of trails tying up to the Greenwood Hills area, and to acquire access to the City of Schofield parcel. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

#### Project Update

Athletic Park Grandstand – Extreme cold weather has caused delays especially for poured concrete related aspects of the project. It is anticipated that once the structure is closed in, time can be made up on interior work.

Athletic Park Neighborhood Park – The bid for the park development was awarded to the low bidder The Samuels Group for \$299,300. The Samuels Group is the general contractor for the grandstand project which will result in improved coordination of the park and grandstand projects. The Park Department will perform an additional \$65,000 of work including electrical, landscaping, and playground equipment.

Eau Claire River Conservancy – A public meeting for the Conservancy Master Plan will be held Thursday March 13, 6:00pm at 212 River Drive.

Future Agenda Items – Brockmeyer Park, update on Kaiser pool

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, April 7th, 2014 at 5:00pm

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