

DRAFT
CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: June 2nd, 2014 at 5:15pm Location: City Hall (407 Grant Street) – Board Room
Members Present: Gary Gisselman, Robert Mielke, Tom Neal, David Oberbeck (c)
Excused: David Nutting
Others Present: Bill Duncanson–Director, Karyn Powers – Recreation Superintendent, Mayor Tipple, Maryanne Groat-Finance Director, Peter Gaffaney – Wausau Festival of the Arts, Pat Peckham – City Pages, Theresa Clift – Wausau Daily Herald

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 Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee May 5th, 2014 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Placing Permanent Recognition on The 400 Block – Discussion and Possible Action on Whether and Under What Conditions, to Allow Permanent Recognitions to be Placed on The 400 Block – Duncanson said that a request was received from a local nonprofit group that puts on one of the festivals in the community requesting permission to put a recognition on The 400 Block for the event that they have had for many years, the artist that created the item, and possibly the donors that paid for the item. Duncanson said The 400 Block was created through a voluntary fundraising effort in the community. In that process, one of the guidelines that the Square Up Committee followed was not to have recognitions of individuals, groups or businesses in return for a donation. Accordingly they turned down some proposed donations that were hinged on having recognition of a company or individuals. When fundraising was done, the splashpad ended up with recognition for the donor with an inconspicuous tile set in concrete. None of the people that donated significant funds of money asked for or knew that they would be recognized. The Square Up Committee decided at the end of the fundraising process that it would be appropriate to recognize them by having their names on the stage. There are names on pavers when the pavers were sold and that was part of original design. The policy question he asks Committee is if the City wants to allow permanent recognitions on The 400 Block and if the decision is yes, then how the guidelines will be set.

Neal said this request is from a group and it's not tied to something they did for The 400 Block project. Gisselman questioned if The 400 Block was being treated separately from other parks. Oberbeck believes a policy would have to be fairly uniform but that The 400 Block is a special area. This is the first request from an organization that hasn't been directly involved with funding of the Block and would set the precedent for all others. Gisselman questioned if there was a difference between recognition and public art. Duncanson said in this instance the lines cross each other and The 400 Block is dedicated parkland so the policy question is starting here. Mayor Tipple felt the first step Committee should consider is to have a well thought out policy. If art is being donated to the City that's one thing and another thing is how much recognition the Committee is comfortable with allowing. He added that in the past the City had wanted to have an Art Selection Committee that would consider art around the City for example along the River Edge Trail. He believes art should be encouraged but they need to have some goals. Neal said it seems reasonable that anyone could come forward with a request and it would go through a system of review. Mielke agreed with Neal that requests should go through on a case by case basis. He raised one concern regarding the maintenance of items. Oberbeck said they should take a proactive approach and have areas in the City designated for art or recognition.

Gaffaney said the Wausau Festival of the Arts is having its 50th Anniversary. This piece or art was donated by a longtime participant of the Festival. They were looking to raise awareness of the celebration of the arts within Wausau by putting up some permanent type of structure such as this piece, placed on a pedestal. They would be more than willing to work with the City on size and type of material which they would purchase. It would be cast in bronze so it would be maintenance free. Any type of maintenance on it or the pedestal would be taken care of by the Festival of Arts. They were interested in the 400 Block because that is where the Festival is held and it also extends down 3rd Street. They wanted it in a high traffic place where people within the Festival would be able to see and recognize it and know the Festival has been part of Wausau for the last fifty years. It was a generous gift so they

mentioned to the donor that they would put a recognition plaque on it. Gaffaney has a grant into the Community Foundation for the pedestal. He said the Foundation requires some type of notification or recognition when they do monetary gifts so they were going to do some type of recognition for the Community Foundation also.

Duncanson said regardless of what the first item is on The 400 Block, the Committee has to be the policy makers. He noted that the Square Up Committee is clearly not in favor of having permanent recognitions on The 400 Block. Oberbeck thought it was important to note that they turned down donations from people that wanted recognition and noted that in their letter to the Committee. Neal believed that sort of handcuffs the City for a park saying it can't put public art there. He felt it was one thing to put up a big plaque about a corporate sponsor rather than a piece of art that's donated by a citizen with a small plaque saying who the donation is from. He felt recognition for a fundraiser versus someone donating public art were two different things. Oberbeck said The 400 Block would not have happened without those unrecognized donations. He thinks if it's a piece of public art the wording should state it's for the art, not for the Block. Discussion followed on possible locations for the piece, possibly the planters. Oberbeck believes a policy about where things would be allowed on The 400 Block should be set first. Duncanson said the Committee is talking only about art. The discussion seems to be narrowing down that art is more acceptable than who knows what other type of thing. He pointed out that permanent recognitions can take the forms of a whole number of things. Neal said that naming opportunities could include a name at the bottom of a pool, a bandshell at Marathon Park, infrastructure like a stone arch, or west wing of a barn. Tipple said as a Committee they could narrow it down to art and the other thing they can do is control art or anything on the Block as a Committee, they can also control recognition on what is appropriate or not. Gisselman would like to tie it to some type of art at The 400 Block. Neal said that if someone wanted to improve or extend a dock at Gilbert Park and put up plaque for their effort he would be for it because they saved the City money and provided something for the public. Oberbeck said again that is tied to some thing versus just putting a plaque for plaques sake for recognition. Duncanson said so potentially every non-profit that does good work in the community could ask for something that celebrates them. Neal said in considerations of The 400 Block they could establish right away the offerings of spaces and specifications of what can and cannot be done.

Duncanson said he wasn't hearing a flat-out no so then a process needed to be set up to move forward. He asked Gaffaney about their timeline. Gaffaney said the piece did not have to be put specifically in place by the time of the Festival, they just wanted to present it at that time. Neal said that gives time to determine places the piece could go and what it would look like. Oberbeck said there were other discussions occurring as far as public art throughout the City and he was wondering what committee or kind of committee it should go to. Mayor Tipple said if it's a subcommittee you have the ability to appoint members of this committee, if it's an ad hoc Committee then would it be an ad hoc for just The 400 Block or for City wide. His personal opinion is that if it's City wide, it would take a long time to come up with a master plan for the entire City. He felt they should have two things, one a direction for the entire City, in his opinion, and a direction for The 400 Block. To have a subplan and a masterplan because The 400 Block is kind of special. Gisselman agreed and said they should just concentrate on The 400 Block and see what they can come up with. Oberbeck said it might be appropriate that anything for The 400 Block come through this Committee. As a citywide policy is moved forward The 400 Block can blend into it. He felt as part of policy any artwork brought forward from an organization should include all costs of installation and maintenance. With the policy that will be set he believes it's reasonable to say that this piece is fitting with The 400 Block. In the meantime an ad hoc committee will be set up for reviewing art all around the City. **Consensus** of Committee is that this piece comes back to Committee for final approval as far as mounting location and overall scheme. Gaffaney will work with Duncanson as far as the details.

Aquatic Facility Projects – Discussion and Possible Action on Recent Bids for Kaiser Pool Reconstruction and Potential Impacts on Future Aquatic Facility Reconstruction and Operation – Duncanson reported that they went out for bids on the project with three contracts to bid on. The base bid was for general construction, the second contract was for the pool itself, and the third contract was for water slides. They received one general contractor for the base bid and it was for a higher than reasonable number. The pool itself received two reasonable bids. The water slides received zero bids. Staff and the pool consultant checked into what happened. They found with the recession there are a number of firms out of business and the firms that stayed in business downsized. Construction is starting to move and the firms that are still around have more work than they can handle right now.

There are two basic alternatives. One alternative is to accept the bids that came in. It would cost a lot more money but it would meet the project timeline. Another option is to rebid. To consider taking the pool contractors bid as an acceptable bid and bid out the rest of the project. The work would be more late summer and fall. There should be more interest in the fall, more competition and prices would come down. If the numbers still don't come in appropriately the next alternative would be to start design of one of the other two pools so in early winter time the two pools would be bid together. That would draw larger contractors. Two pools would be built next summer. The third pool would be designed during that time and constructed in 2016. Oberbeck believes an advantage to rebidding is if a contractor didn't get the first round, then there is time they have to fill. Discussion about rebidding followed. Duncanson said if the rebid is done right now it would be constructed this fall. It may not open immediately in spring but the second pool to be reconstructed would be under construction spring of 2015 and we would be back on our original schedule. If that doesn't work out there is a reasonable fall back. Groat mentioned they also talked about looking for sponsors to maybe help defray the cost. **Motion** by Mielke, second by Neal to rebid the pool project with the recommendations of the consultant. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Funding – Discussion and Possible Action on Options for Funding Vehicle and Equipment Purchases in 2015 and Beyond – Duncanson said staff worked with Groat and came up with two options. Groat explained that the motor pool fund is an internal service fund. The purpose of the fund is to finance the acquisition and maintenance of all of the rolling stock in the City. Currently the Public Works Department including all of its divisions and the Police Department are charged either on a per mile basis or per hour basis and that charge is supposed to recover depreciation, all of the maintenance, fuel, and insurance. The Fire Department is charged just based on maintenance and operational costs. The charges then that these departments incur are in their operating budget in the general fund. What happens is that the equipment or rolling stock is purchased and that's a reduction in cash for that fund and then the revenue from the departments come in to help offset all of the expenses as well as that capital replacement. Groat explained the benefits. So with the Parks Department, the money would be budgeted CIP as a non-rated item. There would be a dollar amount each year that would be invested and that would get transferred into the motorpool fund for the actual purchase. Groat said the last few years of purchases for the Parks Department averaged around \$149,670. Duncanson explained that the County already has motor vehicles as a non-rated CIP. They have looked at a five year replacement and come up with an evenflow number of about \$170,000. Duncanson suggested the \$170,000 area is what the County share and City share would be because vehicle and equipment costs are split fifty-fifty. Neal said he had to leave the meeting but he supported the direction this was going. Duncanson said the second option is to go into the CIP model but slowly transition into more of a motor pool funding. He eventually would like to be more under motor pool funding but that would take time. Groat said there are two problems with changes to the general fund budget. One is levy limits and the other is expenditure restraint. What she had done for the Police Department each year was to incrementally increase that until they got to the amount that was supposed to recover all of those costs. She mentioned there also has been some interest by the CIP Committee and specific Council members to add the Fire Department equipment and technology equipment. They have to look at a way to step all of those, if that's Councils decision into a funding process so the general fund can still comply with the expenditure restraint. Groat said she would try to look at the Data Center and Fire Department as well as Parks and see what that final success of full implementation is and come up with a plan of how much they could afford each year. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Mielke to send forward the recommendation to Finance Committee that Parks Department vehicles and equipment become an unrated CIP item and establish a funding level for them. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 3-0.

Summer Recreation Program Status – Report on the Current Status of Recreation Programs and Park Facilities – Powers reported that City summer recreation begins with pools opening on Friday, June 13th. Swimming lessons, tennis lessons, the playground program and soccer camp starts on June 16th. This year as in past years the department is in partnership with the Wausau School District for Community Connections program and will staff playgrounds after summer school on four afternoons a week. Approximately 130 Kindergarten through 4th Graders are registered for the afternoon program and there are now 30 children in the morning program so it has grown. The Ninth Annual Splash into Safety Workshop will be held on Saturday June 14th. This is a partnership workshop where an average of seventy five kids and thirty adults take part in a two hour water safety workshop. After the workshop families are able to return for free swimming in the afternoon. Additional special events include the Kiwanis free swim day for kids on July 9th and the Wausau Noon Optimists swim for youth week on July 21-25th. The department also has a partnership with the Wausau library for a free swim day on Aug. 12th. Powers discussed tennis camp and the family

tennis program. Powers had tried to make contact with Stettin School about the possibility of looking at playground program in that area. She felt they were extremely busy at the end of the school year and did not have time to respond. She will work on it again this fall.

2015 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) – Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed 2015 CIP Projects – Duncanson noted that the CIP request for Memorial and Schulenburg Pool remodels may change. Staff suggests keeping the request as is because the funding will be adequate for the 2014 construction in either of the successful scenarios outlined earlier. Duncanson said the item with the lowest priority and longest timeline is the West Channel Pedestrian Walkway because the railroad is notoriously slow. The River Edge Trail construction money is gifted money so it's in place. The Eau Claire River Conservancy project is for phase one which would be to construct a parking lot, drinking fountain, and signage. Oberbeck felt a CIP for the dog park should be included so that it's on the radar. Committee members agreed. Duncanson said the Radtke Point Erosion Control Project right now is at a point where the Airport Committee and Schofield have approved the RFP for design work. When the results are received there will be a design and hard cost estimates which will allow Wausau and Schofield to go to the County for environmental funds. The environmental funds are potentially 50% of the project costs and split 25% Wausau and 25% Schofield. The CIP project is based on a potentially high number for getting the work done. Duncanson mentioned he had been contacted by Hoehn of Schofield last week requesting that Wausau participate with Schofield in paving that park and adding it onto this project. Committee members felt this was mainly for an erosion project and wanted the project to stand as proposed. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Mielke to approve the proposed 2015 Capital Improvement Projects. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 3-0.

Changes to Park and Recreation Facilities – Discussion and Possible Action on When the Park and Recreation Committee Should Play an Active Role in Determining Changes to Park and Recreation Facilities – tabled

Brockmeyer Park Neighborhood Meeting – Discussion and Possible Action on the Results of the May 28, 2014 Brockmeyer Park Neighborhood Meeting – Attendance at the meeting was light and staff was disappointed that there weren't more parents of young children. This is a community park so there is a span of demands that need to be satisfied. Some comments received prior to the meeting were for Ultimate Frisbee, preserve the large grassy area, disc golf, pickle ball courts, activities for older youth like basketball courts, tennis courts, and disc golf. Verbal comments received at the meeting included tennis courts, baseball complex, walking trails, swimming pool, facilities for adults and youth, change the Junior League Diamond to a Little League Diamond. Written comments at the meeting included disc golf, swimming pool, dog park, walking trails, biking trails, tennis courts, cross country ski trails, additional baseball diamond, retain at least one soccer field, and open concept free area. Staff said the requests were mainly for walking type activities. Discussion followed on the baseball concept. Duncanson said that people seem to be asking for phase three that is in the master plan but was never constructed. It includes trails, tennis courts, picnic area and second playground. Oberbeck felt the area is still growing and people are going to be looking for something for their tax dollars.

Project Update

Athletic Park – Both the Grandstand and the Neighborhood Park are near completion. Weather may have an impact on the completion of the Neighborhood Park. Opening Day is May 29th.

Kaiser Pool

The pool bids came in over budget. Staff will have a report on proposed strategies at the meeting.

Future Agenda Items – heritage trees, discussion on bike trail linking Memorial Park to Oak Island, marker to identify granite wall at Athletic Park, tour of Eau Claire River Conservancy

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, July 7th, 2014 at 5:15pm

Adjourn - Motion by Mielke, second by Gisselman to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 3-0.