

**DRAFT**

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

Date/Time: January 5, 2015 at 5:15pm Location: Board Room, City Hall

Members Present: Robert Mielke, David Nutting, Tom Neal, David Oberbeck (c)

Members Excused: Gary Gisselman

Others Present: William Duncanson–Director, Anne Jacobson – City Attorney, Ray Neupert – WSAU Radio, Jodi Luebbe - Secretary

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 Oberbeck at 5:15pm. No public comments.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Mielke, second by Nutting to approve the Park and Recreation Committee December 1, 2014 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Revise Mowing and Weed Ordinances – Discussion and Possible Action on Revising Mowing and Weed Ordinances to Allow Prairie-like Areas in Parklands

Duncanson said staff had looked more closely into areas that could be mowed less and found it would be closer to thirty acres. There are ecological benefits as well as savings related to the mowing. In order to reduce the amount of mowed park land, parks need to be given the same exemption from the mowing provision of the weed and vegetation ordinance as golf courses. Duncanson said the exemption is for mowing; the exemption is not for allowing noxious weeds. If needs change in the future some areas could be mowed more often. Discussion followed on what the prairie-like areas could look and be like in the future. Neal also mentioned the possibility of these areas being sponsored in the future. Duncanson discussed reasons why areas were chosen. **Motion** by Neal, second by Mielke to accept this and move forward. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Revise 400 Block Fees – Discussion and Possible Action to Revise The 400 Block Fees by Changing the Classifications and Lengths of Rental Periods and Removing Exemptions from Rental Fees for The Block Itself

Duncanson said this item follows up on actions by this Committee to no longer waive the rental fees on the 400 Block for anybody. This isn't going to take away the waivers on existing support fees. Some recommendations from the Finance Director to the Finance Committee that will work well would be to reduce the number of event classifications from five to three and to change the rental period fees from by the hour or day to greater or less than four hours per day. From the existing rate structure Duncanson determined that City clerk staff is only charging for event time and not for occupancy time. He said any other facility rental by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department includes occupancy time from set-up to clean-up. The wording in the 400 Block rental rate form does say that they should apply all the time that The 400 Block is occupied by any event related activity. Committee members agreed that time should include setup through cleanup time. The third recommendation is to remove waivers for the rental fee for the 400 Block itself by striking the words "except for those organizations currently fee exempt on the 'City Services and Equipment Usage Fee Determination Schedule'" under the Block rental fees and deposits section of the 400 Block policy and reservation form. The fiscal impact estimated would be \$2,950 that would be additional revenue to the City although Duncanson figures that amount to be closer to \$3,400 if events are calculated by 'occupancy' time and not 'event' time. The overall event support from the City will still be significant. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Mielke, second by Nutting to adopt the 400 Block revised fees and making change to the policy. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0. Neal abstained from voting.

Winter Program Update – Report on Recent Winter Recreation Program Activities

A report on winter activities was provided to the Committee. Duncanson said snow was made starting in late November and that helped the tubing hill to open on time. There was enough snow made to get through the warm weather. Compared to last year at this time attendance is down. The report broke down differences in temperatures, snowfall, mechanical issues, and incident reports compared to last year. Duncanson discussed the other winter programs including water exercise, ice skating lessons for adults, the upcoming dog gone snow stomps, and sledding.

Fleet Management Software – Report on the Start Up of the New Fleet Management Software

The program has been populated with the park department's inventory and the normal maintenance schedules for various classifications of vehicles and equipment. The supervisors and mechanics are getting familiar with the software and it should be going live soon.

Project Update

Kaiser Pool – Limited amount of work the past two weeks due to the holidays. All pool floor slabs have been installed and pool walls will begin this week, weather permitting. Bath house construction will resume this month utilizing cold weather construction practices.

Athletic Park Playground Screening – A 42' X 47' shade canopy has been selected, colors will match materials already in the park (i.e.) black posts and green sail cloth. The Macdonald Foundation will purchase the structure for approximately \$14,000 and the Park Department will install.

Future Agenda Items – status update of development of sponsorship program, state funding for boulevards, International Mountain Bike Association conceptual design, C.I.P. projects, future phase at Athletic Park

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2015 at 5:15pm at Board Room, City Hall.

Adjourn - Motion by Mielke, second by Neal to adjourn at 6:15pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.