

**DRAFT**

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

Date/Time: February 2, 2015 at 5:15pm Location: Board Room, City Hall

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

Others Present: William Duncanson–Director, Peter Knotek – Asst. Director, Matt Block – CWOCC, Kim and Doug Pittsley, Marie Schmidt, Dakota Hintz, Pat Peckham – City Pages, Larry Lee – WSAU Radio

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 Nutting, second by Mielke to approve the Park and Recreation Committee January 5, 2015 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Sylvan Hill Mountain Bike Facilities – Discussion and Possible Action on a Conceptual Mountain Bike Park Facility Plan for Sylvan Hill Park – Duncanson reported that a preliminary conceptual report has been put together by IMBA Trails Solutions and CWOCC. The plan envisions the mountain bike facility access in the south east area of the park off of Coates Lane. This area would have parking and trailhead facilities plus a pump track and skills area. There would be a perimeter trail and three gravity trails that would begin at the trailhead. The trails have been located to minimize conflicts with the walking/ski trails in the north (lower) end of the park and the chalet area. Block gave a power point presentation showing how some of the various trails and features might look, a cost estimation of facilities, and how risk is managed. Duncanson discussed attributes of the park including that the soils are good, it's a wooded and scenic area, it's in a good location near schools and a golf course, and there is room on the south off of Coates Lane for a trailhead with plenty of parking. He noted that there is access to water which was missed in the report. Duncanson wondered if it was typical to mix beginners and experts in one facility this size. He wants to make sure that all groups had a safe and comfortable experience so he will check on this with IMBA. Discussion followed on two-way sections of the bike trail. Duncanson noted there were separate hiking trails along Jim Moore Creek. Hikers should not be on the down-hill flow trails. Duncanson said staff would like to make enhancements and corrections to the plan and then go out to the public with it. This Committee would then have to consider scheduling design in the City's capital plan. Duncanson said it most likely would be a phased project. Block mentioned that CWOCC is willing to go after grant funding. Gisselman would like to have the entire parks master plan including hiking trails taken to the public. Oberbeck felt this could have a fairly good economic impact to the City. Nutting agreed. **Motion** by Mielke, second by Neal to approve the conceptual use of Sylvan Hill Park for an IMBA trail system with staff making modifications to the preliminary report. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Sponsorships – Discussion and Possible Action on Determining Which Existing Park Facilities to Seek Private Financial Sponsorship of for the Purpose of Offsetting the Tax Levy – Neal said he had written down some preliminary ideas that were just for discussion. The City has great resources that they want to maintain and improve so are turning to businesses and the philanthropic community to help mitigate that burden. Some locations are high profile places while others might have nostalgic appeal or may be located near businesses. Some parks and their amenities might be able to be broken out individually while others might be packaged for the whole facility. He had randomly put in dollar figures based on his initial feelings of apparent relative value of exposure in a particular place. He said that signage opportunity details would need to be worked out. He didn't know what or would not work before he started and was interested in why some wouldn't be deemed viable. Discussion followed on what may or may not work at The 400 Block. Nutting asked that the findings from Neal's and park staff lists be reported back to Committee. Neal said once they have a more condensed list then they look at costs per year and develop values and if he missed anything that it be added to the list as well. Duncanson thought they were working on a \$5,000 limit and listed twelve major items. Staff mainly thought of items that were reasonably marketable and had high visibility in the community. He gets concerned about administrative costs when they start getting down to items for a couple hundred dollars a year. Duncanson said more background could be provided on where some of the names came from like Hammond Park. Neal said that a name can be attached to a name. It's being associated with the park by being tied to the name and this could lead to more opportunities. Neal has some ad hoc members and has asked the Mayor to supply to that Committee a member of staff that would administer program and mainly field inquiries. Other than that they need to determine how to administer it.

Program Review – Discussion and Possible Action on Identification of Tasks and Activities That Have Low Returns in Public Benefits as Requested by the Finance Committee – Duncanson said the Finance Committee requested all departments give ideas on what items they have in their scope of work that have low yield because they are looking for

efficiencies. Staff had looked at reduced mowing and on the recommendation of this Committee to modify the City ordinance it has gone to Public Health and Safety and will come to Council next month. Another area of consideration is doing a test contract on boulevard mowing. Duncanson felt something to keep in mind is that a contractor can be hired and paid but a lot of what is accomplished now in the department is by kids in seasonable labor positions who are trying to help themselves further their education. Value also has to do with providing quality of life and providing opportunities in the community. Duncanson said some other items included reducing ice rinks to just the 400 Block and Riverside Park and enhancing services there, reducing underutilized tennis courts or repurposing them for pickle ball, reducing the amount of free in-kind services over time for special events, and requiring tot lots to be planned and approved through the same processes as all other parks. He also wanted to mention the soccer fields because Wausau has put a lot of money in jointly with the Holtz-Krause Steering Committee and with the County to create the Sports Complex and by doing so he believes the old field spaces need to go down to recreational levels and not be maintained at competitive levels because they will receive less and less use. Gisselman asked that the future of those fields come back to Committee for discussion. Oberbeck felt Brockmeyer Park had been used for soccer games but otherwise it was underutilized. He thought walking trails and flat areas where people could just learn things and not be intimidated by using those organized fields was needed. Gisselman said that he could understand the Finance Committee looking at financial issues but the public benefit and value for parks comes from this Committee. Oberbeck commented that the idea was to look at not doing everything the same just because that is the way things always had been done. They also should be making adjustments that the community wants. Nutting agreed that they need to keep improving.

Radtke Point Park Stabilization – Discussion and Possible Action on a Preliminary Plan to Stabilize Bank Erosion and Manage Use of Radtke Point Park – Knotek said that Becher Hoppe is almost through with their preliminary design. They have come up with using a geo-grid to stabilize the bank itself, vegetation, a small retaining wall at the bottom, and rip-rap at the edge of the water. A fence near the top will keep people from climbing down the slope and doing any additional damage. There will be a new stairway and a pedestrian walkway from the top to the water to allow for shore fishing opportunities. Discussion followed on allowable uses at the park. Oberbeck was concerned about Schofield's responsibility and Wausau taking on the cost when it could have been controlled. Knotek said that is why this type of design was done because between the fence, retaining wall, and rip-rap undesirable activities will be discouraged. Duncanson said this design will go to the Airport Committee and the Schofield Parks Committee and then the final cost estimate will be put together. Both Schofield and Wausau have shared equally in costs of creating this design and both have money in 2015 for remediation. Once this design is completed the projected course is to make a grant request to the County environmental fund for 50% cost sharing on a remediation project which will include the front end cost of design and engineering work. Oberbeck said that they had talked about Wausau being responsible for remediation but not for park improvements like stairways and railings. Knotek said it depends how the project is broken up because the concept is that it's twenty-five percent funded by Wausau, twenty-five percent funded by Schofield and fifty percent funded by the County Environmental Fund. Oberbeck felt there was an issue as far as a dock being put down there causing people to go down to the bottom and creating the issues. Duncanson said that with or without a dock people are going to want to get to the water and if they are not provided with a good access way down there they will find another way which will create more destruction. Mielke felt they should ahead with the proposed plan and do it the right way with the stairs and path so that the park will not be misused. **Motion** by Mielke, second by Gisselman for staff to continue in its current direction and bring back the finalized plans. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Project Update – Kaiser Pool Construction – Knotek reported that they will possibly complete tomorrow all the poured concrete for the pool walls, floor slabs, and zero depth entry. The bathhouse building is out of the ground and more than 50% of the vertical walls are up with rock face and burnished stone. They are still on schedule to install the two pool slides on the east end for the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>. The entire pool right now is still on schedule and budget.

Memorial Pool Design – Knotek said that all testing and soil borings have been done and nothing leads them to believe there will be any problems with the existing soil. He will bring final design to committee in early March and at that point they should be able to go out to bid.

Future Agenda Items – sponsorships, Emerald Ash Borer and fiscal impact update, non-mow area to prairie grass educational update, east riverfront trail update, Brockmeyer Park and handicapped playground equipment, ADA City wide play structures

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5:15pm at Board Room, City Hall. (Mielke will be unable to attend)

Adjourn - **Motion** by Nutting, second by Mielke to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. **Motion carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.