

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Others Present: William Duncanson–Director, Karyn Powers-Recreation Superintendent, Pat Peckham – City Pages, Larry Lee – WSAU Radio, Patrick Hoerter

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.

Public comments – Hoerter said they finished filming the promotional video for JoJo’s Jungle. He will share it with Committee when it is ready.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Neal, second by Mielke to approve the Park and Recreation Committee September 14th, 2015 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Sylvan Hill Bike Park – Discussion and Possible Action on Approving the Final Draft of the “Sylvan Hill Bike Park Conceptual Plan” and Planning a Public Meeting for Plan Review – Duncanson said that changes in the final version of the conceptual plan included inventory information and greater recognition of existing trail systems and how the new facilities would integrate with it. He wanted to make sure that Committee knew that there was water at the end of Coates Lane but not sanitary. One option could be to install a prefab concrete vault toilet unit and have drinking water available. If sewer develops there the unit could be moved somewhere else. Duncanson said if Committee approves the concept plan he would notify Trail Solutions to make the plan available in final format. A public meeting will be scheduled and this item will be brought to Council for approval. **Motion** by Neal, second by Mielke to approve the conceptual plan as provided. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0. (Public meeting date was set to be held at Sylvan Hill Park Chalet on Wednesday October 28th at 5:30 p.m.)

2016-17 Budget – Discussion and Possible Action on Adjustments to the Initial 2016-17 Budget – Duncanson said the targeted change for the Parks Department budget was \$82,603 in reductions as the difference between the 2015 adopted budget and the 2016 executive budget. First, \$7,000 was put back in the park budget for mowing which more accurately reflected the 2015 baseline. Then there were the two supplemental project requests that the Finance Committee had previously directed be added back in the parks budget which were Athletic Park maintenance and elevator for \$7,075 and the pool supplemental request for \$20,402 which took the reductions down to \$48,126. Staff reviewed the pool report and how revenues increased this past summer. The additional pool concession revenue projection is \$23,000 with a projected cost of \$11,500 for additional pool concession expenses. The additional daily/annual pool pass revenue projection is \$25,000. A pool vacuum for \$13,000 was removed and may be purchased through capital funds. This brings the total reductions to \$83,977 which exceeds the budget reduction target by \$1,374.

Season Passes – Discussion and Possible Action on Reviewing the Definition of “Family” and the Associated Fee Structure for Season Passes for Families – Currently the definition of family has no limit as to number of persons included under a single family pass. Staff is aware that other communities differentiate between sizes of families. There is a potential equity question whether a family of three should be paying the same as a family of eight. Powers had summarized the family sizes from this past summer and the most common size was four at 27%, five at 24%, and six at 20%. Twelve families total were over a size of six. Twenty five families total were under a size of four. Oberbeck said they could take the mid-range as the average, give a discount for a family of two and do a small upcharge for anything above four or five. Duncanson said there are different ways to make it equitable. Gisselman felt discounts should be given to small family sizes so that a single parent with one or two children would pay less. Powers mentioned that Wausau doesn’t limit the number of adults in a family and some other agencies only allow a maximum of two adults on a pass. Duncanson said there is financial assistance available for swimming passes and lessons which operates at a 75% offset. He said there a finite number of assistance dollars that are completely consumed every year. The offset could be lowered which would mean some families would have to pay more because season passes are increasing but more families could receive financial assistance. Duncanson broke down the numbers of how often individuals and different size families have to go to the pool before they break even. Duncanson said maybe they should zero in on the \$100 pass for families in the middle range and then back it up so that smaller family sizes have a little lower cost. He said the

resident season pass is really the only discount the Wausau taxpayer gets. The daily admission fee costs everyone equally if they are a resident or not. If they are a resident they have paid towards creating these pools and are paying for the subsidy in operating the pools. The resident passes should be equitable across the board. Duncanson discussed what some of the surrounding communities are charging for different sized families. He mentioned that some have discounts pre-season. He suggests they go with the main lump as \$100.00 and the number of visits it takes before they break even and adjust that going down towards smaller families. He felt it was interesting that one of the communities allows there to be no adults or only one adult that goes towards the total number on a pass because there are some families where parents aren't going to swim at all. Powers said that everyone inside the pool facility contributes to the total capacity because they potentially are a victim or potentially could go in and out of the water so they contribute to the cost of water quality. Duncanson asked that Committee allow staff to come back with a proposal. They are taking this same item to Park Commission tomorrow and would like the City and County to have the same definition of family to make it easier for the public and staff. Neal questioned if the pools were too affordable. Powers said they were at capacity at Kaiser a number of days this summer. It was a new facility and there were some hot days. Discussion on pool use followed. Neal wanted to offer a great value and try to cover expenses. Duncanson said he doesn't want pass rates to get too high so that the use of the new pools drops off. Nutting agreed and said the intent is to provide a service. Oberbeck felt that serving more people will provide greater concession offset. **Motion** by Nutting, second by Mielke for staff to come back with different scenarios on the financial assistance rate and the impact of how many can be served and the overall dollars. Motion **carried** by voice vote. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Mielke for staff to also report back with a base amount for family size of 4,5,6 and some kind of reduction for a family size of 2 and 3. Motion **carried** by voice vote.

River Edge Trail - Report on Initial Easement Acquisition Discussions With Graphic Packaging and County Materials – Oberbeck said that County Materials is looking to do some residential development along a portion of the river off of Winton Street. It would be compatible with the neighborhood, the river and provide an asset for Wausau. The owners would like to see an extension of the bike trail on the property. It would work well if that extension could be connected to the end of Gilbert Park which gets closer to Sylvan Hill Park. Duncanson said the plans are purely conceptual at this time and the first step is to do a floodplain determination. Trail design will depend on how the owners want to develop and what their preferences are. Duncanson said City staff had a positive meeting with Graphics Packaging about acquiring an easement for the Rivers Edge Trail. The outcome is that the local Graphics Packaging staff had discussions with their national office who asked for a more detailed proposal to consider. The City surveyor will do some surveys so that the trail can be designed. There may be a boardwalk in a low area and also docks in that section.

Project Update

Memorial Pool – Above ground block work on the bath house has started. All masonry walls should be complete within three weeks. Concrete floors and walls for three of the five pool section have been poured.

Athletic Park Phase 2 – Most of the foundation for the new concession/restroom/bleacher building are complete and concrete piers for the bleacher supports are underway. Excavation and footing for the new two story viewing deck should begin the week of October 5th.

Radtke Point Erosion Mitigation – Becher Hoppe has redesigned the project and it will be advertised October 5th with a bid opening on October 27th.

Future Agenda Items – reports back on pool fees and family size, Sylvan Hill Park bike trails, Brockmeyer Park updates, overall budget

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

Adjourn - **Motion** by Mielke, second by Neal to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.