

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: December 5, 2016 at 4:30p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Joe Gehin, Gary Gisselman, Tom Neal, David Nutting, Pat Peckham (c)

Others Present: Bill Duncanson-Director, Elizabeth Field-Wausau River District, Patrick Hoerter – JoJo’s Jungle

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 Peckham at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Nutting, second by Neal to approve the Park and Recreation Committee November 7th, 2016 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Park Attendant Classification and Wage - Discussion and Possible Action on Changing Park Attendant Classification and Wage – The Department would like to combine the seasonal job titles of Trail Attendant, Park Attendant and Facility Attendant – Splash Pad into one position title to be named Facility Attendant. The current position that primarily impacts the City is Park Attendant which works with reservable shelters. All of the positions provide direct customer service. Staff is having a hard time filling the positions and would like to adjust the wages up to \$10.00 for a first year employee with a maximum of \$11.00 for a third year employee. The Department has funding available to cover the wage increases. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Gehin, second by Nutting to change the attendant classification and wage. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

Stettin Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Access - Discussion and Possible Action on the Need for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities along Stettin Drive Between Brockmeyer Park and Stettin School – Gehin said the City had made an application under Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for this access along Stettin Drive and it came in second so the funding was not received. He would like to build support and find funding for this unfriendly pedestrian stretch. When JoJo’s Jungle is built in Brockmeyer Park there will be more foot and bicycle traffic between the park and the school. He said they are looking at 3700 feet of 10 foot wide asphalt trail. It will require 1000 feet of boardwalk to cross some wetlands. To cross the Little Rib River there will either be a bridge attached to the existing bridge or a free standing proposed pedestrian bridge of 125 feet. The total cost of the potential project is estimated around \$500,000. Likely some right-of-way or easements would need to be secured. He would like this Committee’s support to take to the CISM Committee. Gehin said that Stettin School is in the City of Wausau but part of this trail would not be in the City of Wausau so they would be working with the Town of Stettin. Neal characterized the access as an enhancement. Duncanson said in the past people have thought of sidewalks and trails as purely recreation, however, they are transportation and that change in thinking has been reflected by the City having the Bike/Pedestrian Committee as an advisory committee to the CISM Committee. Nutting would like to see the access pursued with involvement from the Township in some tangible fashion. Gehin agreed that they should be involved and he would like to see them donate some funding towards it because they are going to be utilizing it too. **Motion** by Gisselman, second by Neal to support that it a good idea for CISM Committee to pursue the bicycle/pedestrian access along Stettin Drive with involvement from the Town of Stettin. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.

JoJo’s Jungle - Report and Discussion on JoJo’s Jungle Adaptive Playground Project at Brockmeyer Park – Hoerter reported that JoJo’s Jungle had been awarded a \$50,000 Community Enhancement grant that was announced in November. They will be receiving another grant tomorrow and are waiting to hear from a few more. They continue to work on the idea of having memorial pavers within the playground. They are trying to go after smaller donations and more community participation. Hoerter said so far they have raised 1.2 million dollars of the 2.4 million dollar project.

Hoerter left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Small Format Event Sites – Report and Discussion on Small Format Event Site by the Library and at Oak Island Park – Elizabeth Field, Wausau River District, said that they had submitted a Community Enhancement grant for the stage. It will be a combination 12 x 16 stage system with extension kits which will bring it to a 16 x 20 stage. It’s all-terrain, weather resistant, textured aluminum with a three stair assembly and guard rail for the stairs. An

ADA accessible ramp can also be done. The total amount of the grant they wrote for the prepackaged system from Stage Drop was \$12,949.93. Their group didn't have enough time to research the canopy enough to get the in-depth information needed for this grant cycle. Field was unsure if her group or a different group would have to apply for that funding. She said this is being discussed in multiple groups so another group could work on the canopy and it still could happen. Neal felt a canopy system would be about \$4,000 to \$5,000 and was pretty important.

400 Block Informational Sign – Report and Discussion on Design and Placement of an Informational Sign on the 400 Block – Field said that a list of specifications went out to nine different sign companies and they are waiting for responses.

Alexander Park Reconstruction – Report and Discussion on the Project of Reconstructing Alexander Park With an Airport Theme – Duncanson said the fundraising has topped \$185,000 and the neighborhood group is close to their total target amount. They anticipate having designs done by the end of February. The construction timeline is to potentially do the jet prior to the Balloon and Rib Fest and start on the park structure after that. He said the project is coming together very well.

Ice Rinks – Report and Discussion on the Status of the Ice Rink at Riverview School – Duncanson said there will be an ice rink at Riverview School that will have a snow berm around it. It will be lit at night and the warming house will be open and operating. The size of the rink was determined between the school district and park staff. Without hockey boards there will be less damage to the turf. The ground has to freeze and snow is needed to pack down before ice can be made.

Hazard Trees on Private Property – Report and Discussion on Recent Public Health and Safety Committee Discussions About Hazard Trees on Private Property – Duncanson said the Public Health and Safety Committee had discussion on dead, dying, diseased trees on private properties and what the City's role should be in having an outlet for neighbors to deal with other neighbors that have problem trees. He said the action is that the Park Department will be preparing information and adding it to the parks website to educate homeowners and give them suggestions on how to deal with problem trees on adjoining private property. Peckham said there will be information regarding trees that go over the property line and if people are worried about something happening and it does happen that the right person is held liable.

Project Update

Schulenburg Pool – Pool shell and underground pool plumbing is complete. Acapulco Pools will return in spring to finalize pool and mechanical equipment. Bath house construction activities are slowing down due to cold weather, mechanical, plumbing and electrical work will continue through winter with final finishes in spring.

Sylvan Hill Bike Park – Staff and a representative from Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition met with Progressive Trail Designs on November 29th for an initial site visit. Construction is scheduled to start early spring of 2017.

Future Agenda Items – library plaza stage (canopy, ownership, responsibilities for setting it up, taking it down, storing it, repairing and replacing it)

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, January 9, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room, City Hall

Adjourn - Motion by Neal, second by Nutting to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 5-0.