

## DRAFT

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

Date/Time: January 9, 2017 at 3:00p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

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

Excused: David Nutting

Others Present: Bill Duncanson-Director, Peter Knotek-Assistant 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 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Neal, second by Gehin to approve the Park and Recreation Committee December 5th, 2016 draft minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

#### Project Update

Library Plaza Stage – Elizabeth Field-Wausau River District reported that the stage is funded. It is a stage platform with extensions to become a 16 X 20 foot stage with a three step walkup and a handrail for the steps. There is a need to create an ADA accessible ramp for it. Metal railings for around the stage were not ordered. Duncanson said railings would probably be needed if it was taken to its maximum height but that is not the intent. The intent is to have it at the low two foot type elevation. He said the City will own, store and manage the stage once it’s acquired. Field said there is a group of people working on getting the canopy financed.

400 Block Sign – Elizabeth Field-Wausau River District reported that they have specs out to eight or nine businesses asking for bids. The deadline is the end of January and at that time they will assess what best meets the needs of the City and bring it back to Committee.

JoJo’s Jungle – Hoerter said they have finished their paver design and will be publishing it for people to do memorial paver donations. He said they are working on having a poker tournament for a fundraiser at the end of February beginning of March. Design wise they are working on electrical and utility plans. Hoerter mentioned that they received a \$10,000 grant from the Dudley foundation and are waiting to hear back from the Christopher Reeve Foundation. They have raised almost 1.25 million of their total 2.4 million target.

#### Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) - Discussion and Possible Action on Approving the Final 2017 – 2020 CORP

– Knotek explained that input was taken from Committee members, staff, and the public. Final revisions included addressing minor corrections and including the development plans for upcoming work at several parks. The real scope of the plan did not change. Electronic copies will be provided on the City website. If Committee approves the plan it will next go to the Plan Commission and then to City Council. Knotek discussed the goal of stressing the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over small playground and tot-lot facilities. Knotek said the plan includes larger items which are more initiative driven and come from support in the community down to the small things that help drive the parks annual capital plan. Not everything in the plan will be achieved in the next five years because of funding so items will be carried over into the next plan. **Motion** by Neal, second by Gehin to approve the final 2017 to 2020 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

#### 2017 Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Program Objectives - Discussion and Possible Action on Projects, Plans, and Initiatives to be Achieved in 2017

– Information about parks goals and objectives, funded projects, and some new items were previously distributed. Duncanson wanted to know what Committee may want to do in 2017 to be able to accomplish some of the items in the comprehensive plan for the 2018 budget. Peckham was interested in what the Wausau flowage drawdown entailed. Duncanson said the idea is to identify maintenance and construction needs of facilities on the Wausau flowage and prepare plans and cost estimates to perform work during the drawdown in 2018 or 2019. This is the Wausau downtown dam that is managed by Wisconsin Public Service. There are a number of parks on the flowage and this could be an opportunity to do work on boat launches and docks. Other issues the City could think about are shore work, improving water views from the Rivers Edge Trail and work having to do with the next phase of the east riverfront development. The City is

looking at more riverbank reconstruction on the River Edge Trail segment from the Barker-Stewart Island Bridge downstream to the floodway dam that is at the head of the kayak course. That sort of work would be better done if the river was dropped down. There are also discussions about the possibility of lowering some of the stone filled log cribs in that section of river to make boating safer and simpler. The City should look at what it would like to accomplish during the drawdown. Gehin thought a cleanup effort in the river would be a good idea. Gisselman asked about specific projects for the Capital Improvement Program. Knotek said what he anticipates to find is undermining of permanent piers, boat launches and maybe some retaining walls which typically don't rise to the Capital Improvement Program level. Gisselman was still interested in the idea of a bridge from Barker Stewart Island to the west side of the City and also if a restroom by the venue behind the library is needed. Staff would like to take more of a wait and see approach and thought people could use the restroom by the Farmers Market. Peckham would like the City to find a site for a dog park in 2017 and build it in 2018. Knotek said once a site is located and a plan developed there will be opportunities in the community for fundraising. Duncanson said a couple of years ago the objective was to have a dog park be volunteer built and operated. Individuals from the pet community thought this was quite doable. This is a common model communities use where the municipality acquires property and puts in basic services. Neal said the City should budget for the items related to the flowage so they are able to use it if the opportunity arises.

Winter Recreation Program Report - Report and Discussion on Winter Recreation Program Activities –

Duncanson said the tubing hill had heavy use over the school Christmas break. The hill recently closed one night because of bitterly cold temperatures. The number of days the hill is available for private daytime rentals has been reduced because of seasonal staffing issues last year that appear to be recurring this year. Knotek reported that there has not been a lot of skating on the 400 Block ice rink this year because of the cold temperatures. The school district is monitoring use on the Riverview School ice rink with their security cameras. They report that over the entire holiday break the maximum amount of people on the rink at any given time was three. Over the entire holiday break there was a total of 19 people that used the rink and some of those may have been repeat. The school will continue to monitor the use and provide information so that the Committee can make a decision on whether they want to continue a rink in that area. Duncanson reported that the sledding hills and the new segment of the Rivers Edge Trail have been getting a lot of use.

Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, February 6, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall

Adjourn - **Motion** by Neal, second by Gehin to adjourn at 4:10 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.