



PARPRO REGION 1

HOSTED BY:
Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry
212 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Josh Kriesel (Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation & Forestry); Bob Stephens, Dan Fiorenza, Jamie Polley (Wausau/Marathon County); Chad Duerkop, Carrie Ottum, Dawn Comte (Eau Claire Parks and Recreation); Steve Peterson (Black River Falls Parks and Recreation); Ben Steinbach (Marshfield Parks and Recreation); Chad Schooley (Wood County Parks & Forestry).

Guests: Jennifer Rzepka (WPR office); Phil Johnson (CBS Squared)

1. Meeting called to order at 10:37am

- a. Welcome
- b. Introductions
- c. Approval of April 25, 2018 meeting minutes. Steinbach motioned. Peterson second. All present-aye.

2. Overview of Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

- a. Wausau/Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry consists of 42 FTE employees who oversees and maintains 52 parks and 9 forest units. The department also oversees the Eastbay Sports Complex that includes 1 lit championship field (240'x360'), 7 full size fields (225'x330'), 2 intermediate fields (120'x210') and 5 small fields (75'X125'). The Wausau/Marathon County area is known for their sports, tourism, and recreation areas. Popular events are the Powerboat Races and Beer & Bacon Festival. In the summer, the department oversees 3 outdoor pools. Other area attractions include Sylvan Tubing Hill, Woodchucks baseball and Nine Mile Recreation Center.

3. WPR Sections Updates

a. Recreation Section: Tyler Ketterhagen (absent, but submitted a report)

- i. E-mail Spring Workshop topics to Tyler.
- ii. Recreation Awards deadline extended to 9-30-18

b. Parks Section: Steve Peterson

- i. Low numbers for Parks Professional and Young Professional applications
- ii. Park Design Award deadline extended.
- iii. E-mail Steve with topics for Spring Workshop.

c. Aquatic Section: Chad Duerkop

- i. Met online last week. Also not many nominations for awards. Struggling to get professionals involved in the Aquatic Section.
- ii. Josh Kriesel was informally nominated for the Region 1 Aquatic Section Representative.

d. WPR Board of Directors: Carrie Ottum

- i. Wegner CPAs were hired to conduct an independent financial audit
- ii. Bylaws were reviewed and several amendments will be proposed at the Annual meeting.
- iii. Approved the Young Professional Network as a new section of WPR
- iv. Board approved a two-year contract extension for Svinicki Association Management, Inc. (SAMI) to run from January 1, 2019-December 31, 2020.
- v. Eliminated fees for posting internships on the WPR website. Free service for members of WPR.

- vi. Knowles-Nelson Funding: WPRA is meeting with 30 stakeholders. Board is looking to have Parks get more involved.

4. Discussion:

a. **Parks: upcoming projects.**

- i. Black River Falls received a \$25,000 memorial donation for a new Disc Golf Course.
- ii. Marshfield – new \$500,000 cougar exhibit at Zoo.
- iii. Chippewa Falls – Erickson Park will be an extension of Irvine Park. All handicap assessable. Funded from \$850,000 DNR Stewardship Grant. Riverview Park – Stage 2
- iv. Wood County – Becoming an ATV destination. Adding ATV camping and facilities in the future near ATV trails. Planning various ATV loops in the county parks. Conducted a survey which stated more trail systems. Long range planning includes adding 3 miles of cross country ski trails, and 70 additional camping sites.

b. Recreation – successful summer programs/events

- i. Eau Claire worked with their school district to expand their after summer school program. Had 742 registered participants in 2018 from 437 in 2017.

c. Aquatics – Dog swim variance. State health department was requiring aquatic facilities to have a dog washing station. Communities worked with their local health departments to accommodate.

d. Future meeting hosts in 2019. Locations and dates TBD.

- i. January: River Falls/Hudson/Eau Claire
- ii. April: Wood County
- iii. September: Ashland.

5. **Guests**

- a. Johnson shared Active Aging Parks are becoming popular. Incorporating active aging concept in parks helps improve community. Individuals are including park foundations/association in their wills and trusts.

6. Motion for adjournment at 12:12pm. Peterson motioned. Fiorenza second.