

**WAUPACA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**  
**Waupaca County Courthouse**

Chair McClone called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave the open meeting statement.

**Roll Call:** Chair Joe McClone; Vice-Chair Gene Sorensen; Supervisors Dona Gabert, Lee Much, and Fred Zaug. Others present: Bill Ponto, Steve Bartel, and Dewey Stelzner representing the Fair Board and the Fire on Ice group. John Francis was also present.

**Review and Approve Agenda:** Motion by Sorensen, seconded by Gabert to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Motion by Much, seconded by Zaug to approve the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

**Public Comment/Correspondence:** McClone opened the meeting for public comment, there was none.

**Fairgrounds Track Conversion Project:** Mr. Stelzner presented the group's proposal to remove the banking and track from turns 3 and 4 on the west end of the track. They would then use the clay and fill from those areas to develop a second pulling lane parallel to and north of the existing pulling track. This would allow them to host bigger truck and tractor pulls during fair and may lead to hosting a nationals event outside of fair in the future. This project would benefit the Fire on Ice group by giving them room to do their "hot-pits" inside the track fence. The Fair would benefit by having more parking space available. There was discussion about what other uses would be impacted. McClone stated that he was concerned about eliminating the possibility of hosting horse racing now and then having to come back in the future and re-develop the track. Francis stated that the decision to be made is if horse racing is something we want to continue to provide for at the Fairgrounds. Stelzner stated that the Fair has not hosted harness racing for several years and they have no plans to in the future at this time. There was discussion about if the Fair Board is supporting the proposed changes and Stelzner stated that they have set aside \$12,000.00 towards this project and that they have other parties that may be donating labor and/or materials.

McClone called for a special meeting to visit the Fairgrounds to view the proposed changes. After a short discussion, the meeting was set for 1pm, October 10<sup>th</sup>, meeting at the Courthouse, then heading to the Fairgrounds for a site visit.

**Fee Schedule Review:** Francis handed out the current rates for the Fairgrounds including storage and building rentals. He also discussed the most recent increases to the storage rates. He stated that the Fairgrounds building rental rates were probably about right and would not require changes except the rate for the new Grandstands Pavilion. He suggested that that building should cost more to rent due to it being more suited for special events. Francis also discussed camping rates for Keller Lake, handing out a list of comparables from surrounding Counties. McClone stated that everyone should review the rates and be prepared to take action on them at the October 31<sup>st</sup> Park Meeting.

**Fairgrounds Storage Building:** Francis explained how much money was left on the project and that there was some driveway/road work to complete yet this fall. At the previous meeting the Parks Staff was tasked with exploring options for a "workshop" area in the new building or attached to it. Francis had gathered some rough numbers for a cost to add on to the new building a heated work area and explained that the cost would exceed what we had budgeted for the building project. There are several unknowns as well including if the building would be required to have a restroom – the building

inspector thought that was likely a requirement. There was discussion about this and it was decided that a workshop should be a separate project that is considered in the future, planning the best location for it and what will be needed. Francis explained how the bond projects all worked together and that the bond money associated with the storage building can be used on the Grandstands Pavilion. Any capital funds associated with the bond projects can be re-assigned as needed with possible review from the Finance Committee.

### Director Report

- **Department Activities:** This section was skipped due to time constraints
- **2017 Project & Purchase Update**
  - **Grandstands Pavilion:** Francis reported that he was going to the Fair Board Meeting on Wednesday to discuss what to do about the office in that building. McClone stated that we should not enter into any agreements with them until it is brought to the Parks Committee for approval.
  - **Crystal River Property:** Francis reported that the Highway Department had been out grinding the brush on site. Parks staff are removing more trees this week with the hope that Highway will develop the parking lot and road in the next week or two.
  - **New restroom paths:** Francis reported that the parks staff poured concrete paths to the new restrooms at Manawa and Shaw's Landing.
  - **Fisherman's:** Francis reported that the shoreline project was complete, the last parts to complete were planting trees and setting the concrete benches. He said it looked good and has received good comments on it.
  - **White Lake Launch:** Francis reported that Highway is supposed to pave the gravel area soon to tie into the existing pavement. McClone stated that the concrete launch was not far enough into the water and that with the low water now, people are backing off the end of the concrete. He requested that the toe of the ramp be checked and rock added where needed.
  - **Keller Park Camping:** The fees were discussed earlier. Francis talked about what they are doing to finish developing the sites, with the intent to open in spring of 2018.

**Upcoming Meetings:** A special site visit meeting was scheduled for 1pm on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Waupaca County Courthouse

The November meeting was moved to 7:30 am Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the Waupaca County Courthouse prior to the County Board Meeting.

**Adjourn:** Motion was made by Gabert, seconded by Much to adjourn. Motion carried without a negative vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Submitted by,

John D. Francis  
Parks and Solid Waste Director