

**Rib Mountain Park Commission**  
**October 10, 2017**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Bill Bursaw, Jerry Muehlbauer, Andrea Larson, Dana Laher, Marne' Bruner and Chad Grundemann. Emily Norton, Director of Summer Recreation Program and Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner were also present.

**Approval of Minutes: Motion by Bursaw/Larson to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting. Questioned and carried.**

**STREET & PARK REPORT** – Street/Park Superintendent Turner reported that Doepke Park shelter rentals have been booked for a majority of the weekends. There are no significant maintenance issues at any park this month, however, the rain garden sign at Doepke is showing wear. We would like to replace the audio speaker system at the Doepke ice rink before winter.

The dog park project was boosted this month by a \$44K donation from a private individual. All of the dog park parcel has now been turned over to the Town. Fencing & the parking lot remain the big expense and we still need additional funding.

The Town's emerald ash borer survey has been completed and 85 ash trees have been identified on town right of ways. It may be cheaper to remove these trees and replace them with other varieties than to treat them if they get infected. Emerald ash borer has now been officially reported in Marathon County and fire wood exports have been quarantined. Scott applied for 2 grants (up to \$5000) from Urban Forestry to plant trees in the township. We purchased 12 trees from Land Art for the median on Rib Mountain drive. Those trees are currently being planted.

Beth Mittermaier from WDNR designed the graphics for Doepke park nature trail signage and the signs are in final review stage. Fossil Graphics will make the finished products. Suggestion to add a 'Welcome to Rib Mountain' sign at Wisconsin river bridge. Scott will examine the costs and report back.

**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM REPORT** – Program Director Emily Norton presented the yearend report to the commission. A total of 97 children attended at the Rib Mountain and South Mountain Elementary Schools. The six field trips conducted were a hit with the kids, especially Grand Lodge waterpark and mini golf activities. Parents transported kids to & from these sites. Emily put fliers at both schools to advertise the program for students. The program is intended for Rib Mountain residents, so we will not advertise the greater Wausau area. Marco Murphy, a new employee this year, was well received by the kids. More staff will be needed for the 2018 program. There have been few job applicants in the past, perhaps because the program is not well known in the community. Marne' suggested that we advertise in the Town Beat as well as on Town web site. Applicants must be at least 16 yrs old with valid driver's license. The program provides good work experience for students considering a major in Coaching or Youth Recreation. For 2018 we might add a field trip to the Wausau airport & airport park. This met wide approval from the Park Commission attendees. We plan to hold the cost at \$75 for the entire summer program.

**DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR VIDEO MARKETING FOR TOWN PARKS –**

Andrea Larson forwarded video clips to the Park Commission members for review. All were well received. It was suggested that the Rib Mountain logo be removed from the footage and instead placed at the beginning or end of each segment. It would be nice to add footage of ice fishing on Lake Wausau, children fishing in summer, and footage or stills of bird watching. Andrea will follow up the Wausau Convention Bureau.

**DISCUSSION ON HAND CRAFTED METAL SCULPTURES** –The first metal sculptures bid price has been received. The artist has worked with municipalities in the past and offered to make small or large pieces to meet our needs. Larger pieces cost \$3000 to \$5000. Bids from other artists should also be solicited. Funding may be available from the Tourism fund. The Park Commission agreed that the first sculpture should be located at or near Rookery Park. A second one would go in the boulevard near Texas Roadhouse. Marne' will discuss additional funding with the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. Scott Turner requested that \$20,000 be added to the capital plan for the Town Board to review. They would then approve, reject, or postpone funding.

**Motion by Bruner & Larson to add \$20,000 to the capital plan. Carried by the Park Commission.**

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**PARK PROJECT LIST – REVIEW AND DISCUSSION** – No updates this month. Chairman Conklin will revise the list as needed when he returns.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT** – Street Superintendent Turner noted park maintenance and park contractual services were over budgeted.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS** – Bill Bursaw stated that he was contacted by a person who would like to conduct the 2018 National Snow Shoe Championship in Rib Mountain State Park and the Town of Rib Mountain. The event could bring 350 people to the area.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bursaw/Larson to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Questioned and carried.**

Submitted by  
Jerry Muehlbauer