

**Rib Mountain Park Commission
December 12, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Brad Conklin, Bill Bursaw, Jerry Muehlbauer, Andrea Larson, Dan Lahar, Marne' Bruner, and Chad Grundemann. Town of Rib Mountain Administrator Gaylene Rhoden and Street/Park Superintendent Scott Turner, Tom Haebig (Wausau Noon Optimists) and Jay Wittman (Wausau Youth Baseball and softball) 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 this month he and Bill Bursaw staked the locations for the recently completed signage on the Doepke park nature trail. The total project cost was \$1,800. The Park Commission sent a thank you card to Beth Mittermaier of the DNR for the graphic design work on the trail signs. As part of the upcoming video marketing project, camera drones will fly along Rib Mountain drive next spring to showcase the shopping district. The proposed video may include the 5-2-5 event, 24 hr bike race at Nine Mile, the Ragner foot race at Nine Mile, Doepke Park ice rink, ice fishing on Lake Wausau, and possibly blue herons at the rookery. Emerald Ash borer update: Ash trees on the median of Rib Mountain Drive have been removed and replaced with other species. We will monitor the remaining 67 trees. Only key specimens would justify the expense of treatment. The remaining trees will be cut down as they become infected. The Trillium trail has been staked to show the planned route. There will be an information meeting January 11, 2018 to solicit comments from the public. The new owner of an 80 acre parcel on Mosinee hill may be amenable to adding public bike trails on the Trillium side of that property.

WAUSAU YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL REQUEST FOR SIGNAGE – Jay Wittman presented a plan to update both ball diamonds at Doepke park to handle the growing program, which serves youth from 5 to 12 yrs of age. They would pay for the improvements and have contacted local businesses for sponsorship to help keep registration costs low for players (currently \$50 per player). No bars or taverns would be advertised and they would welcome any sponsorship rules and guidelines from the Park Commission. Ten to twenty uniform two-colored (green background white letters) vinyl banners (no sponsor logos or pictures) would be tie wrapped to the outfield fence of the main field but not the practice field, and removed after each season. The Wausau City Council gave permission for similar vinyl banners on the fences on their fields. WYB plans to host tournaments again this for the 10 – 12 yr old leagues at Doepke. We would like a sign added to the back stop of the secondary field indicating that it is the public-use field and the main field is for league play only.

Motion by Brad Conklin to approve green & white signage, approved list of sponsors, and new score board for primary field. . Questioned and carried.

Motion by Chad Grundemann to approve a new batting cage on the first base side of the practice field, dug out roof improvements, upsized bleachers on the practice field & extended height mesh screen on the first base side of the primary field. Bill Bursaw seconded motion. Questioned and carried.

Tabled: Bill moved to table a request by WYB to extend the third base line fence of the practice field. A longer fence will interfere with youth winter sledding. Commission members will

inspect the site and make proposals to WYB, which might include a rolling gate or removable fence. Both motions carried and tabling agreed to by Commission.

RIB MOUNTAIN DOG PARK- Gaylene Rhoden announced that the dog park will be named Sandy's Bark Park in honor of Dick & Sandy Austin, major contributors to the project. An additional \$38,000 had recently been received in grant funding, bringing the total donations and grants to \$90,000. Expected total cost is \$110,000. Gaylene is applying for additional grants and the Central Wisconsin Community Foundation may also provide funding. The nearby Quality Inn on Hummingbird drive permits dogs, so this park will appeal to their clientele. Rothschild and Wausau are considering dog parks too, but their projects are still in the very early stages.

NOON OPTIMISTS 2018 FISHEREE – Tom Haebig (715 432 9483) of the Wausau Noon Optimists reported that they served 197 kids last year. The Optimists run ~20 different events each year and the 2018 Fisheree will be at Rookery Park in February once again. They will have an insurance certificate to use Rookery Park in time for the Fisheree

Motion by Bill Bursaw to approve use of Rookery park for the 2018 Fisheree, seconded by Chad Grundmann. Questioned and carried.

COMMUNITY GARDENS DISCUSSION– Dana Lahar spoke with Church Mutual managers about their 2017 community gardens program and was told that users did not maintain or water their plots enough and the burden fell to Church Mutual staff. They don't have enough manpower to handle community gardens at this time. Wausau community gardens are maintained by volunteers & donors (Bridge Clinic) instead of by the city. Dana will contact Wausau Urban Community Gardens to see if they are interested in a Rib Mtn site as an extension of the Wausau program. There is garden space at Liberty Park and water could be installed.

2018 EASTER EGG HUNT DISCUSSION - Marne: Rib Mountain's first annual Easter Egg hunt is planned for March 26 – April 1st. The goal is to get adults and kids to visit the parks. Park commission members will hide two numbered plastic or metallic eggs in each town park and enter clues to find them on park kiosks, Face Book and the Town Beat, and Rib Mountain home page. Winners would bring their numbered egg to the municipal center to redeem them for a prize. We will seek prizes that appeal to both kids & adults. Local Rib Mountain businesses may be willing to provide prizes. There would be no age limit for the egg hunt and we might increase the number of prizes to encourage greater participation.

OLD BUSINESS –

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Street Superintendent Turner noted the Park maintenance supplies is over budget due to purchase of rubber mulch for the playgrounds at Doepke Park

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS – Bill Bursaw stated that persons who recently spray painted graffiti at Rib Mountain State Park have been identified and are paying restitution to have it removed. Mention legal action taken?

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bruner/Larson to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Questioned and carried. Report submitted by Jerry Muehlbauer