

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
WATERWAYS AND PARKS COMMISSION**

January 24, 2018

Members Present: Tom Fiedler, Joshua Miller, Meredith Ball, Ron Doering, David Leaman, Terry Weld, Susan McLeod, Megan Kremer, Jason Duba, Kate Beaton, Jenni Sterling

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, Dave Solberg, Dawn Comte, Pat Ivory

The meeting was chaired by Tom Fiedler in the North Conference Room and called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Election of Officers: The following officers were selected by the Commission.

-Chairperson: Dave Leaman moved to nominate Joshua Miller as Chairperson. Terry Weld seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Joshua Miller then chaired the meeting.

-Vice Chairperson: Terry Weld moved to nominate Tom Fiedler as Vice Chairperson. Susan McLeod seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

-Secretary: Tom Fielder moved to nominate Susan McLeod as Secretary. Ron Doering seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

New Commissioner: Jenni Sterling was welcomed to the Commission.

Business Agenda.

A. Recommendation on an application to rezone land located west of the Northwest Community Park and a preliminary plat for Camden Place. Pat Ivory provided an overview of a request for rezoning of land west of the Northwest Community Park from R-1A to R-1P and R-2P and a preliminary plat that would create 67 residential parcels. Twenty-eight lots would be for single-family and thirty-nine lots would be for duplexes or twin homes. Three of the lots would accommodate existing homes. The preliminary plat proposes an east-west public street (Daisy Lane) that would extend to the City's park and provide a connection to Jeffers Road. Three outlots would be created along the eastern side of the development abutting the park.

These outlots would be used for storm water facilities and are within an existing Xcel Energy electric transmission line easement.

Pat reviewed the concept plan for the development of the community park that was developed several years ago which included a public access from Jeffers Road in the general location as proposed with the preliminary plat. Staff anticipates that the right-of-way labeled as Daisy Lane would serve as this primary public street access to the park, therefore there is a need for the width of the right-of-way to accommodate a pedestrian/bicycle pathway from Jeffers Road east to the park.

Pat discussed the general concept plan for the park and noted that as specific plans for the park are proposed, such plans will be forwarded to the Commission for comment.

Cody Filipczak, the applicant, spoke in support.

ACTION TAKEN: Tom Fielder moved to recommend approval of the rezoning and preliminary plat noting that the City Engineering Department should work with the applicant to ensure that adequate right-of-way is provided to accommodate a bicycle/pedestrian pathway connection to the park. Jason Duba seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Recommendation on an application to rezone land located southeast of Sundet Road and Robin Road with a site plan for an existing park and storm water retention basin and a proposed dog park. The City of Eau Claire is initiating the rezoning of City-owned property located to the southeast of Sundet Road and Robin Road from R-2, I-1, and I-2 to Public to allow a dog park. This includes a site plan for the existing neighborhood park and storm water retention basin and for the proposed dog park. The City approved the neighborhood park and retention basin back in 2001 with a conditional use permit and the rezoning of a portion of the park. The zoning for the south portion of the park remained industrial at that time as a portion of the park was within a tax increment district, which didn't allow a zoning change. That tax increment district has since expired.

The dog park consists of approximately 9.2 acres with the overall park approximately 11.4 acres in size. The dog park would be located to the east of the neighborhood park and be divided into two areas. The larger area (8.2 acres) would accommodate larger dogs and a smaller area (1 acre) would be designed for smaller dogs. Each of these areas would include a trail along the perimeter and would be fenced with a 6-foot chain link fence. A pet watering station and leash transition area would also be provided.

The existing parking lot along Robin Road would be increased in size with the addition of 11 parking spaces. Approximately 8 spaces are currently available.

Jeff Pippenger noted that a portion of the larger dog park area will be within a storm water retention area. The City Engineering Department has consulted the DNR regarding the use of

the retention area as a dog park and the use is permitted. Jeff also noted wood chips would not be used as the surface for the perimeter trail.

ACTION TAKEN: Ron Doering moved to recommend approval of the rezoning and site plan. Meredith Ball seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Recommendation to amend the ordinance for Mobile Food Establishments. Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of an amendment to Chapter 13.12 that would allow mobile food establishments into several additional parks. Boyd, Half Moon Lake, Lakeshore, and McDonough Parks would be added in accordance with the general provisions of the chapter and Newell, Kappus, Cameron, Mitscher, Demmler, and County Farm Parks would be added, but with restrictions of being on Thursdays between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Commission indicated their support for expanding the provisions of allowing mobile food establishments in the City's parks. They also noted that the vendors should be encouraged to provide menu options at lower prices such as \$2.50 or under to make the food affordable for more families. It was also suggested that additional picnic tables should be made available at the parks where the mobile food establishments are allowed. Finally, Commission members felt that the Thursday limitation was quite restrictive and should be available all days of the week.

Aaron Salmon, spoke in support of the ordinance change and agreed that the mobile food establishments should not be limited to just Thursdays.

ACTION TAKEN: Tom Fiedler moved to recommend approval of the ordinance amendment, but suggested that the mobile food establishments be allowed all days of the week. In addition, the Parks Division should make sure that adequate picnic tables be provided at the parks in question and that vendors be encouraged to provide some economical food options. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Recommendation on Site Plan for the Haymarket Plaza Park and Bridge Improvements. Dave Solberg reviewed the final site plan for the Haymarket Plaza park project. Dave had attended the Commission's December and June meetings to provide updates on proposed designs for the project. He also reviewed designs for the pedestrian bridge crossing the Eau Claire River to the north, which is part of the site plan. Construction of the park improvements and bridge are planned to begin in the spring with completion by Labor Day.

Aaron Salmon questioned where the bicycle parking would be located. It should be added before the design is finalized so that it is not added as just an afterthought. He also suggested that the trail along riverfront that connects the trail extending east along the Eau Claire River and south along the Chippewa River be highlighted in some fashion such as using concrete stamping as it passes through the Haymarket Plaza Park. Finally, pedestrian access and circulation to the site at the intersection of Eau Claire Street and Graham Avenue was a

concern. Aaron noted that he would like to have the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee also review the site plan. This committee meets on February 20th.

The distance between the proposed bridge and the Barstow Street Bridge was discussed by Ray Larson. Mr. Larson questioned whether there was a need for the pedestrian bridge.

Mike Brown, from the Chippewa Valley Astronomical Society expressed concerns about lighting and encouraged the City to incorporate dark sky lighting principles as much as possible.

Commission members discussed the project and had a number of questions for Dave. In particular, they discussed the pedestrian circulation and access from the Eau Claire Street/Graham Avenue intersection. It was also noted that benches with back supports should be provided within the plaza.

ACTION TAKEN: Terry Weld moved to recommend approval of the site plan for the park and bridge. Megan Kremer seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

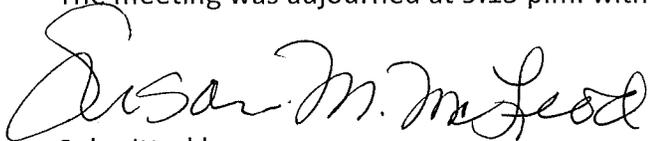
E. Recommendation on Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. Dawn Comte presented the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Dawn indicated that the plan combines several existing documents related to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. Susan McLeod had questions regarding community input from surveys that had been conducted in recent years. Susan suggested that the plan discuss the differing survey methods used in the two community surveys.

ACTION TAKEN: Ron Doering moved to recommend approval of the master plan. Meredith Ball seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Other Items.

-The Commission reviewed the special events listing and Director's Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. with a photo taken of the Commission.



Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary