

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

April 25, 2018

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, Todd Chwala, Pat Ivory

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

Minutes: The minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

New Commissioner: Andrew Werthmann was welcomed to the Commission.

Business Agenda.

A. Recommendation on 5-Year Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Plan. Pat Ivory provided an overview of the 2018-2022 Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Plan. The plan updates the 2013-2017 Plan. Pat noted that the plan is used by the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Divisions of the Community Services Department to identify park, open space, and recreation facility needs and projects for that would then be considered for inclusion in the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. The plan is also a requirement of the Wisconsin DNR and other funding agencies in order to apply for grant funds for park projects. It has traditionally been prepared in conjunction with the Parks Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, which is the long-range plan for parks and open space for the City.

Jeff Pippenger then discussed several of the projects listed in the plan that would be considered over the next five years. He noted that not all projects would be completed during that timeframe, but the listing provides direction as to the park-related needs in the community.

The Commission discussed the plan and suggested that several projects be added to the listing. The projects suggested included: completion of the history walk markers in Phoenix Park, consideration of community gardens at Boyd and Cameron Parks, and consideration of developing smaller scale dog parks within the vicinity of Downtown.

ACTION TAKEN: Jenni Sterling moved to recommend that the suggested projects noted above be added to the plan. David Leaman seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Ron Doering then moved to recommend approval of the plan. Jason Duba seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Presentation on Tree City USA Recognition. Todd Chwala was present at the meeting to inform the Commission that the City of Eau Claire had been recognized for the 39th year as a Tree City USA community. Todd then discussed the Tree City USA program. Requirements to be eligible include: having a Commission or Board such as the Waterways and Parks Commission, an annual proclamation for Arbor Day, having a tree planting activity, and a budget expenditure for forestry of at least \$2 per capita. The Commission thanked Todd and his employees for all their work in the Forestry Division. They also discussed methods that the Forestry Division could better promote the work that has been accomplished and work that is ongoing.

Other Items.

- The Commission reviewed the special events listing and Director's Report.
- It was noted that this would be David Leaman's last meeting with the Commission as he is moving from Eau Claire. The Commission presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary