

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

October 24, 2018

Members Present: Joshua Miller, Susan McLeod, Kate Beaton, John Bodkin, Kirk Dahl, Terry Weld, Tom Fiedler, Ron Doering, Jenni Sterling

Members Absent: Meredith Ball, Megan Kremer

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, Todd Chwala, Pat Ivory

The meeting was chaired by Joshua Miller at the City's Central Maintenance Facility Conference Room and called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Business Agenda.

A. Recognition of CAPRA Award. Todd Chwala informed the Commission that the City of Eau Claire Department of Community Services had received national accreditation status from the Commission for Accreditation of the Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) at the recent 2018 NRPA Congress. This is the second time that Eau Claire has received the award and there are only two communities in Wisconsin that have received such accreditation. The Commission expressed their appreciation to the Community Services Department and staff.

B. Recommendation to approve visual encroachment work along the Eau Claire River at 7 South Dewey Street. Todd Chwala provided an overview of a request submitted by Trust Point to improve the views and vistas along the Eau Claire River in proximity to their property located at 7 South Dewey Street. Tree Savvy would be the contractor and Trust Point will pay for the cost of the project. Todd reviewed the proposed work with the Commission and noted that the work would be supervised by City Forestry crews and that the work was in compliance with the Department policy 7.7 relating to vegetation management along the waterways. The proposed work is also consistent with the policies of the City's Waterways Plan that recommends opening up vistas along the City's greenway system.

Luke Mahall from Tree Savvy, spoke in support of the project and discussed the work that would be undertaken.

The Commission discussed the project and John Bodkin expressed concern about portions of the proposal submitted by Tree Savvy. In particular, the wording as it related to the determination of trees that would be considered hazardous and then removed and also the section related to trees labeled as subordinate and subsequently removed.

The Commission discussed the concerns and Todd again noted that all work would be supervised by City Forestry crews.

ACTION TAKEN: Tom Fiedler moved to amend the wording in the proposal to note that subordinate trees shall be those identified by the City Forester to be removed to allow more desirable specimens adequate room to grow and flourish, in addition any dead trees will be removed and secondly that any native trees deemed to be hazardous by the City Forester shall be removed. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were favor. Motion carried. Ron Doering then moved to recommend approval of the project as amended. Tom Fiedler seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Recommendation to approve a visual encroachment to work along the Eau Claire River at Boyd Park. Todd Chwala provided an overview of a request submitted by the Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association to improve the views and vistas along the Eau Claire River in proximity to Boyd Park. The neighborhood association would be working with Xcel Energy on the project. Todd reviewed the proposed work with the Commission and noted that the work would be supervised by City Forestry crews and that the work was in compliance with the Department policy 7.7 relating to vegetation management along the waterways. Similar to the previous application, the proposed work is also consistent with the policies of the City's Waterways Plan that recommends opening up vistas along the City's greenway system.

Chris Buski, from the neighborhood association spoke in support.

Mark Ruddy, from the neighborhood association spoke in support.

ACTION TAKEN: John Bodkin moved to recommend approval. Jenni Sterling seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Recommendation on lease agreement with the Chippewa Valley Railroad Association. Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of the renewal of the lease agreement with the Chippewa Valley Railroad Association for their operation in Carson Park.

Dave Peterson, representing the association spoke in support. Dave discussed the history of the railroad operation at Carson Park that started in 1978. The Commission thanked Dave and asked if they could get a copy of the history that he discussed with the Commission.

ACTION TAKEN: Kirk Dahl moved to recommend approval of the renewal of the lease. Susan McLeod seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Other Items.

-The Commission reviewed the special events listing and Director's Report. It was noted that the next meeting of the Commission would be on Wednesday, December 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary