

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

December 5, 2018

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

**Members Absent:** Jenni Sterling (The Commission has one vacancy with Megan Kremer's resignation)

**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 October 24, 2018 meeting were approved with the spelling correction of the name Chris Buske under item C.

**Business Agenda.**

**A. Recommendation to approve the McDonough Park Active Aging design proposal.** Todd Chwala discussed McDonough Park and proposed plans to incorporate active aging amenities into McDonough Park.

Phil Johnson, from CBS<sup>2</sup> Consulting was present at the meeting and reviewed the concept plan for the amenities. Phil discussed the various activity areas which would include relocating the basketball court closer to the pickleball courts, the addition of fitness equipment to the north of the existing pavilion, a yard game area to the east of the pavilion, trails and overlooks, a restroom to the east of the pickleball courts, and some natural areas.

Marilyn Skrivseth discussed the concept of the active aging amenities noting the need to provide park facilities that integrate activities and facilities for all ages. These amenities will also provide opportunities for people to socialize and interact with one another.

Mike Peterson also spoke about the active aging amenities and the importance of the additional restroom facility proposed to the east of the pickleball courts.

The Commission discussed the concept plan noting the following:

- Susan McLeod questioned whether the trail use between bicyclists and pedestrians could be separated in some way?
- Ron Doering noted that there is a need for some overflow parking when tournaments are scheduled at the pickleball courts.
- Ron also questioned the proposed location of the basketball court noting that it may create a parking issue. He suggested moving the court further west than proposed in order to encourage those using the basketball courts to park in the far west parking lot.
- Tom Fielder questioned whether the concept plan was trying to include too many facilities within the park.

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Todd Chwala noted that they could look at options to provide some separation between pedestrians and bicyclists. He also noted that an area to the east of the parking lot located to the east of the pickleball courts could be left open to accommodate overflow parking.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Ron Doering moved to recommend approval of the concept plan noting that the proposed basketball court location should be moved to the west, overflow parking should be accommodated, and staff should consider options to provide separation between pedestrians and bicyclists along the trail extending along Dells Pond. Terry Weld seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

**B. Recommendation on a request to vacate the Gibson Street right-of-way located to the west of Graham Avenue.** Pat Ivory provided an overview of a petition to vacate the Gibson Street right-of-way located to the west of Graham Avenue. The request was submitted by the abutting property owners. Pat noted that a parcel would be reserved along the Chippewa River to be deeded to the City to allow for the extension of the trail along the river. Also, a public access easement would be required to allow for the public to access the river from Graham Avenue. It was also noted that view-shed easement to restrict blocking the view of the river from Graham Avenue was being considered.

The Commission questioned the reason for the request noting that the applicant was not present. They also questioned the details of the public access easement regarding whether it would be for the full width of the right-of-way or for a portion of the right-of-way, could vehicles park within this easement thus obstructing access, and would it be improved as an actual pathway and signed at both the west and east ends as available for public use.

Staff noted that if the right-of-way was vacated, the City would not be responsible for any maintenance and that the City's parking regulations would not apply.

Several Commission members questioned the need to consider the request until more details would be provided by the applicant. Others noted that the installation of the loading dock to the south of the Pablo Center was already blocking a portion of the right-of-way, thus making it difficult to use as a public street.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tom Fiedler moved to recommend approval of the street vacation with the easements as discussed and the City taking ownership of the parcel along the riverfront. Ron Doering seconded the motion. The motion carried with Kirk Dahl, Joh Bodkin, and Joshua Miller voting no.

**Other Items.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Submitted by,  
Susan McLeod, Secretary