

**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
WATERWAYS AND PARKS COMMISSION
(Meeting Minutes)**

April 24, 2019

Members Present: Joshua Miller, Tom Fiedler, Susan McLeod, John Bodkin, Ron Doering, Jeanne Mueller, John Lor

Members Absent: Kate Beaton, Kirk Dahl, Meredith Ball, Jenni Sterling

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, 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 March 27, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

New Commission Member: John Lor was welcomed to the Commission.

Business Agenda.

A. Recommendation on Installing a Little Library at Sundet Park. Jeff Pippenger informed the Commission that the City had received a request from Locust Lane Elementary School to install a free library kiosk at Sundet Park.

Cindy Arteson, from the Eau Claire School District discussed the request noting that the staff at Locust Lane would maintain the library and supply the books.

ACTION TAKEN: Jeanne Mueller moved to recommend approval. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Recommendation on Southwest Dog Park and Boat Launch. Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of plans to install a boat launch and dog park within the Ferry Street special area open space located at the south end of Ferry Street to the east of the Wastewater Treatment Facility and along the Chippewa River. The boat launch will include an area for 12 vehicle and trailer parking spaces, a boat launch area, and a kayak/canoe mooring deck. The dog park will include a 24-stall parking lot, pay station, dog transition area, fencing, and water station. A portable toilet, drinking fountain, security lighting, and picnic tables will also be provided at the site.

Phil Johnson, from CBS Squared, Inc. discussed the design of the two facilities.

ACTION TAKEN: Tom Fiedler moved to recommend approval. John Lor seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Presentation on Urban Forestry Report. Matt Staudenmaier, from the Forestry Division discussed the forestry operations of the City. He noted that the City has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for the past 40 years based on its level of service provided to the community. Matt also discussed the Forestry Division staffing, Arbor Day activities, work related to the emerald ash borer infestation, and the re-use of the harvested wood.

The Commission thanked Matt for the work of his Forestry crew.

D. Recommendation on purchase of property along Mead Street. Pat Ivory provided an overview of a request to purchase a parcel on the south side of Mead Street adjacent to three parcels recently purchased by the City for future neighborhood park purposes. The future park site is identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan and is adjacent to an existing trail and a future trail extension.

ACTION TAKEN: Ron Doering moved to recommend approval. John Bodkin seconded motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

E. Recommendation on West Grand Avenue Plaza Improvements. Pat Ivory provided an overview of the site plan for the green space located to the west and northwest of the Grand Avenue Bridge. The work would be part of the planned reconstruction of West Grand Avenue this summer. The existing green space contains landscaping, benches, a covered picnic table, sidewalks, and trails. The site plan for the new plaza would include most of the existing features with the exception of the picnic table. Additional features would include decorative pavers, swing benches, boulder seating, a retaining wall, a small event/gathering area, improved river overlooks, a sculpture, and ADA accessibility to the railing along the Chippewa River. Pat noted that the City would attempt to save as many trees as possible, but trees close to the west end of the bridge would be likely candidates for replacement. Pat noted that the West Grand Avenue Business Improvement District had recommended approval of the site plan.

The Commission discussed the site plan noting that they would like to see as many trees retained as possible. They also noted that a number of people smoke in this area and consideration should be given on a trial basis to designate the area as a smoke free area. The Commission also discussed whether the area should be named, possibly in recognition of Brian Amundson, the City's former Director of Public Works.

ACTION TAKEN: Tom Fiedler moved to recommend that the Commission advocate for naming the area in recognition of Brian Amundson. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

John Bodkin moved to recommend that the City give consideration to designating this green space area as a smoke free area, possibly on a trial basis for other park areas. John Lor seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Jeanne Mueller moved to recommend approval of the site plan. John Lor 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 8:55 p.m.

Handwritten signature of Susan McLeod by PPH

Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary