

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

January 22, 2020

Members Present: Joshua Miller, Ron Doering, Susan McLeod, John Bodkin, Meredith Ball, Jenni Sterling, Kate Beaton, Jessica Schoen

Members Absent: John Lor, Kirk Dahl, Ellen Faulkner

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, Dave Solberg, Josh Solinger, Steve Plaza, Pat Ivory

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

Minutes: The minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

New Commissioner: Jessica Schoen was welcomed to the Commission. Jessica replaces Tom Fiedler who completed his second term on the Commission.

Recognition: A plaque was presented to Bob Von Haden for his service on the Commission from 2008 to 2017.

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

-**Chairperson:** Meredith Ball moved to nominate Joshua Miller as Chairperson. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

-**Vice Chairperson:** Kate Beaton moved to nominate Ron Doering as Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

-**Secretary:** Meredith Ball moved to nominate Susan McLeod as Secretary. No other nominations were received. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

Business Agenda:

A. Presentation on Design Plan for Wilson Park Water Feature. Josh Solinger was present at the meeting to provide an overview of the public input process and final design for the water feature at Wilson Park. The new water feature replaces the fountain in the park that is no longer working and had to be replaced. Josh noted that the City held a series of public input meetings to obtain suggestions on the design of the new water feature. The new water feature includes texturized concrete and multiple in-ground fountain heads using the same area as the previous fountain. Space of seating around the water feature is included and consists of benches, boulders, and grass-covered berms. The City plans construction during the summer. The Commission thanked Josh for his presentation.

B. Recommendation on Downtown Riverwalk. Dave Solberg informed the Commission that the City had planned to construct a riverfront trail section on the south side of the Eau Claire River between South Barstow Street and South Farwell Street. The trail was planned to extend under South Farwell Street to connect with the library property. Cost estimates for the trail are exceeding the budget for the project, therefore changes in the scope of the plan are being considered. Dave discussed the revised plan that did not provide the grade separation at Farwell Street. However, a second phase to the project would provide a stairway connection to a trail that would extend under Farwell Street and then to Dewey Street. Dave also discussed the materials that would be used for the retaining walls.

ACTION TAKEN: Kate Beaton moved to recommend approval of the revised project. Jessica Schoen seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Recommendation on Cannery Trail Extension and Madison Street Underpass. Dave Solberg reviewed plans for the extension of the Cannery District trail under Madison Street to First Avenue located on the west side of the Chippewa River. Plans call for a bid option for stairways that would be located north and south of Madison Street for pedestrians to access the trail from the street level along Madison Street.

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

D. Recommendation of Riverview Drive Reconstruction Project. Dave Solberg reviewed plans for the reconstruction of Riverview Drive from Welsh Court north to Riverview Park. This is a rural cross section street that would be reconstructed to urban standards. Tentative plans for the new street call for two vehicle lanes, room for future bicycle lanes, a wide pathway along the east side of the street, a sidewalk on the west side extending from Welsh Court to Riverview Park and then within the park, and on-street parking at selected locations. Crosswalks are proposed at Welsh Court, in the vicinity of the boat landing parking lots, and at the south end of Riverview Park. Rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) are being considered at a couple locations including at the proposed crosswalk located at the south end of the park. The Commission discussed the project and Kate Beaton suggested that bicycle curb cutouts be considered along the wider pathway to allow bicyclists the opportunity to switch between the street and pathway.

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

E. Recommendation on Update of Half Moon Lake Water Quality Management Plan. Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of the Update of the Half Moon Lake Water Quality Management Plan. The plan updates the previous plan from 2010. Jeff discussed the importance of the lake to the community, community involvement in the update process, and the improvements that have occurred over the years. The plan is important when requesting

grant funding.

Buzz Sorge, retired from the Wisconsin DNR, indicated that he had assisted in the update process and commended the City for their commitment to improving the water quality of the lake.

Bob Von Haden spoke in support of the plan.

ACTION TAKEN: Jenni Sterling moved to recommend approval of the updated plan. Ron Doering seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

F. Recommendation on Rezoning, Amending 5-Year Parks Plan, and Concept Plan for Princeton Park. Jeff Pippenger provided an overview of a request by the City to rezone two parcels of land along West Princeton Avenue and review a concept plan for the Princeton Neighborhood Park. In addition, the City is requesting to amend the 5-Year Parks Plan to include Princeton Park as a neighborhood park. Jeff indicated that the City has been working with the neighborhood on the design for the park and the neighborhood will then fundraise for the improvements.

Phil Johnson, from CBS Squared, Inc. discussed the design of the park and the playground equipment that was tentatively planned.

ACTION TAKEN: Kate Beaton moved to recommend approval of the rezoning, site plan, and park plan amendment. 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 and Steve Plaza was introduced to the Commission. Steve is the new Parks Manager replacing Todd Chwala. Todd recently retired.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary