

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

June 24, 2020

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Pippenger, Steve Plaza, Kristine Basom, Dave Solberg, Pat Ivory

The meeting was chaired by Joshua Miller and called to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held online via Webex.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

Business Agenda:

A. Recommendation on 2021 – 2025 Capital Improvement Program. Kristine Basom provided an overview of the 2021 – 2025 Capital Improvement Program related to Parks and Recreation, Hobbs Ice Center, and Fairfax Pool. Kristine noted that the plan provides detailed project listings for 2021 and more general listings of projects for 2022-2025.

ACTION TAKEN: Kirk Dahl moved to recommend approval of the 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan as presented. John Lor seconded the motion. All votes were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Recommendation to Approve the Concept Plan for Boyd Park. Steve Plaza provided an overview of a concept plan for Boyd Park. The plan was prepared by Ayres Associates at the request of East Side Hill Neighborhood Association. Preparation of the concept plan was formalized between the City and neighborhood association with the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding in September, 2018. Funding for the improvements would come from donations raised by the neighborhood and from grants received by the City.

The plan calls for improvements along the riverfront of the Eau Claire River as well as facilities such as: an adventure playground, neighborhood pavilion, sloped lawn/sledding hill, skate park, etc. An area for winter skating is also provided. It was noted that plans for additional parking located to the west of the park had been eliminated.

Chris Silewski, from Ayres Associates, also discussed the concept plan and the extensive citizen and neighborhood involvement in developing the design.

ACTION TAKEN: Jenni Sterling moved to recommend approval of the concept plan. Jessica Schoen seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ellen Faulkner abstaining.

C. Recommendation to Accept a Donation for Three Stick Box Libraries. Steve Plaza informed the Commission that the Lori Stushek Insurance Agency was proposing to donate three cedar stick libraries to the City to be used in the City's dog parks. Steve noted that other cities had stick libraries installed at their dog parks.

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

D. Recommendation on Safe Routes to Parks Plan. Pat Ivory provided an overview of the draft Safe Routes to Parks Plan. The plan was prepared by West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission at the request of the City. The purpose of the plan is to promote improved pedestrian and bicycle accessibility to the City's parks. In addition, another objective is to increase the use of the City's parks and promote a healthier and more active lifestyle. The plan is similar to the City's Safe Routes to Schools Plan that was prepared in 2018.

Eric Anderson, Senior Planner from West Central discussed the background information in the plan and key recommendations.

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

Other Items.

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

Recognition.

-A plaque was presented to Jeff Pippenger. Jeff is retiring from the City and the Commission wished him well and thanked him for his work with the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Submitted by,
Susan McLeod, Secretary