



Waterways and Parks Commission

Agenda

June 23, 2021

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there will be a meeting of the City Waterways and Parks Commission on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually through online meeting systems and will be available to the public via Webex using a computer, tablet, or smartphone (Webex app required) or telephone (audio only) on the following agenda items:

Waterways and Parks Commission Connection Info:

Event address for attendees:

<https://eauclairewi.webex.com/eauclairewi/onstage/g.php?MTID=e77c808a15a0dd834fe71ef880e0e1d99>

Audio Only: +1-408-418-9388 *Access code:* 146 343 9046

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting, May 26, 2021.**
4. **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
5. **Business Agenda items**
 - a. Recommendation to approve the placement of Little Free Basketball Libraries in Neighborhood Parks (Steve Plaza)
 - b. Recommendation to approve the placement of a Skate-Friendly Obstacle along City Trails (Steve Plaza)
6. **Discussion and Direction**
 - a. Future Agenda Items
 - b. Announcements
 - c. Director's Report (information only)
 - d. 2021 Special Events List (information only)
7. **Adjournment**

Ron Doering, Chairperson
c: News Media

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in accessible location or format must contact the ADA Coordinator for the City of Eau Claire, at 839-4921 or at 203 South Farwell Street by 2:00 PM the Monday prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request."



Waterways and Parks Commission

Minutes

May 26, 2021

1. **Call to Order by Commissioner Chair Doering at 7:04PM**
2. **Members Present:** Kate Beaton, John Lor, John Bodkin, Kirk Dahl, Ron Doering, Megan Holmes, Christopher Johnson, Joe Maurer, Meredith Ball, Ellen Faulkner, Jessica Schoen
Members Absent:
Staff Present: Steve Plaza, Renee Tyler, Ryan Petrie, Christien Huppert, Taylor Graybehl, Ty Fadness, Amber Willi
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting, February 24, 2020**
 - a. Commissioner Schoen made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Commissioner Ball seconded. All votes in favor.
4. **Other Business Agenda items**
 - a. Recommendation to approve a request of encroachment/improvement on Riverview Drive by property owners at 1422 Howard Avenue (Steve Plaza)
 - a. Commissioner Bodkin inquired if an environmental study had been done on the adjacent lots that had been cleared. Manager Plaza clarified that no formal studies have been done.
 - b. Motion to approve the request of encroachment by Council Member Lor, seconded by Commissioner Faulkner. Votes in favor: Council Members Lor and Beaton, Commission Chair Doering, Commissioners Dahl, Holmes, Johnson, Maurer, Ball, Faulkner, and Schoen. Votes opposed: Commissioner Bodkin. Motion passed.
 - b. Recommendation on a rezoning and general development plan for a project known as Galloway Flats located at the southeast corner of Galloway Street and River Prairie Drive, along the Eau Claire River. (Ryan Petrie)
 - a. Brief project overview by City of Eau Claire Associate Planner Ryan Petrie
 - b. Commissioner Schoen had a question on clearing wooded sections and replacement required
 - i. Developers will work with City Forester to clear undesirable growth, leaving healthy plants. Restrictive covenants for the HOA will help to ensure appropriate lawn care.
 - c. Commissioner Faulkner had a question on minimum distance from the top of bank.
 - i. Clarification on requirements and plans from Mr. Petrie.
 - d. Commissioner Schoen had a question on FEMA Flood Plan zoning requirements.
 - i. Clarification on requirements and plans from Mr. Petrie.
 - e. Commissioner Dahl questioned if it is in the residents' best interest to sell this land?
 - i. Mr. Petrie answered – Council designated as excess land for development
 - ii. Mr. Plaza also added that the City will be maintaining partial ownership, including the trail, riverbank, and stormwater retention pond.
 - f. Motion to approve the rezoning and general development plan by Council Member Lor, Seconded by Council Member Beaton. All votes in favor, motion passed.
 - c. The 2022 - 2026 Capital Improvement Plan, presented as the document on file in the Office of the City Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours, is recommended for approval by the Waterways and Parks Commission. (Steve Plaza)



Waterways and Parks Commission

Minutes

May 26, 2021

- a. Commissioner Johnson commented on CIP dollars going towards Hobbs/Fairfax and other facilities that are not free for the public to use.
- b. Council Member Beaton commented on an Otter Creek Community Park and possibly moving it up earlier in the plan, not in current CIP.
- c. Motion to recommend made by Commissioner Faulkner, seconded by Commissioner Dahl. All votes in favor, motion passed.
- d. Recommendation to approve the agreement between the City of Eau Claire and the North Riverfront Neighborhood Association for the Forest Street Community Gardens (Steve Plaza)
 - a. Motion to recommend approval by Commissioner Bodkin, Seconded by Council Member Lor. All votes in favor, motion passed.
- e. Recommendation to approve the agreement between the City of Eau Claire and the Eau Claire Horseshoe Club (Steve Plaza)
 - a. Motion to recommend approval by Commissioner Schoen, seconded by Commissioner Faulkner. All in votes favor, motion passed.

5. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Council Member Beaton, seconded by Council Member Lor. All votes in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:33PM

**PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY
STAFF REPORT
PROJECT NAME: Little Free Basketball Library**

To: Waterways and Parks Commission

Date: 6/24/2021

From: Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery, Building & Grounds Manager

Description: Approve the placement of the Little Free Basketball Libraries placed in Neighborhood Parks

Location: Various Neighborhood Parks (Boyd, Demmler, North Riverside, Kessler and Newell)

Background: A community member has placed wire baskets in Neighborhood Parks to hold four or five basketballs, with signs that reads: "Little Basketball Libraries. Have fun! Return when done."

Justification: These basketball libraries are currently in some of our Neighborhood Parks and the good-hearted citizens did not seek approval for these too be placed. Although we feel that this is a great way to get youth and adult being active I would like to get approval for the placement of these 'Little Basketball Libraries.'

Mission Statement: To support the beautification and awareness of local parks or trails while encouraging and recognizing neighborhood and community involvements.

Suggested Motion: I recommend we approve to have these "Little Basketball Libraries" placed in our parks working with the Parks Department.

Proposed Location: Various Neighborhood Parks

Facilities Features: N/A

Storm Water: No impact at this time

City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan: Goal "C" subsection 3: "Promote joint public-private ventures in developing park and waterway facilities"

City Comprehensive Plan: Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Financial: None

LAWCON: N/A

**PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY
STAFF REPORT
PROJECT NAME: Skate Friendly Obstacle**

To: Waterways and Parks Commission

Date: 6/24/2021

From: Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery, Building & Grounds Manager

Description: Looking to place Skate-Friendly Obstacle along City Trails

Location: Adjacent to City Trails possible Chippewa River State Trail and 5th Ave.

Background: Board Member Johnson has offered a suggestion to place skate-friendly obstacles along our current trail system. He is proposing to place one on a trail basis to see if they are successful. If successful, more of these obstacles may be placed.

Justification: The idea is to place a skateboard obstacle along our current trail system for skaters to use. This would draw skaters away from downtown areas and give them a place to practice their tricks. Pictures below

Mission Statement: To support the beautification and awareness of local parks or trails while encouraging and recognizing neighborhood and community involvements.

Suggested Motion: To be determined after discussion by this commission

Proposed Location: Various locations along City Trails

Facilities Features: N/A

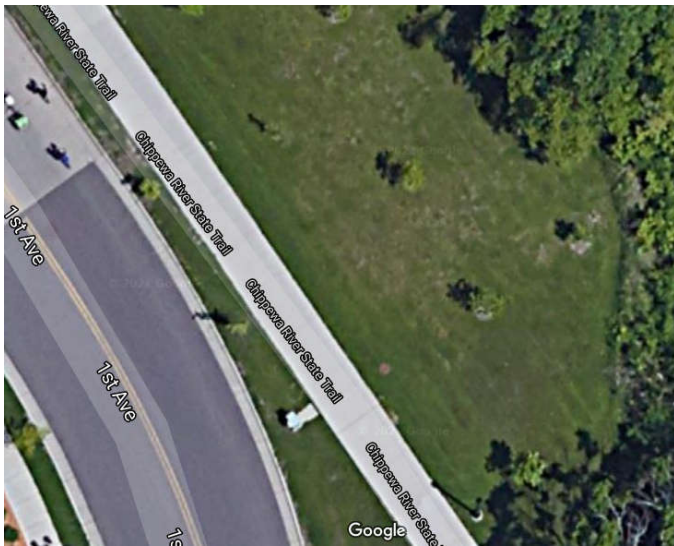
Storm Water: No impact at this time

City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space Master Plan: Goal "C" subsection 3: "Promote joint public-private ventures in developing park and waterway facilities"

City Comprehensive Plan: Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Financial: Undetermined.

LAWCON: N/A



CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PARKS, FORESTRY, CEMETERY, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DIVISION
RECREATION DIVISION

June 2021 Report

Community Services Department

- The Community Services Department is preparing to celebrate the July 4th Holiday with a Festival Foods-sponsored fireworks show launched from Plank Hill, as was done in 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns. Community Engagement with the Eastside Hill Neighborhood has gone well, with most residents expressing excitement. Director Tyler attended the Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association on June 17, 2021 to address any neighborhood concerns.

Parks Division

- Half Moon Lake has been treated with Alum to help reduce algae growth
- The Dog Parks have received some extra attention over the past month with staff mowing, filling in holes around the fence lines, and planting prairie grasses and pollinator plants.
- An influx of park pavilion rentals and special events this spring has kept the Parks crew very busy. Staff visit the pavilions/shelters before every reservation to make sure that the area is cleaned and ready for residents to enjoy.

Forestry Division

- Boulevard Tree planting is nearly completed, with 700 trees planted this Spring.
- The Forestry crew continues tagging, pruning, and removing Ash Trees throughout the City.
- The Forestry division also began injections of Elms, to protect them from Dutch Elm Disease.

Recreation Division

- July is National Parks & Recreation Month and the theme this year is "Our Park & Recreation Story"
- Fairfax Pool opened for the season on June 4, 2021. Staff continues to work closely with the Health Department to ensure that proper safety protocols are in place.
- Recreation summer programs kicked off on Saturday, June 12th

Prime Times

Recreation has completed and released the 2021 Spring/Summer edition. The document can be found online at www.eauclairewi.gov/primetimes. Work has already begun on the Fall/Winter edition.

Special Events

The Special Events Committee continues to work with all the groups that conduct events within city parks and meets at least monthly.

June/July 2021 Special Events

Event	Day/Date	Location
Farmer's Market	Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 05/01-10/30	Phoenix Park
Artist's Market	Saturdays, 05/29-09/25	Phoenix Park
Express Fireworks	Various after Express Games, 05/31-08/09	Carson Park
Downtown Historical Walking Tours	Various, 06/02+	City sidewalks & trails
Food Truck Fridays	Fridays, 06/04, 07/09, 08/06, 09/03	Phoenix Park
Sounds Like Summer Concert Series	Thursdays, 06/10-08/26	Phoenix Park
Meet Me at the Confluence (Exercise series)	Wednesdays, 06/09, 06/23, 07/14, 07/28, 08/11, 08/25	Phoenix Park
International Day of Yoga (and more)	Various, 06/10, 06/13, 06/21, 07/11, 07/30, 08/08	Phoenix Park / High Bridge (07/30)
Municipal Band Concert Series	Wednesdays, 06/16-07/31	Owen Park
United Soccer Tournament	Friday-Sunday, 06/11-06/13	Soccer Park
Chippewa Valley Pride	Saturday, 06/12	Phoenix Park
Radio Control Car Races	Various, 06/15+	Carson Park
Zumba in the Park	Sunday, 06/13	Phoenix Park
Praise in the Park	Sundays, 06/13-08/29	Phoenix Park
Juneteenth Celebration	Saturday, 06/19	Carson Park
Rock the Riverfront Charity Classic (Virtual)	Various	City sidewalks & trails
Power of Perception: Self Care with a Diverse Twist	Saturday, 06/26	Carson Park
July 4th Fireworks	Sunday, 07/04	Forest Hill (launch)
Love Eau Claire Day Camp	Monday-Thursday, 07/05-08/05	Cameron Park
Tuesday Night Blues	Tuesdays, 07/06-08/31, Monday, 09/06	Owen Park
US National Kubb Championship	Thursday-Sunday, 07/08-07/11	Soccer Park
Great Lakes Rally	Monday, 07/19	Phoenix Park
Just Us for Justice Run/Walk	Wednesday, 07/21	Carson Park
Carson Goes Country	Friday, 07/23	Carson Park
Wisconsin NAFA State Championship	Friday-Sunday, 07/23-07/25	Carson Park