



Waterways and Parks Commission

Agenda

5:30 p.m., May 22nd, 2024

City of Eau Claire

North Conference Room – City Hall

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting on Wednesday, April 24th, 2024.**
4. **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
 - a. The public comment period will be for 20 minutes. Each speaker shall be permitted no more than 3 minutes to speak and shall only speak once per session.
5. **Business Agenda Items**
 - a. Recommendation for approval of street vacation of a portion of Cedar Street
6. **Discussion and Direction**
 - a. Announcements
 - i. Discussion on graffiti at Mt Simon
 - ii. Update from the Friends of the Eau Claire Wells group
 - b. Future Agenda Items
7. **Adjournment**

Ellen Faulkner, 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

5:30 p.m., April 24th, 2024

City of Eau Claire

North Conference Room – City Hall

1. **Call to Order** by Vice Chair Johnson at 5:50 pm
Members Present: Don Wisner, Erin LaFaive, Megan Holmes, Mark Stanley, Joe Maurer, Christopher Johnson
Members Absent: Ellen Faulkner, Meredith Ball, Kate Felton, Gina Keenan
Staff Present: Steve Plaza, Lane Berg, Al Rinka, Lindsay Jerry
Others Present: Heather DeLuca, Willi Cheney, John Dunn, Mary McManus, Andrejs Lazda, Nancy Yost, Jon Strosahl
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024.**
Commissioner Wisner motions to approve, and Commissioner Holmes seconds the motion. Five of six present members voted to approve the minutes, with one member abstaining.
4. **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
 - a. Announcement by Andrejs Lazda regarding a discussion about the Wells project to follow the Waterways and Parks Commission meeting, with John Dunn presenting a DNR study.
 - b. Commissioner Holmes proposed a conversation about cleaning up the graffiti at top of the hill at Mt Simon. Commissioner Holmes motions that the topic be on the next meeting agenda, with a second by Commissioner Maurer.
 - c. Commissioner Maurer spoke in a civic capacity, presenting photos to demonstrate the need for softscapes and native plants that promote drainage.
5. **Business Agenda Items**
6. **Discussion and Direction**
 - a. Announcements
 - i. Christopher Johnson Public Mural Installation at Boyd Park
The proposed mural went to council on April 23rd, 2024. With support from the East Hill Neighborhood Association and Eau Claire Skaters Association, City Council approved the proposal for a live artist to finish the four foot tall mural during an event at Boyd Park on May 5th.
 - ii. Cedar Street Vacation (Engineering Staff)
The city is currently building Half Moon Lake Trail from Madison Street to Roosevelt

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Elementary School. Al Rinka, Deputy City Engineer, presented regarding the city's plan to vacate a lot that abuts the trail, after which it would become a back yard lot. The City would maintain a Utilities easement at that location. The proposal will go to City Council for a vote.

The Commission asked questions of staff:

What is the benefit to the city in choosing to do that?

Typically the benefit is reduced maintenance, but were not maintaining much except for utilities. In this case, there is not much advantage.

Are we allowed to vote?

Certainly anyone can attend City Council meetings or write to City Council. This doesn't require our approval.

iii. Half Moon Lake Trail Update

Steve Plaza presented an update on the work on the trail from Madison Street to Roosevelt School. Last Fall and Winter a lot of the vegetation was removed from the area, which follows the old railroad track. The trail was designed to meander around many of the trees.

The Commission asked questions of staff:

Can you talk about the intersections crossing the street?

On the far left where the map shows the intersection, the trail curves to allow pedestrians approaching the street to turn and face traffic, and then turn again to come across the street, in order to turn pedestrian eyes up the street for safety.

They added an angle to the trail at the Platt Street intersection for the same reason.

The trail switches back and forth for an ADA accessible ramp onto Ninth Street.

Is it concrete for ADA compliance?

The concrete is helpful for trail maintenance. Gravel requires more frequent maintenance.

Did you consider a traffic calming measure at Seventh Street?

No one present at the meeting was involved in the planning phase for the trail.

Is there any plan for additional traffic control at the intersection over Madison Street?

There will be pavement marking and signage, but whether lights are warranted depends on traffic volumes.

b. Future Agenda Items

i. Sandstone at Mt Simon

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- ii. Motion by Commissioner LaFaive to have Friends of the Wells on the agenda for the next Waterways and Parks Commission meeting, to give an update. Commissioner Maurer seconds the motion.

7. Adjournment

- i. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stanley, seconded by Commissioner Holmes. Meeting adjourns at 6:30 pm.

Ellen Faulkner, Chairperson
c: News Media

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MEMORANDUM

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



CITY OF
**EAU
CLAIRE**

TO: Waterways & Parks Commission

FROM: Al Rinka, Deputy City Engineer

DATE: May 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Vacation of a Portion of Cedar Street

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Rinka".

Please place an item on the next Waterways & Parks Commission agenda to discuss and make a recommendation on the above-referenced item.

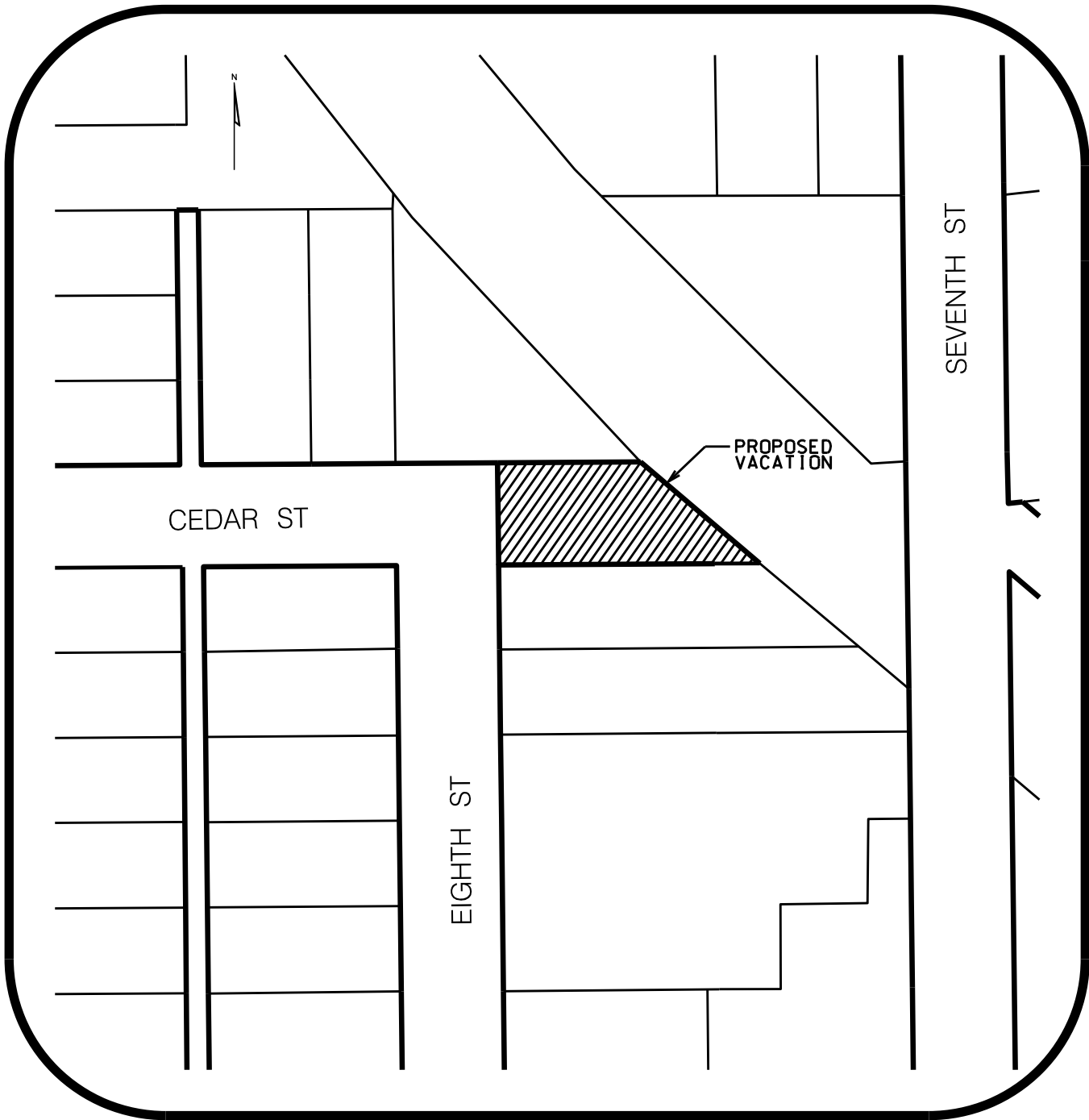
The City received a petition to vacate that part of Cedar Street as dedicated by the Plat of Keith Anderson Addition in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, Township 27 North, Range 9 West, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, adjacent to and north of vacated alley, Lots 1 & 12, Block 26 of said Plat and Lots 6, Block 11, Plat of Keith Bros. and Anderson's 2nd Addition, which lies west of the C. St. P.M. & O Railway; being that part of Cedar Street right-of-way platted from the easterly right-of-way line of Eighth Street, extended north, to the Westerly right-of-way line of the C. St P.M. & Railway. The petition has been signed by the owners of all the frontage of the lots and lands abutting the proposed right-of-way to be discontinued; it has also been signed by the owners of more than one-third of the frontage of the lots and lands abutting the remainder of the right-of-way that lies within 2,650 feet of the ends of the right-of-way to be discontinued, within the corporate limits of the City of Eau Claire.

Storm sewer utility is located within this right-of-way. Some private utilities may also occupy the area. The standard resolution language for the vacation of public right-of-way typically retains utility easements, and staff does not plan to bring forward a companion resolution to eliminate the utility easement in this area at this time.

The proposed street vacation would not impact any current or future utility or motor vehicle transportation needs of the City. At the April 24, 2024, Waterways and Parks Commission meeting, concerns that this could reduce green space and native plants in the community were expressed. After the meeting, staff met with an individual and further discussed it being a natural trail connection for neighborhood pedestrian traffic to the trail that is currently being constructed. Follow-up discussions with the petitioner indicate their willingness to maintain a 20-foot transportation easement through the vacated right-of-way for trail connectivity. A companion resolution would be brought forward to City Council to maintain a 20-foot transportation easement for this reason.

A public discussion was held at the City Council Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024, followed by City Council consideration on the Tuesday, May 14, 2024, meeting. The City Council postponed a decision that evening on this street vacation, however, until it could be brought back to the Waterways & Parks Commission on May 22, 2024, followed by the Plan Commission's recommendation on June 3, 2024. It has now been scheduled for another public discussion on Monday, June 10, 2024, followed by City Council consideration on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

Attachments: Map



CEDAR STREET
STREET VACATION

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

STAFF REPORT

PROJECT NAME: Mt. Simon park – Top of the World Sandstone Formation

To: Waterways and Parks Commission Members

Date: May 22, 2024

From: Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery, Buildings and Grounds Manager

Description: Information Only – Mt. Simon Sandstone Maintenance

Location: Mt. Simon park – Top of the World outlook

Background: At the April 24th WPC meeting it was noted that the board wanted to discuss the Top of the World rock formation, which has historically been painted by outside groups.

Justification: The Parks Department is trying to determine what, if any, cleaning is necessary for the sandstone formation in Mt. Simon Park. This rock formation has been historically painted on, and our concern is that if we try to remove the paint, it may cause more damage to the sandstone. Sandblasting would remove the face of the stone, chemical treatment (graffiti remover) is extremely harsh and needs a lot of water to rinse the area to dilute the chemical. In both instances, there is no trail to bring equipment to the site by vehicle.

Proposed Motion: Information Only – no action needed

Proposed Location: Mt. Simon Park – Top of the World Trail

Facilities Features: Footpath and Sandstone Formation

Financial: Operational Budget

Attachment: Pictures of the site



PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

STAFF REPORT

PROJECT NAME: Friends of the Wells Discussion

To: Waterways and Parks Commission Members

Date: May 22, 2024

From: Steve Plaza, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery, Buildings and Grounds Manager

Description: Information Only – Friends of the Wells

Location: City Well Site

Background: At the April 24th WPC meeting it was noted that the Commission wanted to have the Friends of the Wells discuss the CORBA Trails Project.

Justification: Two Commission members motioned to place an update from the Friends of the Wells on the WPC agenda, which was agreed upon by the Commission.

Proposed Motion: Information Only – no action needed

Proposed Location: City Well Site

Facilities Features: Natural Area

Financial: None – Volunteer funded

Attachment: