

Waterways and Parks Commission

Agenda 5:30 p.m., August 28th, 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, July 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. Guidelines for Waterways and Parks Commission
 Presentation by Jenessa Stromberger, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Eau Claire
 - b. Review of Public Records and Open Meetings Law Presentation by Jenessa Stromberger
 - c. Recommendation on granting a permanent encroachment to Sculpture Tour of Eau Claire for their Sculpture Tour exhibit
- 6. Discussion and Direction
 - a. Announcements
 - b. Future Agenda Items
- 7. Adjournment

Ellen Faulkner, Chairperson

c: News Media



Waterways and Parks Commission

Minutes 5:30 p.m., July 24th, 2024 City of Eau Claire North Conference Room – City Hall

1. Call to Order at 5:30pm by Chairperson Faulkner

2. Roll Call

Members Present Gina Keenan, Mark Stanley, Joe Maurer, Erin LaFaive, Clara Serrano, Aaron

Brewster, Ellen Faulkner, Megan Holmes, Meredith Ball **Members Absent:** Christopher Johnson, Don Wisner

Staff Present: Matthew Staudenmaier, Corey Lee, Lindsay Jerry

Others Present:

3. Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting on Wednesday, June 26th, 2024.

Motion to approve the minutes by Commissioner Brewster, seconded by Commissioner Keenan.

The minutes pass unanimously.

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.
 - i) Chairperson Faulkner inquired whether City Council is addressing the systemic problem of the unhoused population in city spaces. Per Councilmember Brewster, the hope is that the Day Resource Center will be a solution. Per Councilmember Serrano, focus groups have been held recently, with a lot of effort going toward the Day Resource Center, but it's not going to be ready any time soon.

5. Business Agenda Items

- a. Recommendation for approval of an easement at Cannery, Kessler, and North Riverfronts Parks Presentation by Corey Lee, Budget Analyst
 - Xcel is working on a large project to install an eight-inch gas main from Central Equipment Facility to Kessler Park. The majority of Xcel's installation will be in the right of way, and won't require an easement. The easement is needed for a small strip in Kessler Park, two strips in Cannery Park, and five-foot-wide area in North Riverfronts Park. Xcel recently installed an underground electrical utility nearby in Cannery Park, so they already have an easement along Oxford Avenue. The plan is to bore underneath the Chippewa River. A valve set to be located in the right of way by Kessler Park will be the only thing that will be protruding out of the ground. This will likely go to City Council for resolution on August 13th.

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."



ii) Commissioners asked questions of staff:

How will the easement at Kessler Park work if developed? Per Corey Lee, like any easement on a public park, the developer will not be able to build any structure within the easement area.

Did they put it in writing that they're not going to take down the white pine? Per Mr. Staudenmaier, Leah Ness, Director of Engineering, negotiated those changes. They seem to be honoring the change.

Do we know when they'll be finished? Per Mr. Lee, given the boring involved, we can assume it will move quickly.

iii) Commissioner Brewster moved to approve the easements as presented. Commissioner Keenan seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

6. Discussion and Direction

- a. Announcements
 - Update regarding the Public Art Application for a mural at Owen Park
 The application went before City Council yesterday and passed.
- b. Future Agenda Items
 - i) Councilmember Brewster mentioned a number of potential projects for future consideration, including reopening the Concession Stand at Half Moon Beach, with potential to find somebody to rent that space; putting together a citizen public art board offering feedback on design and location; and inviting Billie Hufford to a future meeting to talk about the impact that the unhoused population has on parks, and find creative ways to alleviate that or make their lives better.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Serrano motions to adjourn, Commissioner LaFaive seconds. The meeting adjourns at 6:30pm.

Ellen Faulkner, Chairperson c: News Media

PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

STAFF REPORT

PROJECT NAME: Guidelines for Waterways and Parks Commission

To: Waterways and Park Commission Members

Date: August 28, 2024

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

Description: City Attorney's Office will give us an overview of our responsibilities

Location: N/A

Background: At a previous WWPC meeting the discussion was what is the Commission's role and what is the scope of their responsibilities. I have invited Jenessa Stromberger, Assistant City Attorney to give us an overview of the roll of the Waterways and Parks Commission and to answer questions. We will also review Public Records & Open Meeting laws for clarification.

Justification: The WWPC asked to get clarification of the role of the Commission

Proposed Motion: Information Only

Proposed Location: N/A

Facilities Features: N/a

Financial: N/A

MEMORANDUM



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

TO: Steve Plaza, Parks and Forestry Manager

FROM: Al Rinka, Deputy City Engineer

DATE: August 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Recommendation on permanent encroachment to Sculpture Tour of Eau Claire for the

"Sculpture Tour" exhibit.

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

The City has received a request from Sculpture Tour of Eau Claire for permission to place sculptures at various locations. The Sculpture Tour has been an annual event in Eau Claire since 2011. The request is to locate sculptures along the existing designated sculpture routes of the Barstow Street and Water Street areas with the request to expand into additional City Parks and along the trail system. The proposed and existing locations within Parks and along the Trail System are as follows:

- Carson Park
- Owen Park
- Trail System along Menomonie Street
- Trail System along Galloway Street

The Sculpture Tour of Eau Claire would like to ask for an annual approval of the sculpture locations, similar to what has been approved previously. Maps showing the existing locations, previously approved locations, proposed future locations, and private locations are included for areas throughout the tour

City Council will be reviewing the resolution granting the encroachments from July 24, 2024, until July 23, 2025.

Attachments: Sculpture Tour Maps





























