

REPORT OF CITY PLAN COMMISSION
November 2, 2015 – 6:00 PM
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street

PRESENT: Mayor Wiza, Alderperson Mary Kneebone, Commissioner Anna Haines, Commissioner Bob Brush, Commissioner Hoppe, Commissioner Garry Curless, and Commissioner Dave Cooper.

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, City Attorney Andrew Beveridge, Director Lemke, Comptroller/Treasurer Corey Ladick, Alderperson Doxtator, Alderperson Oberstadt, Alderperson McComb, Alderperson Phillips, Nate Enwald, Brandi Makuski, Cathy Dugan, Anton Anday, Konstantia Shevkoplyas, Danil Bkazhnikov, Bob Fisch, Tori Jennings, Emily Braker, Mary Ann Laszewski, Reid Rocheleau, Anna Marie Slivicke, Jacob Cerminar, Chris Wiza, Angela Matel, and Justin Jacak.

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1. Roll call.

Discussion and possible action on the following:

2. Report of the October 5, 2015 Plan Commission meeting.
3. Request by the City of Stevens Point to amend the Official Street Map of the City of Stevens Point to widen Maria Drive by approximately 33 feet northward, between First Street and Second Street, a distance of approximately 247 feet.
4. Request from the City of Stevens Point for a conditional use permit to construct a parking lot at 172 West Clark Street (Parcel ID 2408-31-1014-02) and 1201 West Whitney Street (Parcel ID 2408-31-1014-01).
5. Request from the City of Stevens Point Department of Public Utilities to purchase property at 1917 Cypress Street (Parcel ID 2408-32-3004-09).
6. Presentation by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
7. Director's Update.
8. Adjourn.

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1. Roll call.

Present: Wiza, Kneebone, Haines, Hoppe, Curless, Cooper

Commissioner Brush arrived at 6:01PM

Discussion and possible action on the following:

2. Report of the October 5, 2015 Plan Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Cooper to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2015 Plan Commission meeting; seconded by Commissioner Curless. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Request by the City of Stevens Point to amend the Official Street Map of the City of Stevens Point to widen Maria Drive by approximately 33 feet northward, between First Street and Second Street, a distance of approximately 247 feet.

Mayor Wiza declared the public hearing open.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, asked if there would be sidewalk on both sides of the street, and when the street work would be started.

Mayor Wiza stated it is very likely for sidewalk, but we are still in the planning phase of the construction, and that once the funds are allocated the project will start, most likely in 2016.

Mayor Wiza declared the public hearing closed.

Motion by Commissioner Hoppe to approve the request by the City of Stevens Point to amend the Official Street Map of the City of Stevens Point to widen Maria Drive by approximately 33 feet northward, between First Street and Second Street, a distance of approximately 247 feet; seconded by Commissioner Brush. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Request from the City of Stevens Point for a conditional use permit to construct a parking lot at 172 West Clark Street (Parcel ID 2408-31-1014-02) and 1201 West Whitney Street (Parcel ID 2408-31-1014-01).

Mayor Wiza declared the public hearing open.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommer Street, is opposed to more parking lots in our parks and requested the commission to deny this request.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue, stated that when the city provides free parking, it is an induced demand. He is against the parking lot and feels there are other options for safety like speed bumps, but also feels there should be more bike parking provided. He asked the commission to discuss this completely before making any decisions.

Barb Jacob, 1616 Depot Street, agreed that there is a need for more parking in the area, but does not feel this is the right location. She suggested shifting the parking lot closer to the park and away from West Clark Street.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, agreed with Ms. Jacob about the parking lot being placed too close to the roadway as well as the loss of green space.

Mayor Wiza stated the KASH Playground is the only handicap accessible playground in the city and the additional parking lot would be able to re-designate the existing parking to more accessible spaces.

Aldersperson McComb, 9th District, stated initially she was against this proposal, but after having conversations with citizens has changed her mind. She feels the lot is needed and is in support of it.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, pointed out this is a residential neighborhood, and there was green space around the home that she would not want to lose.

Aldersperson Doxtator, 1st District, pointed out that when this was brought up about purchasing the property; it was discussed at that time the purpose for the purchase of land was specifically for parking. He is in support of the parking lot.

Mayor Wiza declared the public hearing closed.

Director Ostrowski explained that at the time of purchase of the property, there was a discussion about having this area become a parking lot. The demand is for more handicap accessible parking. This is the only large city park that does not have dedicated area for parking. The proposed lot would be small, and there would be a 35 foot setback from West Clark Street, which would also be screened with the required landscape screening.

Commissioner Haines stated she liked the parking plan, and would like to add conditions of exploring the costs of pervious pavement. Director Ostrowski stated this option can be researched.

Commissioner Curless asked if this would be maintained year round, to which Mayor Wiza stated yes.

Commissioner Brush asked about the number of spaces and the accommodation for accessibility so far from the park entrance. Mayor Wiza explained this lot would be for additional parking, which would open up the availability to increase the accessible parking stalls closer to the playground.

Commissioner Hoppe asked if the lot could be moved to the north, to which Director Ostrowski stated that would take out several more mature trees, which they want to keep.

Commissioner Haines asked if there was signage for the park to which Director Ostrowski stated there is one sign prior to the parking lot just off of West Clark Street.

Aldersperson Kneebone stated she would be in support of the lot if there were the pervious parking surface and additional bike parking added to the area. She also questioned the screening, to which Director Ostrowski stated there is a landscape plan that meets the parking lot screening requirements. Mayor Wiza added that increased bike parking would be a good idea in that area.

Motion by Commissioner Haines to approve the request from the City of Stevens Point for a conditional use permit to construct a parking lot at 172 West Clark Street (Parcel ID 2408-31-

1014-02) and 1201 West Whitney Street (Parcel ID 2408-31-1014-01) with the following conditions:

- **Applicable zoning and / or building permits shall be obtained prior to work occurring.**
- **Staff shall have the authority to approve minor project changes.**
- **Additional bike parking shall be added in Mead Park in various locations.**
- **The feasibility of providing pervious surface for the parking lot shall be explored.**

seconded by Alderperson Kneebone. Motion carried 7-0.

5. Request from the City of Stevens Point Department of Public Utilities to purchase property at 1917 Cypress Street (Parcel ID 2408-32-3004-09).

Director Lemke stated this lot will add available land to the site we plan on using for a new facility. It will make the area more useable, by increasing the land area and future layout of new facilities.

Commissioner Haines asked about the two parcels to the north. Director Lemke stated they are both single family residential homes and the purchase of the proposed land will clear up an access issue with one of the properties. Commissioner Haines then asked if the long term plan includes purchasing those properties. Director Lemke stated no, we will have enough room and would be using the site to replace the equipment building which is too small.

Motion by Commissioner Hoppe to approve the request from the City of Stevens Point Department of Public Utilities to purchase property at 1917 Cypress Street (Parcel ID 2408-32-3004-09); seconded by Commissioner Curless. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Presentation by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Tori Jennings, 1632 Ellis Street, explained that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is requesting an ordinance be considered for bikes left in racks for extended amounts of time. This ordinance would help the Police Department in the determination and removal of abandoned bikes throughout the city. An example of a similar ordinance from Madison has been provided for the commission to review. The suggested Stevens Point ordinance would allow police officers and community service officers to tag and pick up abandoned bikes.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue, stated after the bikes are picked up they are typically turned over to Shifting Gears but he also suggested looking at the Wisconsin/Nicaragua partnership, or even to college students who are in need of bicycles.

Commissioner Hoppe asked if the bicycles are registered and if so is there an attempt to contact the owner of the bike for pick up. Mr. Roark stated yes there is an attempt to contact the owner.

Commissioner Haines asked about enforcement and who would determine if the bike was abandoned, to which Mr. Roark stated the Community Service Officers can tag the bike and if it is not removed within 72 hours the bike can be removed. Mayor Wiza stated the Community Services Officers as well as the new Code Enforcement Officer can tag and remove these bikes.

Commissioner Haines asked if fines would need to be included in the ordinance. City Attorney Beveridge stated he would not impose forfeiture, but a service fee similar to an impounding fee could be applied and placed in the ordinance. Director Ostrowski added it can be placed on a fee schedule which is cited in the ordinance, and then when the fees are updated, there is no need to amend the ordinance. City Attorney Beveridge also stated Madison has their ordinance citing both public and private property, where our ordinance would only address the public properties.

Aldersperson Kneebone asked if there would be an issue with property rights for removing the abandoned bike, to which Attorney Beveridge stated the law would meet the requirements of abandoned property, and we can also post a notice on the bike racks themselves noticing the removal of abandoned property.

Commissioner Curless asked how long the Police Department keeps the abandoned bikes, to which Mayor Wiza stated approximately 60 days, this allows for the owner to be located and the property to be returned. If they are not claimed they are donated to organizations such as Shifting Gears which refurbish them for sale.

Aldersperson Kneebone stated her approval of a service fee imposed and a fee schedule, but does not feel this would be a revenue generator for the city, but does feel this could be a start to a bike share program.

Mayor Wiza explained that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee was created to raise awareness. In addition, a flyer can be designed to identify requirements to register a bike, where to register, and who to call. This flyer would be made available to bike clubs, shops, and on our city website and radio station.

Reid Rocheleau, 408 Cedar Street, is happy to have the involvement of the committee and said citizens need to be educated on the regulations of bike use in the city, especially on sidewalks.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, feels that landlords should be included and required to provide bike parking similar to providing vehicle parking for their tenants.

Tori Jennings, 1632 Ellis Street, advised the public of the regular Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting on the third Tuesday of every month in the City Conference room and invited the public to attend.

7. Director's Update.

Director Ostrowski asked the commission if they were available for a meeting Wednesday November 18th at 7:00pm to continue the Comprehensive Plan meetings. Several confirmed that this would work with their schedules.

8. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.