



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:33 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board members: Donald DeBruyn, Jake Glaser, Jay Orvis, Tracy Koach, Douglas Brandt

Excused: Darla LeClair

Absent: Shannon Derby, Corinne Weiss

Staff: Matthew Heckenlaible

3. **REVIEW LAST MINUTES - APPROVE OR CORRECT**

Minutes from the October 17, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

Jake Glaeser made a motion to approve the October 17, 2023, Environmental Advisory Board meeting minutes, seconded by Donald DeBruyn. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

A. Larry Pruess – 334 23rd Street wanted to expound upon the existing terrace policy and that he started an experiment 20 years ago with different native vegetation and submitted a petition to the City Department of Public Works in 2020 to allow his native vegetation to remain within the terrace area.

B. Dorothy Tinkham Delo – 2100 Garfield Street – voiced her concern of the lack of enforcement of the current terrace standards which are creating safety hazards immediately adjacent to sidewalks and driveway approaches. She stated that she turned in a list to the City Manager's Office, Department of Public Works and the Police Department of notable violations in her portion of the City and nothing has been done about it including:

- * 5'x5' bushes within the terrace

- * driveway access – vegetation blocking the vision triangle

- * pesticides washing into the street, down into the storm sewer and out into Lake Michigan where animals and people enjoy themselves

- * street safety and sight lines need to be enforced

She has had her cane get entangled into bramble/vegetation on verges (terraces) where there hasn't been turf/cut grass, wooden baskets installed, and built up tree retaining walls – all safety issues.

5. **GUEST SPEAKER - Mike Mathis, Director of Parks and Rec.** Discuss status of current Park projects, plus possibilities for Washington Park or Paddlers Park.

A. Zander Park

1. Removed old playground equipment in 2022; and the park floods

2. Received grant in 2023 – created a wet prairie, natives sages, reuse area as story walk

B. Neshotah Park – Master Plan

1. New playground

2. Walks/crosswalks at 21st Street and Pierce Street

3. Other paths and trails
4. Applying for a grant for a new concession stand – strive for LEED design/certification – could be expensive. Year round use? That would be the goal. Indoor rental space possibility.
5. Beach water level/erosion – want to do a study
 - a. How to manage beach erosion to keep the sand in place
 - b. Dune restoration
 - c. Forest restoration
 - d. Native vegetation/pollinator plantings
 - e. Beach warning system – room tax funding

C. Washington Park

1. Funding for park
2. Picnic tables
3. Light pole
4. Path covered in goose poop – plant native vegetation between path and river
5. Possibility of playground equipment

D. Riverside Skate Park

1. Deteriorating skate park – questioning if this is the best use for the park
2. There is a good trail around the pond – scenic
3. Could the park be repurposed to senior focused park?
 - a. All-purpose path
 - b. Chess boards
 - c. Exercise equipment
4. Launch for paddle boats and kayaks

E. Paddlers Park

1. Revegetate with native plantings
 - a. Test plot to try different types of plantings
 - b. Deter geese
2. New kayak launches for ADA access with 2023 capital management grant

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. EAB description change - will be on the 11/27/23 City Council Work Session Status of new DNR TMDL

Matthew Heckenlaible made revisions as discussed at the October 17th EAB meeting. This will need to be an ordinance revision of Sec. 2-5-5E – Duties. Recommendation would be to strike all of subsection E and replace with the 11/21/23 revised text and to add subsection F. Meetings: meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month.

Donald DeBruyn made a motion to adopt the changes as presented, seconded by Jake Glaeser. Motion carried.

B. Status of Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

Matthew Heckenlaible noted that the WDNR website does not have an update as to the present status at this time.

C. Front Yard Vegetable Gardening

- o AB 379/SB 376 "Wisconsin Vegetable Garden Protection Act"

Matthew Heckenlaible noted that the City's zoning ordinance "allows" vegetable gardens, but there have been restrictions in place prohibiting vegetable gardens in front yards, with the present ordinance change to allow them in calendar year 2024. City Council voted to allow for 2024 but need to bring the formal language forward.

D. Partnership between Two Rivers Parks & Rec and EAB to establish areas to showcase

Possibly testing plots for different bee lawn mixtures at Paddler's Park.

We will need to look further into what could be done. The Bee Grass Subcommittee will look at alternatives - taller vegetation or shorter native vegetation.

E. Update on PSC authority over Municipal Stormwater Utilities

- o AB 457/SB 455

City Council took action on a resolution to object to both pieces of legislation and to write a letter to our appropriate representatives requesting them to object on our behalf.

F. Street terrace policy review

Heckenlaible did a Google search on "Street Terraces" to see what various municipalities within the state are allowing this. He looked at 16 various municipalities. The outcome was split between lawn/turf grass or something other than lawn/turf grass. For those that allowed something other:

Height: 12-36" (zones – enforcement concerns)

Setback: back of curb to face of sidewalk

1-3 feet of back of curb or pavement without curb & gutter to 1-2 feet of sidewalk or right-of-way line without sidewalk

Vision concerns: several at driveways, roads and alleys

"Landscaping: rocks, benches, raised planters, raised edging plus most restricted items

Mulch: some allowed – must be flush with top of curb and sidewalk

No woody vegetation – bushes

No overhang of vegetation onto/into roadway or sidewalk, thus recommend setback

No noxious weeds

Park & Rec – control of woody vegetation – notify/follow up (lacking staff)

Complaints from CSO

Enforcement is a concern

Native landscaping vs. turf grass – would this be a "permitted" use?

Don DeBruyn stated he is open to other types of vegetation under 8", cuttable, not woody, allow something other than turf grass.

Jake Glaeser asked if we can look at other low growth vegetation alternatives. If changes, need to be specific to be enforcement friendly because officers are not necessarily vegetation experts.

Permitted – documentation of locations?

Don DeBruyn and Jay Orvis will research other types of low growing vegetation alternatives and report back at the January 2024 meeting.

7. ON-GOING

A. Front Yard Vegetable Garden update

Matt Heckenlaible talked with the City Manager regarding revising ordinance language to City Council for approval.

Elizabeth Runge has sent the public notice to the Herald Times Reporter and will have City Council action taken at the December 18th Council meeting.

B. Two Rivers Park & Recreation Tree Inventory Status & Tree Planting Guidance Document – Update

Inventory completed.

Park & Recreation received a 2023 Urban Forestry grant which funded the tree inventory.

3,046 public trees (mowed around with parks and terraces) – not forested areas

433 identified for removal

113 identified for pruning

284 ash trees (City contracted removal – 10 trees/year)

170 monitoring

37 ash trees with active infestation of emerald ash borer – need to plan on removal

Consultant will get us a final tree management plan.

C. Sandy Bay Highlands – Update

Plan Commission reviewed a preliminary plat at their November 13th meeting. Recommendation to move the platting process along.

D. Winter Educational Series

- 2023-2024 Series Dates:
 - 2023
 - October 5th – “Benefits of Renewable Resources” – Brian Dellemann, Electric Director for Two Rivers Electric Utility and Brady Steigauf from Focus on Energy
 - November 2nd – “Creating Fun and Resilient Parks” – Mike Mathis, Two Rivers Park & Recreation Director
 - 2024
 - January 4th – “Invasive species – flora and fauna” – Jim Knickelbine, Director of Woodland Dunes
 - February 1st – “Local Ecosystems” – Nancy Gill
 - March 7th – “Storm water and storm water management for the City of Two Rivers” – Matthew Heckenlaible, Public Works Director & Scott Ahl, Assistant City Engineer
 - April 4th – “Climate Change” – Mike Peters, WPPI
 - May 7th - “Recycling” – Jon Reisenbuechler, Manitowoc County Operations Manager
- Attendance concerns - discussion
- Alternative ways to disseminate Winter Educational Series information
- Record our programs to start a public access "library" of information

8. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Suggested as Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:30pm

10. ADJOURNMENT: 7:33 pm

A motion was made by Jay Orvis to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jake Glaeser. Motion passed.