



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

**Minutes
Beloit City Plan Commission
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM
The Forum
Beloit City Hall, First Floor
100 State Street, Beloit**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Faragher called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Commissioners Faragher, Moore, Ruster, Finnegan, Kincaid, and Johnson were present. Commissioners Tinder and Mathis were absent.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 18, 2015 Meeting

Commissioner Ruster moved to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Release of Utility Easements – Gateway Business Park

Review and consideration of a request to release utility easements in the Gateway Business Park located east of Gateway Boulevard, south of Apex Drive, and north of Colley Road

Julie Christensen summarized the Staff Report and Recommendation.

Currently, there are no utilities in the easement. Pratt would be submitting a Certified Survey Map to the Council; however, they need the utilities released before they can move ahead with that process. The easements are not needed by any of the utilities.

This would be the next step in beginning to build for Pratt.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve this motion. Commissioner Finnegan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

4. AT&T Easement – Stateline Restoration Prairie Park - 540 Colby Street

Review and consideration of a 20-foot easement to AT & T along Prospect Street in the Stateline Restoration Prairie Park located at 540 Colby Street

Julie Christensen summarized the Staff Report and Recommendations.

There would be no issues related to the right of way regarding the parks, sidewalks or other paths. None of the Division Directors that reviewed this request had any issues with the easement. The City is comfortable with the language in the request.

City Engineer Mike Flesh spoke to the council to explain the history behind AT&T needing the easement. The easement is legally necessary to ensure that AT&T's facilities are located within an easement.

Mr. Flesh elaborated on the conditions of the easement. He stated that the utilities are not above ground and that everything is already underground and in a vault. AT&T would not be allowed to place marker posts above ground.

Commissioner Ruster moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

5. Installation of a Bike Path in Big Hill Park – 1101 Big Hill Road

Review and consideration of a bike path proposed to be constructed in Big Hill Park located at 1101 Big Hill Road

Julie Christensen summarized the Staff Report and Recommendations.

Mike Flesh, City Engineer, described the proposed bike path in Big Hill Park. It would be ideal to pave the area by Goose Creek Bridge if the funding is available.

According to Mr. Flesh, there is a sizable grant that is available. It remains to be seen whether or not the amount will be sufficient once the grading, switchbacks, and tree removal is done. Unfortunately, there is not an extensive collection of projects similar to this with which they could better gauge the price of the path.

They are hopeful to have the path completed by this coming fall. An evaluation of the forest fauna is necessary this coming spring to determine whether a particular species is present.

There will not be any severe drop-offs due to the design and the switchbacks.

Regarding the tree removal, Mr. Flesh stated that, historically, the contractors will usually take the trees to harvest the wood, which reduces the overall fees for the City. The trees that are being removed are older trees, nearing the ends of their lives, yet they still have harvesting value.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the bike path and is very much in favor.

Commissioner Moore moved to approve this motion. Commissioner Ruster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

6. Status Report on Prior Plan Commission Items

The request for rezoning for Elmwood Commons was denied by City Council.

At the next Plan Commission meeting, there will be a sign ordinance exception for Tilley's. The electronic sign was applied for in January and built upon 3 conditions (due to the fact that only three secondary signs are permissible) ---brightness of the sign, needing to remove the Ballyhoo sign, and the display could not change more than every 5 seconds.

There might also be a possible discussion on the CSM for Pratt.

There will be a community forum with the three City Manager applicants at 7pm at Library on April 9th. Audience participation is encouraged and blank cards will be available to provide feedback to the Council. Friday, the three applicants will be interviewed once more by the City Council. Hopefully, a decision will be made and presented for deliberation by April 20th. Department Heads will also be interviewing and providing feedback to the Council on Thursday April 9th, 2015.

There is not an additional meeting for the 43 and I90 project planned anytime soon. The DOT website would provide additional information. Mr. Flesh stated he would be willing to discuss the project individually to further explain the project.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.