WHITEWATER PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2019
8:00 AM
Stoughton City Hall – Hall of Fame Room

Present Members: Regina Hirsch, Alex DeSmidt, Matt Dregne. Brandon Holstein, Pete Manley, Vik Malling, Bob Diebel, and Parks & Recreation Director Dan Glynn
Guests: Eric Olsen, Rodney Scheel, Brett Hebert, Nick Jordan, Marty Melchior (call-in), Mason Lacy (call-in), Riley Gelatt (call-in)

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 8:05 am.

2. Approval of the August 19, 2019 Minutes
Motion by Holstein and seconded by Malling to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Communications
Glynn shared that the City was selected for a capstone project for a University of Wisconsin landscape architecture student. The project will be a master plan for the Yahara River between Lake Kegonsa and the Dunkirk Dam. The kick-off meeting with the student would be later in the week. The Committee shared that they would like to see a timeline with funding sources per component of the project.

New Business

4. Phase II Whitewater Park Engineering
Mason Lacy and Riley Gelatt called in to the meeting and discussed the design of the park along with the preliminary hydraulic analysis. They started the hydraulic model with the DNR's 1D HEC RAS model, used the bathymetric survey, and built their modeling off of that. They explained that they would be able to keep water elevation the same, but may be hard to call it a dam removal project. The options for keeping the water elevation the same are raising the crest of the existing drops or they could add a few more drops with gates. They explained that the current design is a compromise between a whitewater park and upstream impacts. The proposed design has a surface water elevation of 837.2 feet which would lower the 100-year floodplain. The committee agreed to raise the crest elevation or add features to accommodate 100-year floodplain requirements and make it so it was not adjustable.

5. Mandt Park Master Plan Update
Glynn gave an update on the Mandt Park Master Plan. This included rescheduling the public meeting and the results from the stakeholder group interviews.

6. Public Forum
DeSmidt shared that he communicated with John Reimer from Dane County about speaking at the public forum. UW Extension has held public forums where there was a panel of experts discussing different aspects. This was previously done in Rockdale. John Reimer would be available as a panelist to discuss the County's initiative to prevent flooding.

7. River Restoration Process
The discussion first centered around property ownership. A title search would be needed for properties and the deed for the properties may have language about the water boundary. Marty Melchior discussed his experience with river restorations including public forums. He said that the trend is to go towards an extended open house which allows for better attendance and more one-on-one conversations. The main questions during the public forums are usually centered around flood impacts, sediment contamination, and restoration to natural riparian environments. Melchior shares that it usually takes 2-3 years for native grasses with seeds to take hold and plugs are faster. Nick Jordan gave a brief talk about the sediment sampling results. The sediments in the millpond had uniform contamination in excess of EPA guidelines with various heavy metals. They are estimating between 35,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment.

8. Future Agenda Items

- Mandt Park Master Plan
- Public Forum
- Sediment Results
- Dam Removal - Private Property Implications

Adjournment
Motion made by Diebel and seconded by Malling at 10:41 am. Motion carried unanimously.