Director's Report
March 2020

Whitewater Park

- Received notice from the DNR that we were now eligible to apply for the Municipal Dam Program Grant. The reason for the change was that they now provided a directive letter stating that the removal of the dam would improve public safety.
- We had two weeks before the deadline of the grant submission. The grant submission was mostly centered around the dam abandonment and removal application that needed to be filled out and turned in. The dam abandonment application required:
    - A project narrative which described how the dam would be removed. This was provided by REP.
    - Cost estimate for the dam removal. This was provided by REP.
    - Deed for the dam. Attorney Dregne's office had a title search completed. A vesting deed was found that dates back to 1911 that states the City owns the dam and owns the flowage rights.
    - A land use letter was mailed to Dane County Planning. The land use letter was required for any impacted communities. Pleasant Springs will be impacted and Dane County Planning acts on their behalf.
    - Various maps that identify the location.
    - Inspection and operation reports for the dam.
- Uriah Monday who is the Dam Safety Manager for the area was really good to work with through the process.
- Attended the City Council meeting on 2/25 to get the resolution for applying for the grant approved.
- The grant was completed on Thursday, February 27th and needed it to be hand delivered since a post marked date was not sufficient. It was hand delivered to DNR staff at the GEF2 building in Madison.
- I worked with Andrew Constant and Luke Hellermann from Strand on providing cost estimates for the restoration and remediation of the millpond. Andrew is an environmental specialist for them and an engineer. He lives in Stoughton and attended the public meeting.
- The Municipal Flood Control Grant for the restoration and remediation needed technical answers to five pages of questions, so Strand was hired to complete the application. I communicated with them on the grant and provided information to them.
- Attended the City Council meeting on March 10 to get approval to submit the Municipal Flood Control Program grant.
- Wrote a three-page article for the Tower Times giving updates to the project.
- Invited DNR officials to the March steering committee meeting. The regional wildlife biologist will be attending. The fish biologist was not able to make it work, but emailed me saying that the project would better support cold water fish such as walleye and smallmouth bass.
- I contacted Logan Wroge from the Wisconsin State Journal about the project. He interviewed me for about a half hour and wrote an article that updated people about the project.

Miscellaneous

- Checks from area businesses for the Nordic Ridge Playground are slowly coming in.
- There is an active Pokemon Go user group in the City. I was approached by them to sign a letter saying that it was okay to use City parkland for Pokemon Go gyms. I signed the letter because

it's my position that it's good to have as many people as possible using parks. This is also a non-typical demographic.

- Started working with the School District on the baseball diamond light removal. I drafted a RFP for the work, but it may be better to have interested contractors to submit an estimate and have a joint meeting with School District staff to address all issues. There's a lot of nuance with this project due to the lights being on school district property.
- Plaques for 2019 youth sport sponsors were ordered and mailed out.
- Ordered bike racks for Westview Ridge, Nordic Ridge, and Lowell Park. I went with MadRax UX racks with lean bars in galvanized finish. These were recommended by MadRax and the lean bar should add an additional contact point for children sized bikes.
- Met with the new representative from Mad City Crush softball. They are the organizers of the youth state softball tournament.
- I received the draft for the impact fee study. We have been working on getting land costs for the park fee in lieu of section. Director Friedl provided a report with recent land sales, but the consultant from Baker Tilly did not think they were applicable since they were all lots for homes.
- The kick-off meeting for the ADA Transition Plan is scheduled for March 17th.
- I received the development concept for 51 North on 3/13. I had a length conversation with the developer that morning.

Mandt Park Master Plan

- We received the draft report for the plan. Cost estimates will be updated as MSA's architect is on vacation.

Recreation

- Monitored the COVID-19 over the past couple of weeks. We partner with the Stoughton Boys Basketball Association with the tournament and we decided to postpone the event due to the WI Department of Health Services' recommendation to cancel events with 250+ people or where there are people traveling to attend. Our other activities at the time don't fit these parameters, so they are still on. We are constantly monitoring the situation and follow the experts' recommendations. It was communicated with Youth Center staff to wipe down surfaces at the end of the day and that we would be communicating with them if anything changes. We are fortunate we are between seasons. We have a make-up youth volleyball games that were cancelled by Middleton (host site), adult basketball, indoor youth golf, and fitness classes right going on now.

Bjoin Park

- Revisited the park with Daniel Fuhs from ERC. We walked the areas where it was wet and a polygon was drawn on his phone using GPS. This will give us an idea of the acreage needed to be planted. He told me that the site was in good shape to have plantings.

Rotary Park Improvements

- Attended City Council on March 10 to get approval to hire Strand to do the design and engineering work for the improvements.

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- Communicated with Rotary that the design and engineering work was improved. I will be meeting with them on March 18th to scope out what they would like to volunteer with.