Director's Report
November/December 2020

ADA Transition Plan

- Reviewed the draft report.
- Forwarded information to Director Gillingham as she's the City's ADA Coordinator.
- The final plan is completed, but I told MSA to wait until the January meeting for committee approval as I am unsure if I will be able to attend the December meeting to answer questions.

High School Baseball Diamond Light Removal Project

- The lights were scheduled to be removed the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, but was postponed due to weather. Hooper said they are two weeks out as of 12/10 as they are waiting for the ground to firm up so the lawn areas are protected.

Park Impact Fees & Fee in Lieu of Study

- I scheduled and hosted a coordination meeting between Baker Tilly and Laura Callen from Stafford Rosenbaum. They went over the updated value of land and park improvement fees. We need to add the costs of roads and land grading into the park improvement fees. The utility cost can be added to the land values.
- I also asked the question about increasing the land dedication requirement. Both Laura Callen and Carla Gogin from Baker Tilly said due to the state law that we cannot increase the land dedication requirement utilizing this process. The City will need to use resources outside (borrowing, grants, etc) to increase the level of service. They said that we can justify the current dedication amount of 12.2 acres per 1,000 people which is above the national standard of 10.5 acres per 1,000 people.
- I anticipate this being completed for the January committee meeting.

Riverfront Project

- Had a coordination meeting between REP and Strand regarding the trail, pedestrian bridge, and bank restoration. REP sent Strand some photos of successful trail projects they have completed and how they work with the water features.

  The DNR placed the City on a priority funding list for the Municipal Dam Program Grant. The grant funds are given when a design has been approved and the work is completed. When we applied for the grant it was unknown by them if a whitewater park would qualify as a dam removal by the definition in the state statutes. After reviewing our engineering and design documents, DNR staff concluded that the project would be considered a dam modification.

  They came to this conclusion based on two reasons: 1. The design sets the invert elevation of the original structure above what they believe the riverbed is, and 2. The design creates a hydraulic head to create the paddling features.

  There are four options to move forward:
  1. Abandon the idea of a whitewater park and complete a regular dam removal and receive the grant funding. A dam removal would net all the positive ecological benefits with the whitewater park, but not have the recreational benefits. The cost for the dam removal is estimated at

$562,000 which $400,000 would be covered by grant funding. The City would also be responsible for the remediation and restoration of the millpond. An additional concern would be the lowering of the waterway. REP estimates that the water level would drop an additional 2-2.5 feet compared to having the whitewater park.

2. Have the attorneys try to have the legislature re-write the law and definition of a dam. This could take over 5 years and is unknown if the attempt would be successful.

3. Move forward with the current design and without the grant funding. We would also be able to utilize the current foundation for the dam which would save an estimated $150,000. An updated cost estimate will be provided when the final design for the park has been completed. Minimal final design work has been completed in 2020 as we have been waiting for the DNR's determination.

4. Keep the status quo with the dam in place.

Alderperson Hirsch and I decided that it would be best to have a presentation at a future Committee of the Whole meeting to go over this and make a decision.

Rotary Park Project

- I had a coordination meeting with Strand and the project is currently out to bid. The bid opening is on January 15.
- One area of concern is that the Rotary Club received a $10,000 grant to be used towards the project. However, the grant funds need to be spent and report submitted by 5/15/21. The lead time on the restroom is roughly 6 months, so we are hoping to work with the selected contractor to schedule some site work before May so the grant funds can be used.

Bjoin Park

- The court and hoop have been installed. I inquired with Struck & Irwin to provide a quote for fence posts for the tennis backboard. I also inquired with a distributor about tennis backboards and will be receiving a quote. The backboard I am looking to get is fiberglass with a sound dampening panel in the inside. These are much quieter than a standard wood backboard.

Nordic Ridge Inclusive Playground

- Communicated with Bolland Recreation that the additional funds needed for the playground were passed in the CIP. He is honoring their 2019 pricing based on the design selected by the Inclusive Playground Committee.
- Communicated with residents in Nordic Ridge that it was approved.
- Tony King met with Pat Groom and Director Hebert on 12/4 regarding site preparation. DPW may do the excavation and base material installation that is needed. This may give us the option to enhance the playground with shade structures.

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Misc.

- My wife tested positive for COVID in November. I worked from home most of the month since I was exposed to her.
- COVID exposure also impacted the Youth Center in November.
- Created an annual department work plan. It is anticipated that recreation programming will be limited in the first quarter of 2021, so some parks tasks have been delegated to the Recreation Supervisor.
- I started to work on 2021 parks projects that were approved in the CIP. These included the Virgin Lake Trail Extension and Racetrack Park Master Plan.
- The Recreation Supervisor worked on developing esports programs and a special event for winter. The special event has been postponed due to Public Health gathering limit restrictions of 10 people.
- Completed monthly reports for October and November for the youth center that are required by Dane County.