Director's Report
June 2022

Riverfront Project

- We had a meeting about the current deflector on May 24th. Gary Lacy made a field observation that it would be difficult for people to access the current deflector utilizing the stone wall terracing. Based on his experience, he suggested that having 6" cut stone stairs would provide better access to the current deflector. The original suggestion was a 20' wide staircase, but it was later determined that a 10' wide staircase centered on the node would provide the same functionality at a lower cost. I drafted a memo and resolution for the Finance Committee and City Council which was approved on June 14th.
- We had a progress meeting on May 25th and June 8th with the contractor who is building the riverwalk. The stonewall terracing for the nodes has been installed and the riverwalk is starting to take shape.
- DNR staff did a site visit on June 8th to look at the powerhouse, stormwater outfalls, and possible wetland areas. We had a meeting afterwards where Mason Lacy joined via Zoom. Mason brought up the gate to direct water through the bypass channel only during low flows and they seemed receptive to the idea.
- I had a meeting with Army Corp of Engineers, DNR, and National Park Service to go over the environmental study. It is heading towards that we will not need an Environmental Assessment (EA) completed. The Army Corp of Engineers would permit/look at everything below the ordinary high water mark (all river improvements) and the National Park Service would look at everything above the ordinary high water mark (trails, bank restoration). The Army Corp of Engineers has their own internal reporting system to be compliant with NEPA. The work being conducted outside of the water wouldn't trigger a need for an EA.

Mandt Park

- I met with Alliant Energy officials on May 26th to go over the route for the gas line.
- The Fair ran an unpermitted special event on May 28th where a reporter from NBC 15 interviewed Joe Conant. He stated that the River Park and changes to Mandt Park would it impossible for the fair to continue. The reporter emailed me at 1pm wanting to interview me, but I was not available considering it was Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. I wrote a statement when I returned to the office on Tuesday. The Fair still has not paid the fee for using the park for their event.

Virgin Lake Trail

- The survey and soil borings for the trail have been completed.
- Brett Hebert, Rodney Scheel, and I had a meeting earlier this year with MPO and DOT staff where they said there would be an opportunity to write a grant for this project. However, it was found out that the grant was only for planning grants. They said there might be an opportunity this fall. If I would have known this, I would have applied for a DNR grant in May for the construction.

51 West Master Plans

- We had 600 responses to our survey, so we decided to close it. They will be attending either a Gazebo Musikk or movies in the park event to gather more input.

Director's Report
June 2022

Recreation & Youth Center

- The flooring and HVAC system have been installed at the youth center. Some of the kitchen equipment has been delivered. It is on track to be finished in July.
- The state contract pricing is now available for the youth center van and we received a quote. The City Attorney is drafting a lease agreement between the Friends of the Youth Center and City for the van. The friends group received a grant (the grant was only open to 501c3 organizations) to purchase the van, so they will need to own it.
- Gazebo Musikk concerts have started. The first two shows had pretty large crowds (250-300 people).
- I put together a poster with a schedule of the movies we will be showing. We also have a main sponsor who will be sponsoring all of the shows. I have started working on getting food carts for snack options. Kona Ice will be at the first show on July 15th.
- Troll Beach opened on June 11. Someone broke into Troll Beach the night of June 14th. The kicked in the doors to the concession room, guard room, and utility room. They took the change that was set aside for the next day. The police were reviewing the camera footage and are investigating.
- The Youth Center Manager and I met with Dane County staff on June 9th.
- I met with Tom Matson on June 5th at Troll Beach. The bathhouse is in poor shape and needs repair. We are looking at relocating the showers outside, new partitions inside for changing areas, replacing stained wall panels, and repairing broken tiles.

Misc.

- I updated our trail projects for the DOT.
- I wrote a grant for a trail planning project to connect Mandt Park to the Cooper's Causeway pedestrian bridge. The grant is a DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The planning study is needed due to the many obstacles between Mandt Park and Cooper's Causeway and the impact increased trail users could have to downtown businesses. Phil Caravello and Jim Killian wrote letters of support for the grant. I met with Strand to scope out the planning study and cost. I was told by the MPO that they will be recommending our project.
- Our Rec Assistant position is still open. It is not sustainable for our department to not have this position filled.
- I met with Brett Hebert and Mark Edwards on June 7 to review the CIP budget.
- We had a meeting with Sauk Prairie officials to look at Culver's Community Park.
- We had a meeting with Eldon Homes to review changes to the Magnolia Meadows (Teigen property) development. As far as park changes go, the lot configuration on the park changed a little and they relocated more stormwater to the park (they also adjusted the road to the south so the amount of parkland was unchanged).
- I was contacted by a company looking at putting in a cell phone tower in Bjoin Park. I think a better location for them might be off the River Trail near the industrial park. They have offered $2,000 a month for the lease.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

2022 SCHEDULE

FREE MOVIES AT NORDIC RIDGE PARK! THE MOVIES WILL START AT DUSK.

JULY 15

JULY 29

AUGUST 12

AUGUST 26

SEPT. 16

SEPT. 30

HOLT REALTY PARTNERS

Stoughton PARKS & RECREATION

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

PIZZA PIT

Culver's

STOUGHTON HEALTH
Creating Excellence Together

H&R BLOCK

CITY OF STOUGHTON
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Dan Glynn, Director
Tony King, Recreation Supervisor
Greg Hoyte, Youth Center Manager
207 S. Forrest Street Stoughton, WI 53589
(608) 873-6746 www.stoughtonrec.com

Date: May 31, 2022

From: Dan Glynn, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Stoughton Fair

Mandt Park, which houses the fairgrounds, is underutilized. It is one of two community parks that the City owns and the way the infrastructure is laid out in the park limits the use. To make better use of the park, a master planning process for the park was undertaken in 2019 and adopted with a 12-0 vote by City Council in 2021.

The City hired MSA to complete the master plan due to their experience working on fairgrounds and waterfronts. The Stoughton Fair Board was identified as a stakeholder group and were interviewed by MSA during the planning process. The Fair Board communicated that they would like more year-round events, so four season buildings were proposed for the fair grounds. Additionally, MSA observed the Fair event in 2019 which included drone photos on how the midway was setup and vehicles were parked.

It was brought to our attention at a later meeting with Fair Board members that three barns were needed to house the different animals and that the Fair did not have enough funds to construct four season buildings. Later meetings discovered that the Fair does not have a strategic plan or budget for capital improvements. The City has offered to get them connected to UW-Extension so that these items could be completed, but to date the Fair has declined.

This past November the 30% design for the first phase of the park improvements was initiated. The first phase of the park improvements include a new roadway system through the park, restroom facility, removal of an underutilized softball diamond, removal of a roadway parallel to the Yahara River which will be replaced by a pedestrian trail and river access sites. Fair Board members participated in three meetings with the design engineer during this design phase. A new concern about traffic patterns was brought to our attention by Fair Board members. To accommodate the traffic patterns, the design for the parking includes wide turn radiuses to accommodate Fair vehicles. We will be meeting with the Fair as the design progresses to ensure their needs are being accommodated.

With that said, the River Park and Mandt Park improvements are two separate issues and shouldn't be comingled. The River Park will bring more visitors to the area which should increase business for the Fair. Additionally, the lease agreement the Fair holds for the park gives them exclusive use of the park for the week of July 4th outside of Troll Beach for $1.

Dan Glynn
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