Director's Report
September 2020

COVID-19/Operations

- Worked with the Recreation Supervisor to develop program modifications.
    - Flag football and miniball soccer have been modified. We are limited to class sizes of 15 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration for both programs has been good and flag football filled on the first day. The coach is unable to volunteer beyond this so we are limited to this.
    - Gazebo Musikk has been modified to be a drive-in series for this season. There are concerts scheduled for Thursdays and Fridays through the end of September. The first concert was a soft opening with little promotion. This was to help us figure out the logistics of everything being involved. The second concert was promoted and there were 55 cars that watched the show. It has been well-received so far.
    - I worked with the Youth Center Manager to develop a plan for the fall. Two surveys were sent out to families; one was for educational support/tutoring and the other was for recreational/social activities. There will be virtual tutoring starting in September and small group in-person tutoring at the Youth Center for Spanish speaking children. We are going to try doing small group meet-ups at parks for social interaction which parents felt children were missing due to no sports and school.

ADA Transition Plan

- Put together a drat prioritization of improvements. The next step is to meet with MSA to discuss the prioritization. Some of these items were included in the CIP.

High School Baseball Diamond Light Removal Project

- We are waiting for the ospreys to migrate south for the winter. They were still actively nesting the week of September 7th.
- I have been communicating with a community member about the plan for the lights and the ospreys. He lives near the high school and has been watching them. He seems satisfied with our plan to keep a pole with nesting platform due to DNR recommendations.

Riverfront Project

- Attended permitting meeting with the DNR.
- Scheduled a project coordination meeting between the County engineers and REP.
- Reviewed draft hydraulics video.

Rotary Park Project

- I am actively trying to get a second quote for the excavation. Moyer's will be providing one with Fox Excavation doing the excavating.
- I received a contact for an excavation company through a developer and the company was too busy to work on the project. Other local excavation companies have replied saying the work was outside of their ability due to the technicality of it.

Bjoin Park

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- Created a presentation for the master plan and presented it to City Council.
- I have started to reach out to concrete companies regarding the sport court.
- I reached out to ERC about what a grow in program for the prairie would consist of and the cost. The first year would require 3-4 mowings depending on the amount of rain we receive. Each mowing would be approximately $1,000. The second year would require 2-3 mowings depending on the amount of rain we receive. The third year would be a prescribed burn. The fourth and fifth years would consist of spot mowing treatments. I have budgeted $18,000 in the CIP for the prairie. This should provide enough money for the first year of maintenance and the plantings. The upfront cost for the prairie is higher than keeping the remaining turf grass, but will provide savings in the long-term. It is also more aesthetically pleasing since the turf cannot be mowed during wet periods and is better for the environment.

Misc.

- I was contacted by a skateboarder looking to build a new skate park. I explained to him that a new skate park is planned for Mandt Park (part of the master plan) and the schedule for improvements based on phasing. I told him that the best approach would be to rehab and/or add low cost features to the existing park. I told him to meet with his friends that are skaters to come up with a list of improvements that they like and we can have a Zoom meeting to talk about them.
- I was contacted by a mountain biker looking to build a single track trail at Schefelker Park. There are mountain bike trails planned for Lowell Park, so I am going to steer him to that park. After I was contacted, I reached out to Jon Augspurger with Capital Off-Road Pathfinders with questions about building and maintaining trails. I would like to develop a volunteer group who maintains the trail. This is other Dane County communities have approached these.
- I worked with the Mayor and developer on the Highway 51 West site selection for parkland. We went through several iterations throughout the summer. Trail corridors, protecting regional trail connections, park linkage, street frontage, and dedication acreage were discussed.
- Took vacation between 8/31-9/4.