Director's Report
September 2022

Riverfront Project

- We didn't receive the grant for the Mandt Park improvements. I had a meeting on August 22 to discuss the grant application with the DNR. They said it was a very competitive cycle and they had an abnormal amount of lakefront and riverfront projects which rank high. They told me that I maximized our point value and one thing we could do this coming year is to amend the TIF from the riverfront to include some improvements. This would give us an additional two points (we were one point short of being funded). With how competitive these grants are, the City should be including park and trail improvements into the TIFs.
- The public comment period ended for the Army Corp and they sent us the comments. Most of the comments have been addressed previously. We will be working on our response over the next couple of weeks.
- I wrote a memo regarding the Municipal Flood Control Grant award and contract for City Council.

Virgin Lake Trail

- We received the preliminary trail alignment for the sections between Jackson St and 51 West.
- I sent the plans to the Virgin Lake Dr Condo Association and told them that I could attend a future meeting to discuss the trail.
- A condo owner is concerned about the tree removals needed for the trail between Roby Rd and 51 West. I walked the trail with her and Dan Schmitt from MSA. We identified one large oak tree that would be directly in the middle of the trail. I told the condo owner that if we got an easement that we could protect the tree by moving the trail. The tree is directly behind her house and she sounded amicable about the easement. Other trees impacted were not significant. The older oak trees in that area have branches that extend horizontally, so it was probably a more open savanna in the distant past. There are a lot of squirrels in the area due to the black walnut, oak, and buckeye trees.
- I took a look at the 2022 DNR's Recreational Trails grant program and mocked the point total for the project. The sections between Jackson St and Roby Rd score more favorably than the section between Roby Rd and 51 West due to them being classified as reconstruction projects. Based on 2022 scoring and what was funded, the sections between Jackson St and Roby Rd would have been funded. However, their point totals would have been right at the funding line. This is another instance where if they were included in the TIF plan, then they would be comfortably in the funded category. The section between Roby Rd and 51 West is not a good fit for the program. The better fit would be the DOT TAP grant, but I'm unsure if it would be funded or not as it's extremely competitive and structured for more urban areas.

51 West Master Plans

- We had the neighborhood stakeholder meeting on August 30th. There were no real concerns about the park. The property owner adjacent directly to the east of the east side park wanted a vegetative buffer to delineate his property from the park. It was already in the concept plan with native vegetation. There were some minor concerns with the overall development and I directed them to the Planning Department. They were appreciative of the open line of communication.

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Recreation & Youth Center

- We will be having movies in the park every Friday night in September. We had a few rainouts earlier in the season and moved them to September. The crowd on September 9th was our largest so far of the season. We will probably split the locations between Rotary Park and Nordic Ridge Park next season. Some people commented that they would like to see more events on the east side of Stoughton. Rotary Park would allow us to store the equipment at the Opera House and it is walkable for people who live on the east side.
- Gazebo Musikk had their final concert on September 1st.
- I attended the Friends of the Youth Center meeting on September 8th.
- I completed the monthly report for the Youth Center.
- Holly Salimes, Recreation Assistant, left at the end of September to go back to college. She did a great job during her time with us. The position is currently open.

Misc.

- I had a meeting with Ben Lyman from the Madison Area MPO regarding grant funding for the Highway 51 underpass. One of the suggestions he made was to create a pedestrian and bike safety survey to document any safety issues or perceived safety issues. The draft survey is attached to this report. The MPO believes that the DOT should be cost sharing with the City on the underpass.
- MSA had a vendor that uses lidar using drones to map out Lowell Park for the south loop trail. The vendor had reached out to them about doing a demo for free. The thought would be to use it in help assisting with the trail placement and possibly avoiding wetlands. Link that explains lidar - https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/lidar.html. Link to the Lowell Park work - DroneDeploy.
- I've been taking an online certificate course through Indiana University for continuing education units to maintain my professional certifications.
- We had a meeting with the Stoughton Area Baseball Association, Stoughton Merchants (home talent baseball), and Public Works to discuss the future of baseball facilities in Stoughton and the dugout project at Norse Park.
- Constructed poster boards for the Sustainable Committee open house.