WHITEWATER PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2021
8:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

Present Members: Regina Hirsch, Regina Hirsch, Jamie Patrick, Brandon Holstein, Vik Malling, Alex DeSmidt, Bob Diebel, and Parks & Recreation Director Dan Glynn

Guests: Sid Boersma, John Bottoroff, Mark Hale, Tim Swadley, Jennifer Wendt, Laura Davis, Dan Hanson, Joyce Tikalsky, Jim Johnson, Judy Bills, Fred Hundt, Beth Amos, Phil Caravellow, Emily Stanley, Darren Hartberg, Melissa Agard, Al Waller, Aaron Collins, Jon Lewis, Rob Kreger, Gray Giesfeldt

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 8:04 am.

2. Approval of the October 19, 2020 Minutes
Motion by Diebel and seconded by Holstein to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment
Commend ready by Glynn that was submitted by Judy Bills.

4. Communications
Glynn shared that the DNR concluded that the design for the whitewater park was ineligible for the Municipal Dam Program Grant, but the City had the option of receiving grant funds if it moved forward with a traditional dam removal.

Glynn shared that the City completed a Cultural Resources Ivestigation Report for the 2020 WDNR Recreational Grant. The report found no resources in the pedestrian bridge abutment areas.

Glynn shared that Strand was completing additional surveys upstream of Stoughton. This is additional data gathering which should further validate the hydraulic model.

New Business

5. Phase I Preliminary Design Review – Trail & Pedestrian Bridge
Glynn shared the latest design for the riverwalk east of 4th Street. The committee expressed how they liked the design.

6. Yahara River Water Quality – Emily Stanley
Stanley stated the following: She did research on water quality with dam removals in Rockdale and Baraboo. She stated that river won't go down to a trickle. It takes about one year for restoration and was impressed with Interfluve's and Marty Melchior's previous work.

There is a need to manage sediment to eliminate blue-green algae. Changing the situation from an impoundment to a riverine environment reduces the likelihood of algae blooms. Capping versus removal of sediments decision comes down to economics and capping can be successful.

Flow regimes in rivers normally go up and down. This helps organisms such as waterfowl and fish. Dams slow water down which causes less dissolved oxygen and higher water temperatures. This benefits carp and causes algae blooms.

Amoebas in the water are a red herring argument and she's not aware of any occurrences in the Yahara River. She does not anticipate water quality being an issue. Toxins dissipate once they reach Stoughton.

6. Future Agenda Items
Committee of the Whole Recap

Trail & Bridge Design
Update on Hydrology

Adjournment
Motion made by Diebel and seconded by DeSmidt at 9:55 am. Motion carried unanimously.