WHITEWATER PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2018
8:00 AM
Stoughton City Hall – Hall of Fame Room

Present: Alderpersons: Bob Diebel, Regina Hirsch, Brandon Holstein, Carl Chenoweth, Alex DeSmidt, Matt Dregne, and Parks & Recreation Director Dan Glynn
Guests: Gary Lacy (call in), Ron Jake, Gary Blazek, Alex Cramer, Mayor Tim Swadley

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 8:00 am.

2. Approval of the August 20, 2018 Minutes
Motion by Diebel and second by DeSmidt to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the September 17, 2018 Minutes
Motion by Chenoweth and seconded by Deibel to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Communications
Glynn shared that the city did not receive the grant funding from the DNR even though the application scored high. They had concerns about water levels changing and we may need to do a hydrological study to proceed. The hydrological study is part of the next phase of engineering work. There will be a meeting with the DNR later in the day about the project. We may need to change a few things, but everything should move forward next year. Glynn stated that May 1, 2019 would be the next deadline to apply for the grant. The DNR would like to see a hydrological study would need to be prepared.

Old Business

5. New Members
Glynn shared there was a member from the Yahara Fishing Club who was interested in being a member. He would follow-up with him about attending the meetings.

New Business

6. Communication & Public Relations Strategies (Discussion and Possible Action)
Glynn shared that there has been misinformation posted on various social media outlets. He invited Ron Jake for assistance in this area. Jake recommended staying on top of the various outlets and having a FAQ page about the project. The discussion then centered around steps forward with engineering and presenting the information to the community.

7. Trail Connectivity & Greenways (Discussion)
Item was tabled.

8. Design Options – Gary Lacy (Discussion and Possible Action)
Gary Lacy called into the meeting and answered questions about the project. Questions centered around quality of the park, safety concerns, and flood plain elevations. Lacy shared that there could be one or two more whitewater features upstream of the dam if it is removed. Lacy also shared that there is some concern with head clearance with the 4th St bridge during high flows, but he could engineer the rapids so it would be calm water for paddlers heading under the bridge. Lacy said the 4th St bridge wouldn't need to be replaced, but it would help long-term to have a bridge that spans the entire river instead of a box culvert bridge. Lacy shared that the design for the concept plan would keep the in-stream improvements downstream of the 4th St bridge as is and additional features upstream of the bridge in the natural river channel. Lacy shared that moving the whitewater features all upstream of the bridge would not make traversing the bridge any safer than keeping whitewater features on both sides. Lacy recommended doing a dam out concept plan due to its modest cost which can provide a picture to the community on what a dam removal would look like. A hydraulic analysis would be needed to predict water level impacts.

Motion made by Chenoweth and seconded by Diebel to recommend to the Parks and Recreation to consider funding the dam out conceptual plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Dregne and seconded by DeSmidt to recommend to City Council to fund additional design and engineering at $90,000 in 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment
Motion made by Hirsch and seconded by Holstein at 9:50 am. Motion carried unanimously.