Director's Report
March 2021

ADA Transition Plan

- Drafted a resolution for the acceptance of the plan.
- The plan was accepted by City Council on February 9th. I attended the meeting and gave an overview of the plan.

High School Baseball Diamond Light Removal Project

- The lights were removed on February 25th.
- The osprey nest was relocated to Paradise Pond with help from Hooper Construction, Stoughton Utilities, and the Public Works Department.

Park Impact Fees & Fee in Lieu of Study

- City staff reviewed the draft plan and identified that road costs were not included in the fee. A meeting was then scheduled between the consultant from Baker Tilly and Laura Callen from Stafford Rosenbaum. It was determined at that meeting that road costs should be included in the park improvement fee and not the land fee. I inventoried road frontage for the City's active use parks to aid in the calculation. The Fee in Lieu of calculation for current fees is higher than the proposed fee due to the road costs most likely being included into the land value.
- Drafted a memo for the Parks & Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, and City Council.

Riverfront Project

- There were many questions in the chat during the Committee of the Whole meeting. I reached out to many experts regarding the questions. It took a week to get responses and get them compiled.
- Met with the DNR staff regarding permitting for the first phase improvements. The permits have been submitted and we are awaiting feedback from the DNR.
- Met with the grants staff from the DNR regarding the upcoming application. Not much has changed since last year and we should be in a good place for this year's round of grants.
- We did find out that the National Park Service has not opened the application option for the DNR to submit the paperwork for the Land Water Conservation Fund grant that we were tentatively awarded. They are months behind schedule and we were told it was due to the transition of the different president administrations. We were told by DNR staff to not sign any contracts for the work until the grant agreement is signed.
- We are still waiting for a high flow situation to complete the last round of survey data collection for the model.
- Multiple presentations to public groups have been given over the past couple of months. They include:
    - Dunkirk Dam Lake District
    - Township of Dunkirk
    - Committee of the Whole
    - Madison College Park Facilities Planning Course
    - Wisconsin Parks & Recreation Association Regional Meeting (scheduled for 3/19 with presentation completed)

Rotary Park Project

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- We picked out colors for the roof, doors, and restrooms. The roof and doors will be brown and the inside of the restrooms will be a light gray color.
- We upgraded the doors and frames to a heavier gauge steel for a nominal fee. This was recommended by LaForce who installs mag locks. All faucets, hand dryers, and toilets will be touchless.
- I reached out to the Rotary Club about modifying the rail facing the lawn area. They are working on scheduling a meeting to discuss this.

Bjoin Park

- ERC will be installing and maintaining the prairie. The schedule is TBD at this point due to the weather. Once it becomes formalized, we will send a letter to update the neighbors of the park.
- We will be having a 12 foot wide by 8 foot high tennis backboard at the court. This is the most common size according to the supplier. It is made out of fiberglass which should be low maintenance and less noisy than a wood backboard. This with the striping of the court will use the remainder of the funds budgeted in 2018 for the court.

Nordic Ridge Inclusive Playground

- There has been no activity. We are waiting for the snow to melt to stake the playground area so we can have concrete contractors visit the site and submit quotes.

Council Goals

- Alderperson Reeves included a goal of having bike repair stations in Stoughton. I reached out to Harald Klemis, President of Madison Bikes, about them. He connected me with Chuck Strawser and John Rider. Chuck plans the pedestrian facilities for UW-Madison and John is a staff member for the City of Madison's Pedestrian-Bicycle Program. They both recommended the Dero Fixit for the repair station due to the tools being sheltered from weather and the Saris bike pump. This was discussed at the River & Trails Taskforce Meeting where it received a lukewarm reception. Some felt that repair stations would not get used. I circled back with Harald, Chuck, and John following the meeting to see if they had any standards for where the repair stations were placed. They didn't, but they felt that they brought a lot of value to the trail system and cyclists, and recommended having a pilot station.
- Alderperson Majewski had two council goals. One was centered around increasing the park dedication requirement. This was found to not be possible utilizing the Park Impact Fee & Fee in Lieu of study since the law prohibits this. If the City would like to expand parkland, then we will need to utilize a different avenue to get there. With the most likely scenario to be borrowing. The DNR Recreational Grant Program does provide matching funds for land purchases, however. The other goal of his was to identify new parkland within the City and within 1 mile outside of the City limits. I started reviewing maps from the City's Comprehensive plan to identify land. We will most likely need to have the Parks & Recreation Committee meet in person so maps can be shared.

Mandt Park Master Plan

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- We had the stakeholder meetings on February 11th. The next step for the consultants is to develop draft concepts. We have a meeting scheduled to review the concepts on March 18th.

Recreation & Youth Center

- The activities guide for the summer is almost completed. We delayed the publishing of it due to COVID and it will be sent out in early May. We now have a better idea of what will and what won't be allowed this summer due to multiple meetings with the Public Health Department. We are likely to have a regular Troll Beach season if things stay the way they are now.
- I filled out the Bryant Foundation grant applications and updated the FSAYC budget as part of the process. The Bryant Foundation has assisted in the funding of staff.
- Attended the quarterly FSAYC meeting on March 11. There is a board opening if you know of anyone interested. The board provides oversight and helps with fundraising.
- The weekend of March 13-14 is the first time we are able to be back in the school gyms since the pandemic started. We will be having a youth basketball clinic and open gyms on Sundays. The youth basketball clinic is almost full and it was on short notice, so people are eager to get back in-person programming. We are requiring advance registration for the open gym so we can limit attendance.
- The Youth Center is open in a limited capacity. Staff had the opportunity to receive COVID vaccinations due to it being classified as a childcare center.
- I submitted monthly reports that the County requires as part of our grant obligation.
- The community garden is filling up fast. I have been working on compiling the list and assigning garden plots.
- The Friends of Gazebo Musikk have booked the bands for the summer. We are planning on having the concerts at Rotary Park, but we still have the option of returning to drive-in concerts at Mandt Park. Raine Stern performed at Gazebo Musikk last season and is now a contestant on the show The Voice.
- The 2021 sponsorship program was completed and mailed out to local businesses. The returning sponsors for Gazebo Musikk will be given a free bonus show in 2021 since we didn't have our normal season or crowd size in 2020. Any sponsorship for a youth program that didn't in 2020 will be carried over to 2021.

Misc.

- I was approached by two community members who would like to rehab the bike park at Lowell Park. One is a project manager for Findorf and the other used to build these professionally in Colorado. We scoped out the project for the park. They are going to put together a phasing plan along with improvements. They would like to rehab the dirt jumps this summer as way to build interest. I got them into contact with the Community Foundation so that the Community Foundation could manage the funds they raise. They are scheduled to be at the Community Foundation meeting on 3/16.
- We will be hosting the Regional Wisconsin Parks & Recreation Association Meeting on 3/19. Membership is interested in how the River Park Project is progressing and how we updated our impact fees.