Director's Report
August 2021

Riverfront Project

- Reviewed updated hydraulic analysis video.
- Reviewed updated comprehensive timeline and exhibit from Strand.
- The DNR would like the City to rescind the Municipal Dam Grant Application so that it can fund a different project. The River Park design does not qualify for the grant program and that is the direction we have been moving in.
- We were notified by the DNR that the grant contract for the pedestrian bridge will be available on October 1st.
- Met with the Finance Director on August 2nd to go over the project changes.

Rotary Park Project

- The restroom is functioning, but it did not pass the electrical inspection due to the location of the breaker box. It was located in a different location than what was depicted in the shop drawings. Strand is working with the contractor to remedy the solution.
- Went through the project area with Mark Fisher from Strand and Rodney Scheel. A few minor things were identified that need to be fixed before the project is completed.

Bjoin Park

- The tennis backboard has been installed.
- ERC performed maintenance on the prairie on August 3rd. They believe the prairie is growing in fine even with the dry conditions. I passed on their contact information to Kathy Engelberger as they are happy to answer any questions.

Nordic Ridge Inclusive Playground

- We had the ribbon cutting ceremony for the playground on August 3rd.
- I also received the donation check from Taste of Stoughton on August 3rd as well.

Racetrack Park Master Plan

- The master plan was adopted by City Council on August 10th.
- There was a question brought up during the council meeting on the need for the park expansion. I reached out to the sport organizations the following morning with a survey to assess their needs more in-depth.

Recreation & Youth Center

- The Youth Center has historically had low attendance in the summer months. To improve attendance, transportation options were explored. This included reaching out to the shared ride taxi service. It was determined that they were not a good fit as it was possible they could pick up another passenger while a child from the Youth Center was being transported to and from. We received a quote for the City to purchase a passenger van.

  During this same time, we received notification from Dane County about COVID relief grants for non-profits with operational budgets under $250,000 and provide services to disadvantaged youth. This was a fit for the Friends of the Stoughton Area Youth Center. The grant program has

$5 million available. The Youth Center Manager attended the webinar for the grant program and thought the grant was a good fit for a passenger van and upgrading the kitchen at the building to a commercial kitchen. These additions would allow the Youth Center to bring more services to children and they would be able to transition from healthy snacks to health meals. The grant application was submitted on August 9th and we will know by the end of the year if the Friends of the Youth Center was successful.

I worked with Director Gillingham on how the van would be insured and maintained. The Friends of the Youth Center would maintain ownership and lease the van to the City for $1 per year. The van could then be insured by the City. The grant application had additional funds included for maintenance.

- Preparation for the fall and winter guide has begun. The guide will be out in September.
- Rec activities that have started or are ongoing include Troll Beach (season ends on August 15), youth flag football, adult softball, youth tennis, Project Runway Camp (youth day camp to make designer clothes), and the Norse Open Pickleball Tournament.

Misc.

- Met with Brett Hebert and Pat Groom to discuss the Racetrack Park concession building. They have money budgeted for a new roof and siding. The building was a volunteer project and built in 2004. It has many architectural shortcomings such as the size of the restrooms and concession room, materials used for longevity, and ADA deficiencies.
- IT installed a new computer. I'm working through a lot of new computer issues.
- It was brought to my attention by a member of the River & Trails Taskforce that a property owner in the business park had a driveway on City property. I contacted the City Attorney and met with an attorney from his office about the matter. Historical photos of the property show that the driveway was in place for over 50 years. They would be able to claim adverse possession of the property since the driveway was installed prior to 1993. The adverse possession law changed in 1993 and land that was used before then is grandfathered in.
- Met with the property owners of the Stonecrest Development and gave feedback on park and trail needs – 50 feet wide trail corridors, park connections, resource protection of natural features, and the possibility of placing the park on the eastern boundary so it could be expanded in the future and how the Racetrack Park plan has neighborhood park amenities that would serve residents on the west side of the development.
- I followed-up with IKI about the land donation for the River Trail since the last time I heard from them was last fall. At the time they were looking to add a storage building to their property, but needed to complete a wetland delineation. The wetland delineation was completed last fall, but it found a small area of wetlands in the middle of where they wanted to place the building.

  They asked if we could complete another one for them and the feedback we received from other delineators and the DNR was that they would need to work with DNR to investigate the wetlands. If wetlands were present, then they would need to apply for a fill permit. The representative from IKI said they may end up selling the property then. Jon Lewis from River & Trails Taskforce will be having a meeting with one of the co-owners later this month.

Director's Report
August 2021

- The wetland delineation for the Virgin Lake Trail extension was completed. The delineation map shows very little or no wetland where we would like to place the trail which means that it is possible no boardwalk would be needed. This will help keep the cost down for the project.