Director's Report
August 2020

COVID-19/Operations

- Attended conference call with public health about parks and recreation programming
- Worked with the Youth Center Manager about preparation for the fall. This included creating a survey to send to parents to see how they would like tutoring to be offered. 20 parents responded with all wanting help of some kind. Most wanted tutoring help 1-2x per week in math and English. The Youth Center Manager is working with Cummins to provide volunteers for tutoring. The tutoring would be offered virtually through Zoom or GoToMeeting. The preliminary plan for the fall also includes providing virtual mentoring and the possibility of outdoor meetups at parks for face-to-face social interactions.
- Sent a letter to the public health department liaison for parks regarding clarification on outdoor events. Many restaurants and bars in Dane County are hosting bands with over 25 people in attendance (the limit for park gatherings).
- Worked with the Recreation Supervisor to develop program modifications.
    - We are unable to run flag football this fall due to public health orders to maintain six feet of distancing. The program will be modified so that it turns into a skill instructional program with a punt, pass, kick, and run competition at the end.
    - Miniball soccer has been modified to smaller groups and we removed the scrimmage part of the program for the fall.
    - We are also working with the owner of Famous Yetis and Wendigo to offer virtual cooking classes for children and adults. The class would include food kits and a video on how to make the dish at home.
    - A new disc golf league has been created for the fall.

ADA Transition Plan

- Met with Public Works about the audit and prioritizing the improvements needed. The list was daunting (250+ deficiencies), so the first meeting was fairly brief. I ended up categorizing the improvements to make the list more manageable. Most deficiencies are the lack of accessible pathways and non-compliant restrooms. MSA recommends renovating the East Park, Norse Park, and Virgin Lake Park restrooms so that they are family restrooms with one stall.
- I discussed the restrooms with MSA and I believe a good strategy is to have a feasibility study done by an architect. They will provide an ADA compliant layout and how the Norse Park and East Park shelters can be renovated to prolong their lives. A replacement shelter costs between $400-500,000. The feasibility study would cost approximately $15,000.
- The bathhouse at Troll Beach needs an estimated $100,000 in improvements for it to become compliant with ADA. The Mandt Park Master Plan has a new bathhouse/park shelter at an estimated $1.2 million cost. A future decision will need to be whether a new bathhouse is put in place for Troll Beach or if we would like to move in a different direction with the space; splash pad or pool. McFarland's 2019 aquatic center feasibility study estimated that a regional size splash pad at $600,000 and a neighborhood pool at $3-4,000,000.
- Scheduled a follow-up meeting with Public Works on 8/18 to further discuss prioritization.

High School Baseball Diamond Light Removal Project

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- No Shorts Electric has disconnected the electrical from the lights and in the storage building at the building. The wiring ended up being directly buried under the playing field, so the school district decided it was in their best interest to leave the wiring buried under the field.
- A purchase order has been signed and sent to Hooper Construction to remove the lights.
- An active osprey nest is located on one of the light poles. Our plan for now is to cut the top portion of the pole off where the lights are attached and put a platform on top for the ospreys.
- I contacted the DNR about the nest and got the go ahead to remove the light after they migrate south in September.

Riverfront Project

- Hosted the steering committee meeting on 7/20
- Attended bi-weekly project coordination meetings.
- Attempted to get a professor from the UW-Madison Limnology Department to discuss water quality and how to improve. They were unable to commit to the August meeting.
- The trail and bridge improvements are a few weeks behind schedule. The site survey has been completed and there should be a preliminary design completed within the next month.
- Scheduled a meeting with the DNR for August 21st.

Rotary Park Project

- I received the contact information for the contractor working with Utilities to remove lead pipes. I then reached out to them to provide a quote for the excavation and utilities extension to the restroom. The quote was $36,000.
- I reached out to Moyer's to see if they would be able to provide the foundation and sidewalk. They are working with an excavation company to provide a quote for the excavation, utilities extension, building foundation, and pathways. I should receive the proposal within the next week. I'm hopeful that we can get the work done under budget.

Bjoin Park

- Discussed the railroad crossing with MSA and the Dane County Parks Director. It was told that it is possible, but it would need to be discussed with the railroad in the future. Both recommended to make it a part of the plan.
- Updated the plan to incorporate the railroad crossing.
- Worked with ERC to get a representative picture for the prairie. They would use two different seed mixes due to the north end of the park being shaded.

Misc.

- Completed the Youth Center's monthly report for the County
- Had a meeting with City staff and attorney about the park impact fee study. We are working through the cost of land. The attorneys are going to look at the state statute and we will be scheduling a future meeting with Baker Tilly.
- Worked with a garden volunteer to eradicate wild parsnip that was found in one of the garden plots.

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- Started preliminary discussion with an eagle scout who would like to build a bouldering (rock climbing) wall for his project. Bouldering walls are lower than typical rock climbing walls and don't require rock climbing gear.
- Took vacation between 7/29-7/31.