Rotary Park Expansion Project

Stoughton Parks and Recreation Committee
August 21, 2018

Over the past several years, Stoughton's Rotary Park has undergone a remarkable transformation. Since 2013 when Stoughton Rotary constructed a gazebo on the site, the park has become a community destination and gathering spot. During the summer, for instance, Thursday's Gazebo Musikk and the Catfish River Festival provide many hours of communal enjoyment and interaction. When the Holidays roll around, our community is treated to a visually stunning light show, which has grown bigger and better every year.

The Stoughton Rotary Board of Directors has taken steps to move the park to the next level: that is, to expand the park and redevelop a blighted area of Stoughton.

Directly adjacent to the park's northern boundary is 300 South Sixth Street, a property the Board feels is a natural extension of the park, and the redevelopment of which would significantly improve the park. Besides significantly expanding the Park, the redeveloped site would allow construction of a badly needed public restroom/shelter facility.

The Stoughton Rotary Board seeks to collaborate with the City of Stoughton, the Opera House Board, the Stoughton Opera House Friends Association, community members and charitable organizations to bring this project to fruition.

The Rotary Board appreciates the steps the City has already taken to complete this project. In 2016 the city Council voted to borrow $75,000 in anticipation of purchasing the King property. In the intervening period, city staff have also indicated how city park development funds and TIF monies might also be used.

Project scope

City of Stoughton acquires King property at 300 S. Sixth Street - $110,000

Building to be removed and lot landscaped - $80,000

New bathroom/shelter built on site - $50-$75,000

Total cost: $240-$265,000

Timeline from acquisition to project completion – six to 12 months

Benefit to community

- **Provide much needed bathroom facilities**
- **Significantly expand Rotary Park, allowing for more community participation – Gazebo Musikk, Catfish River, the Holiday light show, etc.**
- **Expanded communal space benefits downtown/RDA**
- **Redevelop a blighted area**

Funding sources

City of Stoughton set aside of borrowed funds ($75,000)
City of Stoughton Parkland Acquisition Fund
City of Stoughton Tax Incremental District surplus
Private fund raising

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ROTARY PARK

STOUGHTON WI

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