Director's Report
September 2021

Riverfront Project

- Attended City Council on August 24 for the final design and rescinding Municipal Dam Program Grant information
- Sent the resolution to DNR staff
- Had the kick-off meeting for the next stage of engineering on September 16
- Worked on the ARPA grant which took extensive time reviewing reports and other economic development documents.

Bjoin Park

- The prairie is starting to take shape. ERC performed a mowing event on 9/15. We have received a few emails lately about how people like the prairie and the wildlife it has started to attract.

Recreation & Youth Center

- We received a tentative award notice from the County for an ARPA grant. The award would be for $65,000, and be used towards a passenger van and kitchen remodel. The Youth Center Manager is excited about the possibilities such as taking children to educational programs off-site.

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- Troll Beach revenue was down $12,000 from our budgeted outcome, but our staff expenses were also down almost $18,000. We had quite a few cold days to start the season where we closed early and sent staff home. We also experienced less group reservations and this was due to some day camps restrictions on bus travel.
- We have been discussing options for the winter if indoor programs get cancelled. We don't expect adult basketball to run due to the masking requirements and the physical exertion needed for the sport. Contingency plans for the gym space include more evening pickleball.
- Youth flag football and soccer have started. We are seeing good participation for youth programming.
- Attended the Friends of Youth Center meeting on 9/9
- Completed the annual report for the County.
- Completed the monthly report for the County.

Misc.

- Alliant Energy continues to push for an easement through Mandt Park for a gas line. I met with them three times over the past month about it. I was uneasy to give a recommendation to grant an easement because of the upcoming improvements to the park. If something became encumbered, it could cost the City additional money for the park improvements or prohibit us from doing what is planned.

  Mark Fisher from Strand thought the best route to avoid any encumbrances was to route the gas line using the Mandt Parkway roadway section that is parallel to the river. This area is only slated for trail improvements and vegetation. However, Alliant made it known that we could not plant trees within the easement area.

  Eric Knepp, Madison Parks Superintendent, and I sent a few emails back and forth discussing easements. The City of Madison grants easements for utilities because they are for the common good. However, the easements they grant are for the life of the improvements (Alliant was seeking a permanent easement). Eric sent me an easement that they recently granted to MG&E (attached).
- Presented the CIP at the CIP Committee Meeting on 9/9
- Hosted the River & Trails Taskforce Meeting on 9/13
- Had a virtual meeting with a TravelStoryGPS app salesperson. TravelStoryGPS is a walking, biking, and driving tour app. There are routes and each route has points of interest that provide an interpretive story. This would be a nice thing for the overall community to have. It's $12,000 for 20 points of interest and $750/year for them to maintain it.
- Met with Pat Groom and Brett Hebert about fishing locations in Stoughton. The pier in the millpond is not a good fishing site due to the dam causing poor water quality. We thought the area around Cooper's Causeway was a good location. However, it's not a good location for the pier in the millpond due to the type of pier it is. Pat was going to look into an "EZ-Dock" type of pier. It may be possible to get a grant through the DNR for a boating facility for this.
- We continue to experience a staff shortage at the Youth Center. The Youth Center Assistant position has been posted for months and we received one application during that time. This has caused the Youth Center to be closed with the latest closure being 9/17/2021. Without

providing adequate staffing we could potentially lose grant funding through the County as we are required to provide a number of hours open and direct contact with children.