WHITEWATER PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 2020, 2020
8:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

Present Members: Regina Hirsch, Vik Malling, Alex DeSmidt, Brandon Holstein, Bob Diebel, and Parks & Recreation Director Dan Glynn

Guests: Fred Hundt, Mark Hale, Jennifer Wendt, Tim Swadley, John Bottorof, Merle Lebakken, Sarah Ebert, Chuck Ungs, Mackenzie Krumme, Rick Gullickson, Ron Jake, Laura Davis, Darren Hartberg, Jake Lyon, Eric Olsen

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 8:02 am.

2. Approval of the June 15, 2020 Minutes
Motion by Diebel and seconded by Holstein to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment
John Bottorof wanted to know the status of the hydraulic study and it is needed to form an opinion on the project.

Laura Davis wanted to know what will happen to the water levels and trash that may be created.

Mark Hale commented that he continues to be concerned about water levels in the upper reaches of the Yahara River.

4. Communications
Mayor Swadley shared various pictures of the Yahara River showing poor water quality.

New Business

5. Pinnicon Ridge Dam Modification Project Impacts – Chuck Ungs
Ungs discussed the different Iowa projects, and his background as fisheries biologist, fisherman, and his current role for Linn County Conservation Department. He told the committee that fishing has improved in Iowa where these types of projects have happened. This is due to better habitat for fish such as smallmouth bass and walleye. Ungs said that better habitat means better fishing.

He lives in Manchester where a whitewater park was built. He has seen first-hand an economic boon and talked about small businesses benefiting. He estimated 350 people would use the park on a Saturday. The number of fisherman using the area has also increased.

He said that the hydraulic modeling that was done for the project is consistent with today's water levels. He explained how run of river works and why the upstream areas were unaffected. The water quality at the whitewater park and upper reaches of the Maquoketa River have improved.

Manchester received funding from the Iowa DNR to build their park. He was asked about the safety of the whitewater park and he said that is safer than the dam that it replaced. People will get the occasional bumps and bruises, but no major safety issues. He created a safety class to teach users of the park how to safely use it.

Ungs was asked about changes he would like to see in Manchester. He replied with having more fishing access, changing rooms and/or outdoor showers.
6. Grants Budget
Glynn shared the budgets for the project. There are two funding options; state grants and the BUILD grant budget. The City should find out the results of the BUILD grant in September.

Future Agenda Items
- Water Quality
- Phase I Prelim Design Review

Adjournment
Motion made by DeSmidt and seconded by Malling at 9:58 am. Motion carried unanimously.