

Update on what has occurred to date with the Plans to be reviewed and a few other items that came up at the Planning Committee Meeting.

After all of the feedback and the meetings held this month, the staff will update the plan and present it at a Public Hearing on February 7th, and at that time the City Council can determine if approval is desired or not. If the plan is not approved then the city cannot apply this year for a DNR Grant. If more time is needed to update the plan, the Council should advise that they would like more time.

Please find attached to the packet, the report from the Soil Borings that were authorized by the Laingsburg City Council. Please note that the engineers have these as well and are working with the results when designing for site development.

This is all the beginning of the open dialog for the development of the site. The preliminary designs were authorized by the Laingsburg City Council and are preliminary. It was a place to start the conversation and have an idea for the cost in order to apply for a Grant in April. The Grant would not be awarded until late 2022 or early 2023, if we were awarded. We are looking at 2 to 3 years before this site would be developed and ready to use, if the project moves forward. Providing plenty of time for discussion and planning.

The River Site has been on the docket for years, since Gary Bendall was in charge of DPW and then when Rob Frank was in charge. The Park and Rec Plan from 5 years ago had this development in the goals and objectives. This site came up at the public forum/FIT Assessment 2 years ago and came more to the forefront for discussion following that process. It has been discussed at DDA, City Council, Park and Rec and the Planning Commission.

City staff took an extra effort to look up the names and addresses of the property owners that neighbor the City owned River Property and mailed them an invitation to the meetings that will be held in January and February. The city scheduled five meetings from January 10th through February 7th where this subject and the update to the Park and Rec Plan were to be agenda items. These meetings were posted on Facebook, the city website, in the newspaper, and in the newsletter as well. In addition, we reached out via mail to those neighboring properties. This is the first step in opening the dialog regarding the park and rec plan update and the river property. Maureen Culhane, a neighbor to the river property, sent a letter to each member of City Council last summer. She wanted to open a dialog. I reached out to her. We had a good conversation where she did tell me that she was not against using the property for public access, but she wanted to be involved in the process and have an open dialog. That does not mean that she approves of the plans or the current designs that we are currently seeking feedback on. The feedback from the planning commission meeting was that the invitation was not interpreted as the beginning of the open dialog. If the neighbors show up at any other meeting, we should make sure they are aware that we are seeking input and specifically want to hear from them. We actually received

some great ideas from their input at the Planning Commission Meeting. I have emailed the city engineer and asked him to watch the Planning Commission video. I would advise everyone to do, it is available on the City website. The engineer responded that he will look into the concerns and has a call into the DEQ regarding the report to help explain what the results mean.

There was a question regarding the intent of the survey and why we were seeking input from all community members versus just city residents. I will try to help you understand that as well. In order to apply for a DNR grant you have to have a current park and rec plan. The City's plan will expire in Feb of 2022. As I look back at the timeline this same process was followed 5 years ago. The staff took most of the questions from the previous park and rec survey as well as questions that the DNR suggested we ask. In addition, we wanted to ask specific questions regarding the River Property. The park and rec plan was updated with current dates, current census information and survey results. The colorful word collage was something that was provided from survey monkey (the actual results were summarized in words below). The only items that the staff did not update (but made some notes on) was the chapter regarding the goals and objectives. That chapter, once updated, would guide the next 5 years of park and rec priorities. We plan to update that chapter after feedback from the boards and the public. Please take the time to review that chapter and provide feedback. We are providing you the full plan. The most important section to review and update now is the Goals and Objectives as this is what leads future actions.

As far as City sidewalks and paths the City Council has been working on a Capital Improvement Plan that should be implemented by recommendations of the DPW, the DPW Committee, Park and Rec Committee, DDA and the Planning Committee. The DDA, the Planning Committee and the City Council have all approved the Capital Improvement Plan that was presented to them. That plan has prices for areas that do not currently have sidewalk connections. Included in that is a price for sidewalks on Woodbury from Doyle to Grand River. If that is a priority then that should be stated. Sidewalks/Paths that are not specifically mentioned in the Park and Rec Plan can be added and we could state that all sidewalks and paths are prioritized in the Capital Improvement Plan.

We have been calling, emailing and texting to make sure we have a quorum at meetings. In most cases several times with no response. The reason for that is that we have scheduled public hearings, where the city has paid for the publications, paid to mail letters to the public paid staff and professional services to show up to the meeting only to have to cancel it due to a lack of quorum. Boards and Commissions have regular meeting dates and an annual calendar to remind them of the dates of their meetings. The responsibility of members that have taken the oath to serve on a committee is to show up at the meeting or let the city or chairperson who should then notify the city staff of the planned absences. The staff tries their best to prepare packets and information that will assist the boards and committees in their decision making. It is our Goal to have those items ready for distribution by the Friday before the meeting so that members have a weekend to review the materials. All materials are available on

the city website, we can email them or provide them in paper form. Please let us know how you would prefer to receive the materials. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments please call, stop by or email we are available anytime.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope it helps clear up any confusion. Please let me know if you would like any of these items on your next meeting agenda. Have a great day!

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