

**To:** Common Council **CC:** Mayor McFarland

From: Mason Becker, Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator

Date: February 13, 2023

Re: Bentzin Family Town Square Progress

Common Council Members,

As you may recall, the Bentzin Family Town Square was created through the donations and support of many area businesses, non-profits, and residents, as well as local government funding. This transformational project has been anticipated for some time, and I'm pleased to share that we are nearing final completion of what will be a unique community asset, which will further contribute to the continued renewal of the city's downtown.

Per Tony Meyers from Maas Brothers Construction, electrical power is now fully operational at the Town Square site. As you may have seen, the steel railings and guardrails have now been installed as well. When the weather is appropriate, the click lights will be installed in the stairway handrails. Temperatures and ice conditions on the river have prevented the team from installing the clips for the kayak dock thus far, so that item may be pushed back to the spring.

Favorable springtime weather will allow for much of the final work on this project. Landscaping work will be completed, the water feature will be finished, activated, and tested, and the kayak dock will be installed. The anticipated signage plaques, recognizing the many donors and supporters of the Town Square, will also be placed in designated locations at the site.

Security cameras, which are being coordinated by Chief Kaminski, are currently scheduled to be installed in March.

Finally, the Historic Art Wall, dedicated to the unique story of Watertown, will be completed, and installed during the summer of 2023.

Thank you for your support of the Bentzin Family Town Square, which will be a catalytic site and economic driver in our downtown for many years to come. We look forward to seeing you all at the Grand Opening scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Mason T. Becker

Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator

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