

Info provided by Gene Schmidt:

June 9, 2025

Wasserstadt Market Square-----Or Bavarian Market Square.....

Watertown needs tourism, and I find in many cities that I travel to that certain things that bring in tourism.

When you type in tourism stats for Watertown, WI on google you don't even get a numerical figure.... You type in Frankenmuth, Michigan, a small city of 5300 people, and you find that 3 million tourists visit a year. They have a river as we do, but it's what they have done along that river and downtown area that has made this little town a magnet for tourists with a tree- lined and flower- lined main street filled with tourist shops and restaurants. The smell of food is in the air, and their German heritage is found in their architecture and buildings and resorts, all in a Bavarian architectural style. They have a small river, but we have 7 miles of river branching its way through Watertown.

They have a steamboat on the river, which the water is only 3 feet deep. They have horse -drawn carriages taking people to learn about its rich missionary, and church, and settler history. Watertown could be a city with millions of tourists, but we have to ask what draws people to these tourist destinations. We need to seriously consider that in our town.

We have a beautiful park on Main St now (Bentzin Family Town Square) and I am proposing a full- time Bavarian market building with the ability to have vendors drive in and set up their booths, making the building useful for 10 months out of the year except January and February. There would be a green space with a gazebo, picnic benches, and places to picnic. There would be a walkway made of bricks with the names placed on them of all those who donate to Wasserstadt Market Square and a wall of plaques as well of those who donate larger amounts. We would have bathrooms and all of these things would be on the .8 acre lot next to Bentzin Park. This would be an area used and visited daily with a bustling tourist foott. Let's make it a community project. Our city is comprised of mostly German and Irish heritage, and we have a wonderful chance to unite 2 wonderful places together, and I am sure this will trigger and ignite our downtown becoming more of a destination place for tourism.

Gene Schmidt

Cost-Market Building (Estimated) -----Amish Built 300,000 Cement foundation----Open truss concept with side panels that can open and close.

We can also enlist volunteers to help as well that are licensed.

Electric.....

Gazebo-25,000 dollars

Picnic Tables 250.00 each

Restrooms---200,000--simple construction.

Landscaping--Grading TBD