

MEMORANDUM

To: Common Council

From: Kevin Boehm, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Date: February 3, 2026

Subject: Staff Update – Parks and Recreation to Organize 4th of July Parade

The Whitewater Lions Club has historically been responsible for organizing and hosting the City of Whitewater's Fourth of July Parade for many years. In more recent years, however, much of the operational planning and coordination has been supported by Lisa Dawsey Smith. Ms. Dawsey Smith played a key role in facilitating the parade by managing participant applications, maintaining and updating information on the Fourth of July Committee website, and assisting with overall event coordination. During this time, the Lions Club functioned more in a secondary or supporting role.

Prior to relocating, Ms. Dawsey Smith advised City staff that a new lead organizer would be needed to ensure the parade could continue in a well-organized and sustainable manner. In follow-up conversations, Becky Magestro contacted the Whitewater Lions Club to confirm whether they intended to resume full responsibility for organizing and running the parade. The Lions Club indicated that they are no longer able to serve as the primary organizer but would be willing to assist in a limited capacity on the day of the event.

Given the importance of the Fourth of July Parade to the community and the desire to ensure its continuity into the future, the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department has stepped forward to assume responsibility for organizing and coordinating the parade moving forward. Staff will oversee planning, participant coordination, logistics, and overall event management, while continuing to work collaboratively with community partners, including the Whitewater Lions Club, for day-of support as available.

This approach will help ensure that the Fourth of July Parade remains a successful and well-coordinated community tradition for years to come.

Sincerely,



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