

A City Council Work Session for Strategic Planning
April 8, 2019
5:30 P.M.
Civic Center, City Hall

- A. Mayor Soash called the meeting to order.
- B. Council Members Present: Birgen, Kangas, Rathe, Sherer, and Waldstein
Absent: Drenkow and McKenzie
Community Members also present: Hank Bagelmann, Travis Toliver, Toshia Burrell, Jean Schenkowitz, and Phil Jones.
Staff Members also present: James Bronner, Carla Guyer, Sarah Meyer-Reyerson, Bill Werger, Tab Ray, and Mike Cherry.
- C. The agenda was informally approved.
- D. Council Work Session
 - 1. Follow-up Discussion of City's Strategic Planning Event of August 2018.
 - The group reviewed progress that has been made and issues that have been met since August 2018. Last summer, the team determined there is a lack of child care providers within Waverly. The number of childcare providers is down on a statewide average. There has been a 42% decline in childcare programs over the last five years. City Attorney Bill Werger noted that there will be a Waverly Child Care Solutions Forum on Tuesday, May 7th, at the Waverly Public Library. There will be a session from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for Business and Community Leaders, and there will be a session from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for Child Care Providers. Non-center childcare providers can also attend this forum. This meeting will be hosted by the Iowa Women's Foundation, Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral, and Waverly Economic Development. The expansion of the Waverly Child Care & Preschool project will be launching a fundraising drive. Various businesses within the community are looking at whether they would be able to accommodate in-house child care programs. Bartels Lutheran Homes has been looking at putting childcare within their facility in an effort to retain staff. This would include second shift if the need is there. This is in a very preliminary stage. A sick bay is an option that would also be looked at favorably.
 - The group then discussed the EMBRACE event that is being planned for Saturday, May 11th, in Kohlmann Park from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This event will be for the entire family. There will be no fee. There will be a bounce house, hip hop dance lessons, musical performances by Wartburg student clubs, library story times, kids' books giveaways, international instruments petting zoo, Unity Point blood pressure tests, Voya Salon, Kubo food truck, and more! There will be a booth that will help teach what inclusion is about. Interactive activities will be promoted by all. Sponsors and volunteers are still wanted and needed.
 - A walking audit will be conducted on May 22nd to showcase Wellmark what we have done right and/or wrong with the needs that we have. This is all in plans to improve walkability. The Des Moines Register was quoted to say that Bremer County, Iowa was the best county for walkability. There is money budgeted within the Streetscape project to help improve walkability downtown. Having art be involved with the walkability was also talked about. It was expressed that this is something that needs additional work in order to compile more items. The food

structure spheres will possibly be placed on posts somewhere within the City. Incorporating them into the streetscape program would be a great possibility. There is also a sphere that Vernon Shield brought back from Costa Rica that is now located at Wartburg College.

- The Waverly Chamber of Commerce is looking into doing some wayfinding and how to incorporate that with streetscape and around the community. The historic districts are shown on the City maps that the Chamber hands out.
- A subcommittee of Leisure Services Commission for River Use is having a public meeting on Tuesday, April 16th, to begin collecting ideas for activities that can be done on the river. 100 trees will be planted with the help of middle-school children on May 22nd.
- Reconstruction of 4th Street SW from BK to DQ will happen in 2020. This year, the I.D.O.T. will add paved shoulders and resurface Hwy 3 from Waverly through Shell Rock over to the 188 turn off. INRCOG is programming funds to do the last ½ mile stretch along 10th Avenue from 16th Street over to Hwy 3 of the trail connection. When complete, there will be a 40+ mile long trail from Readlyn to Bristow. In 2023, the I.D.O.T. will begin buying right-of-way between Janesville and Waverly to do the highway project, which will eliminate all the out-grade crossings. There will also be an interchange added between Janesville and Waverly. Beginning May 6th, the Adams Pkwy Bridge will be completely closed until June 28th. This was done in an effort to save costs and to lessen the construction time.
- Due to budget constraints, the Communications/Marketing Director has been delayed for one year. Economic Development Specialist Connie Tolan will begin working on some of the marketing portions in order to tie it together with what is learned while working with Amperage. Staff will begin to construct a job description for the position.
- There have not been any townhall meetings scheduled yet. There will be a neighborhood meeting for the 4th Street SW Reconstruction property owners. Council will be invited. This will be focused on this neighborhood only and is not meant for the general public.
- Councilmember Birgen reported that he has been working on finding people to serve on committees. Currently, he has one individual and is still working for a total of three.
- Improvements for South Riverside park continue. Due to Bremer Avenue bridge work coming soon, Phase II has been moved to Phase III. Phase III is the plan for the new shelter area. Plans and specifications are being done now. When complete, the shelter will be available to rent for various events, but priority will be given to the Farmers' Market at this point. Sustainability of the Farmers' Market was also talked about.
- The City has begun the process of de-listing the 3rd Street SE bridge from the historical preservation registry. This action is needed in order to move forward with any plans to replace the bridge. If it will be replaced, it will happen in 2022. This is to allow for completion before the Bremer Avenue bridge construction begins.
- There has been a task force created to begin work on the Mission Statement for the City of Waverly. The task force has been meeting since January 2019.
- It was discussed what the roles are of service clubs in building community and enhancing neighborhoods. The Waverly Jaycees club moved to share with Cedar Valley. There is now a satellite club for Rotary that meets one Monday each month at 5:30 p.m. with one service project per month. There are some community members working with Anelia from the Waverly Newspapers to run regular advertorials. Community Block parties would be looked at being patterned after the traditional

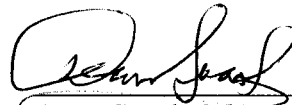
National Night Out. This would be a time to have community wide block parties and have police, fire and EMS to attend the block parties with Council attendance as well. The Exchange Club now has a high school branch called the Excel Club, and it has 22 members.

- Amperage ideas will become more active after July 1st, in the new fiscal year. There will be an updated Maxfield Housing Needs Study completed. In 2020, the Planning and Zoning Commission will be launching a comprehensive land use plan for the next 10 years.

- We need to look at what process the City will use to have the Ash Trees removed within the City. There are about 50 more within City right-of-way and about 1,000 on private property.


E. Moved by Birgen, seconded by Waldstein to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and the Council meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2



Dean Soash, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carla Guyer, City Clerk