



Council Administrator

Prepared by: Kay Kuhlmann, Council Administrator

Introduction – There are multiple topics highlighted in my 2019 annual report to the City Council. I am presenting the topics to the City Council in two general categories. The first category is “where I spent my time”. The second is “accomplishments”.

Where I spent my time – The majority of my time over the last year has been invested in keeping lines of communication open. This takes many forms, but generally includes working with Mayor Dowse and Council members on citizen concerns/solving problems for constituents; staffing ad-hoc committees and working with staff to gather and share information.

Here are a list of random discussions that have occurred in 2019.

- Read Across Red Wing – an initiative of Council Members Buss and Stinson and the Public Library
- Bremseth Building Discussion – a discussion resulting from the County’s request to tear down the Bremseth building and the Council’s rejection of that plan. This discussion initiated by Council member Brown has included representatives from Merchants Bank and Goodhue County.
- St. John’s Hospital Future – an initiative resulting from the organization of the neighborhood and Council member Becker’s interest in working to find a good long-term solution.
- River Cruisers Request for Levee Exclusive Rights – Mayor Dowse was contacted by various River Cruising companies to secure exclusive rights for dockage. Staff has been working with City Attorneys and the various companies to understand the company’s needs, and to schedule cruises out through 2021. Discussions continue on this topic.
- Flooding Impact – the unusual storm activity resulted in significant flooding in downtown Red Wing. Construction occurring in alleys was part of a private Xcel project. Building owners in the downtown area were unsatisfied with the response received by the Xcel’s subcontractor and insurance company and asked the City to intervene. Meetings with city staff and Mayor Dowse are being held with representatives of Xcel to try to resolve the concerns.
- Neighborhood Concern – several property owners contacted Council member Becker who asked staff to assist with bad neighborhood behavior. Several meetings were held and a possible long-term solution was discussed. Staff continues to work with the neighbors to find a solution.

- Private Property Sewer Backup – Council member Becker, representing an owner of a home at Pepin Woods requested information to understand how the owner has received no financial reimbursement for the loss of their home due to a sewer backup. The Pepin Woods Park owns the sewer system. The City has been unable to find a legal aid representative to support the property owner and is seeking other solutions.
- Snowshoeing - Council Member Norton is interested in creating maps to support snowshoeing and to find a way to create a rental/check out program to encourage the activity.
- Car-sharing Initiative - Council Member Norton is interested in exploring the location of a residential car-sharing program in Downtown Red Wing to support residential living in apartments that may not provide for a garage/parking stall.
- Sustainability Commission Grants - Council Member Brown identified a grant opportunity through the National League of Cities and asked for staff support to consider a grant. A team of individuals representing the Police Department, Finance and Community Development are working on a grant application to secure funds to support a Sustainability Initiative.

Project Accomplishment

1. **Mississippi National Golf Links** project consumed a great deal of time earlier in the year. The final report provided us with tactics that could be used to improve efficiencies. The Ad-Hoc Committee worked with representatives of the Red Wing Municipal Golf Association to incorporate the study recommendation into a new agreement. Unfortunately an agreement could not be reached. I believe the City did a good job of processing the report, working with the board members to discuss alternatives and offer up a solution.
2. **Personnel Committee** had their hands full this year with monitoring the pay study, the Officer Complaints, union negotiations, and the increasing speed of retirements. The Personnel Committee members requested several policies to assist with understanding processes related to employment. These policies, like how we process grievances or deal with citizen complaints against a staff person are being created and reviewed by management staff and will be shared with the full council upon completion. More recently, the Personnel Committee asked staff to create information on communication to be sure that all employees know their options related to communicating concerns on employment issues and personnel.
3. **Rental Housing Maintenance Code** review has occurred and materials are ready for distribution. Staff will present information to the City Council at the annual workshop so that implementation can occur in early 2020.