



## **Week of June 1, 2020 – Friday Memo**

Good afternoon. This is the City Manager's week in review.

**Council Meeting** - Monday there was a City Council meeting via zoom. Key topics were the approval of the employee healthcare benefits for the upcoming fiscal year, approval of the City Assessor's contract for the next fiscal year, discussion about erosion revetment at Douglas Beach, discussion to provide the City Manager authority to permit downtown businesses to occupy the right-of-way to accommodate social distancing, approval of a temporary sign permit for SCA, a review of the fire department's budget, and approval of the installation of a pride flag at Beery Field.

**Pre-development Meeting** – Wednesday I attended a pre-development meeting for an expansion to condos on Fremont Street. The proposed expansion would not alter the front appearance of the condominiums. The Planning Commission is having a Special Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposal.

**Downtown Merchants** – Tuesday and Wednesday I met with merchants to discuss the potential to occupy portions of the right-of-way to accommodate social distancing. Friday, I continued to reach out to merchants to discuss their needs for reopening and explained the City's offer to expand into the public right-of-way and passed out the requirements of the proposal. I made contact with 13 merchants on Friday.

**Cats** – The police department reported a complaint of excessive cats on Chestnut Lane this week. That matter has been turned over to the Zoning Administrator for enforcement and organizations are being contacted to help rehome the cats.

**Douglas Beach** – Friday I visited Douglas beach and found DPW removing the lower section of stairs to eliminate a dangerous section that could be a liability to the City. DPW was also trimming and removing trees and brush that had accumulated on the beach.

**Stairs Structural Report** - I received the structural report on the beach stairs and I have yet to review the entire document. The lower section of stairs needs to be replaced and the middle section of stairs have the potential to become unstable with continued erosion.

**Revetment** – Several times this week I've provided tours on the lakefront to City Council members to view the various forms of revetment available to shore up Douglas Beach. Examples of steel sheet piling, rocks, sandbags, and sand tubes are being discussed as possible revetment solutions.

**Pride Flag** – Wednesday, several complaints were received about a pride flag installed on the veteran's memorial at Beery Field. The flag was temporarily removed and later reinstalled according to proper flag etiquette.

**Reopening City Public Notice** – A public notice was developed this week and placed on the website and FB to inform the community of the plan to reopen City Hall. Starting June 15, City Hall will open to the public with restrictions (i.e. safety precautions) that will continue to be in effect for the foreseeable future. These restrictions include but are not limited to:

- City Hall restrooms will be closed to the public
- Meetings with staff will be by appointment only
- Individuals medically able to tolerate wearing a mask will be encouraged to do so
- City Hall meeting spaces will not be available for rent and/or non-City related business

The City of Douglas will continue to evaluate options for office operations and public meetings as additional information and further guidance is provided by the state.

**Resilience Plan** – Friday several council people and City staff met to discuss developing a framework for a community resilience plan to better prepare to navigate crisis situations. The team will meet again next week.

**Upcoming Events** – There is a special City Council meeting this weekend in front of City Hall at 10:00 a.m. At noon, a pride car parade starts at Saugatuck Brewing and ends in Saugatuck.

That is all I have for now.

Rich LaBombard  
City Manager