



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Active River Project Update –Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Please check appropriate box:

	Government Operations	X	Government Services – 04.25.16
	Planning & Development		City Council
	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	\$0.00	Budgeted:	YES		NO	
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Executive Summary:

The Active River Task Force wishes to provide the Council Committee updates on the status of topics pertaining to the Active River Project/Concept. The Task Force offers the attached information to the Committee. A member of the Task Force will be available at each of the Government Services Committee meetings to respond to any questions or comments that the Council Committee may have.

Attachments: *(please list)*

March 7, 2016 - Task Force Meeting Minutes
 March 21, 2016 – Task Force Meeting Minutes

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only

<i>For office use only:</i>	<i>Agenda Item Number: 3.b</i>
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**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
MARCH 7, 2016**

Members Present: Chair John Rabchuk, Chris Adesso, Trish Beckjord, Chris Bong, Rick Brems, Holly Cabel, Jim Enck, John Wessel

Members Absent: Monica Meyers

Others Present: Ed Werneke, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

Visitors Present:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:12 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Active River Task Force meeting. Motion by Trish Beckjord, second by Jim Enck to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Monica Meyers

Motion carried at 8:13 a.m.

3. Communications and Marketing Update

A. Update on Logo and Design

Rick Brems mentioned he had no updates regarding the Active River logo and design. Erin Maresko, the graphic designer, has been out of the office for the week. He hopes to have an update for everyone at the next meeting.

B. Discuss Alternative Approach

The Task Force discussed a different strategy in attempt to appeal community-wide support of this project. Discussion included the following points to increase awareness:

- Connect with groups and people around town that have influence on the community for support e.g., America-in-Bloom Committee, homeowner associations, school district, Friends of the Fox and other similar groups as the Preservation Partners in Geneva.
- More visibility of the Active River Project and easy access to the Active River Task Force meeting minutes on the River Corridor or City's website.
- Increase involvement of children and school district.
- Align and support the 7th Avenue Creek project; this is a major tributary to the river and modification of the creek will improve the river. Join efforts on grant funding for this project.

- Highlight the ecological improvements and ecological restoration of the river as one of the goals of this project.

C. Support for the Active River Project from the Brownstone Homeowners Association

John Rabchuk attended a Brownstone HOA meeting. Some of the residents at this meeting expressed a concern regarding the size and height of the proposed sculpture(s). There were approximately a dozen residents however that were very supportive, praising the entire Active River Project effort as “the best thing going to bring life back to downtown St. Charles in addition to improving property values”. The negative turned into a positive.

4. Task Force Updates

A. Grant Applications Update

Bob Leonard Walk Update:

The Kane County Riverboat Grant application was submitted on February 29, 2016. Missing from the application was the City’s land use authorization/resolution and the 2015 River Corridor Foundation tax return. The River Corridor Foundation has approved up to \$20,000 for this project. Due to the timing and potential weather delays, this work may extend into 2017.

Charlemagne Island Sculpture Project

The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley conducted their site tour and preliminary evaluation on Friday, February 12, 2016. They encouraged increasing the grant application to \$25,000 with part of the funds possibly subsidizing the necessary engineering work. The application has been drafted and will be submitted by May 2, 2016.

Per John Rabchuk, verbal approval has been received from the Honeyman family for the relocation of the memorial tree on Johannsson’s Island.

B. Engineering Information Update

John Rabchuk reported the scope of work and concept cost estimates from Greg Chismark (WBK) is almost complete. He is working with Scott Shipley from S2O Design for the RiverPark portion of the project.

Chris Adesso mentioned that there is no need for the City to meet with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) until the engineering work is completed; this information will be essential to the meeting with the IDNR. Trish Beckjord also recommended the Task Force meet with the City once the discussion takes place with the IDNR.

C. Meetings and Presentations

Metro West Council – Fox River Subgroup

A meeting with the Metro West Council-Fox Valley subgroup has yet to be determined, most likely it will be sometime in April.

St. Charles East High School- Environmental Science Classes and ECO-Club

John Rabchuk met with: Gary Swick, from the Friends of the Fox, and two teachers from St. Charles High East High School, Laurie Nannini, Environmental Science instructor, and Elizabeth Savickas of the Eco-Club. The discussion included involving the high school

students in the water quality testing in conjunction with the Active River Project. Per John Rabchuk, Gary Swick is very excited to utilize high school students in this initiative.

The water testing will monitor the dissolved oxygen levels, phosphorus content and microbiological analysis. Mr. Swick will work with the Sierra Club to define the “best-testing” methodology. A meeting will need to be coordinated between Mr. Swick, Ms. Nannini and the City’s Public Works Department to determine if these tests can be conducted at the City of St. Charles’ Public Works Lab.

Several testing locations were determined. The canoe launch at St. Mary’s Park and the beach along the Red Gate Dog Park are viable testing sites that will assist in keeping the students safe and out of deep water.

An email was sent to Pam Otto at the St. Charles Park District requesting the assistance of her summer program students to conduct the water testing in June and July, when the high students would not be available to test. Holly Cabel mentioned the students attending this program were much younger in age than the high school students. Jim Enck recommended utilizing Eagle Scouts or Life/Star Scouts to take the water samples.

Stormwater Presentation at Munhall School

Mr. Rabchuk indicated that Jim Richter, the Assistant Principal at St. Charles East High School, will attend the annual River Corridor Stormwater Management presentation at Munhall School. There will be approximately one hundred (100) Munhall School 4th graders attending the program on Thursday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. Jim Enck, John Rabchuk and Pam Otto will be presenting. District 303 high school students will assume responsibility for this educational effort throughout the district in the fall of 2016.

D. Other Outreach Efforts

No status update regarding private fundraising; this is still dependent on the City’s commitment.

5. Other and New Business

None

6. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Motion by Trish Beckjord to adjourn the meeting, second by Jim Enck.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: Monica Meyers
-Motion carried at 9:05 a.m.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
MARCH 21, 2016**

Members Present: Chair John Rabchuk, Chris Adesso, Trish Beckjord, Chris Bong, Rick Brems, Holly Cabel, Jim Enck, John Wessel

Members Absent: Monica Meyers

Others Present: Tony Zehnder, Candy Boulay

Visitors Present:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:04 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the March 7, 2016 Active River Task Force meeting. Motion by Rick Brems, second by Trish Beckjord to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Monica Meyers

Motion carried at 8:05 a.m.

3. Communications and Marketing Update

A. Update on Logo and Design

Rick Brems shared logo options with the committee. Discussion took place regarding what the message should be for the logo; word choices were discussed as well as implementing more green options into the design. John Wessel sketched a possible option; some logos were eliminated. Rick will go back to the designer with some possible options for new designs.

B. Discuss Alternative Approach

John shared that Munhall teacher Dorene Tieche has ideas for her 4th graders related to appealing to the City. Ms. Tieche is also interested in pursuing a downtown recycling project; Pam Otto will work with Ms. Tieche on these project ideas. John stated it is the intent to work with all of the 4th grade in the D303 system and that the high school environmental science students will conduct these seminars beginning in the fall of 2016.

4. Task Force Updates

A. Grant Applications Update

Bob Leonard Walk Update:

The Kane County Riverboat Grant application was submitted on February 29, 2016. Missing from the application was the City's land use authorization/resolution and the 2015 River Corridor Foundation tax return. The River Corridor Foundation has approved up to \$20,000 for this project. Due to the timing and potential weather delays, this work may extend into 2017.

Charlemagne Island Sculpture Project

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B. Engineering Information Update

Greg Chismark of WBK has supplied an outline of work required for feasibility study which he has reviewed with Scott Shipley.

Chris Bong asked that the City be removed from the document; Active River Project should be used instead.

Mr. Chismark is now assigning hours to each of the tasks as well as cost estimate for the work.

C. Meetings and Presentations

Alderman Bancroft

John stated Alderman Bancroft will try to get more votes from other council members to move forward with the project; it should be looked at as an investment in the future of St. Charles. Alderman Bancroft will also meet with the mayor and city administrator as well as other council members. Bancroft also suggested that having the estimated costs assigned to the WBK engineering scope document will help some of the aldermen gain a better understanding of the financial commitment. WBK is suggesting that the Phase I engineering costs may be substantially less than previous estimates. Trish Beckjord of the Park District is also preparing an analysis of the financing that was provided to a number of projects across the country that are of a similar size and scope to the Active River Project. Rabchuk stated that the financing formula for each of these projects tends to follow a pattern of private, federal, state and local governmental contributions.

Metro West Council – Fox River Subgroup

A meeting with the Metro West Council-Fox Valley subgroup has yet to be determined, most likely it will be sometime in April.

Munhall School 4th Grade Classes

Jim Enck, John Rabchuk and Pam Otto presented a program to Munhall 4th grade students. Dorene Tieche, Munhall 4th grade instructor, has expanded the D303 river water quality program and has demonstrated a strong passion for the Fox River. She intends to bring her class to meet with the City Council in the near future to express their support for the Fox River and the Active River Project.

High School Environmental Class Water Quality Testing

High School environmental science students will assume responsibility for educational efforts in fall of 2016 on a district-wide basis. Testing sites have been identified. Summer coverage will take place by either Park District classes or Boy Scouts.

Pottawatomie Garden Club

The club has asked that a presentation of the entire Active River Project concept plan be scheduled.

D. Other Outreach Efforts

John stated Greg Chismark said engineering costs may be less than projected. Holly Cabel said there are other places to seek funding

Trish Beckjord stated the film "DamNation" will be shown at UU Church in Geneva on Friday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

John stated there are new members on the River Corridor Foundation who have been attracted to the group because of the Active River Project. This includes individuals that have previous experience with the EPA and who work on complex river hydrology analysis projects. The RCF is also attracting representatives from home owner associations whom are in proximity to the Fox River and want to express support for the Active River Project.

5. Other and New Business

None

6. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Motion by Jim Enck to adjourn the meeting, second by Rick Brems.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: Monica Meyers - Motion carried at 9:04 a.m.