



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: March 27, 2017

Proposed Cost: \$ N/A

Budgeted Amount: \$ N/A

Not Budgeted:

Executive Summary *(if not budgeted please explain):*

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):*

* Status Update Memo from WBK Engineering * February 6, 2017 - Task Force Meeting Minutes

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only.

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 2017

To: City of St. Charles Government Services Committee c/o Chris Adesso

CC: Peter Suhr
Holly Cable

From: Greg Chismark

Subject: St. Charles River Park Concept Feasibility Update

The following memo provides a brief status update of project progress and activities moving forward.

The project team has completed three of the five primary tasks for the project including Data Collection, Field Survey / Base Map Production and Existing Conditions Hydraulic Analysis. The team is currently engaged in the task anticipated to be the most time consuming and challenging; Alternatives Development & Analysis. From project objectives identified in the River Corridor Master Plan, as well as coordination / stakeholder meetings, a global set of alternatives were contemplated and the alternatives were reduced to three primary site geometric options based on the project scope and constraints. The primary project constraint considered is maintaining the river pool north of UPRR trestle to support current usage and aesthetics. The project team is currently vetting and refining these options based on stakeholder input, engineering investigation of various river flow rates and the desire to create a range of feasible alternatives for discussion with State regulators. From the Alternatives identified, a proposed conditions hydraulic model will be developed for one alternative to verify project function and establish concept level feasibility. After the concept is validated coordination with IDNR will occur to identify the permit process and timeframe. Concept level costs will be determined as well as potential funding sources. The deliverable is an executive summary along with River Park Alternative exhibits and presentation to City Council. It is anticipated the project will be completed this June.

I may be contacted directly at 630-443-7755 with any questions, comments or concerns.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Tom Anderson, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

Visitors Present: Karen Laskowski

1. Introductions

Trish Beckjord invited Karen Laskowski to attend this meeting. Karen introduced herself and mentioned that she had worked at the County of DuPage Stormwater Management Department for the past 26 years. Her expertise is in wetland programs and watershed planning.

All members present introduced themselves to Karen.

2. Call to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:03 a.m.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the January 9, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Chris Adesso, second by Rick Brems to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None; Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Motion carried at 8:05 a.m.

4. Preliminary Meeting Active River Project, City and Park District with Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Source

John Rabchuk spoke last week with the potential corporate philanthropic funding source who initially met with Mark Koenen, Holly Cabel and John Rabchuk earlier this year. They have requested a follow up meeting with John and will be contacting him with some meeting dates relatively soon.

A. Additional Potential Corporate Donor Asked to Become a Sponsor

LaFarge has expressed interest in becoming a potential corporate sponsor for the project. John Rabchuk was at LaFarge to purchase two large stones for the Bob Leonard Walk and the Windy Motion location. He mentioned the Active River Project and showed the sales and general managers the handout Jim Enck prepared. Both the sales and general manager expressed interest sponsoring the project. John Rabchuk will continue to follow up with them in the future.

B. Discuss Timing for Efforts to Solicit Philanthropic Funding

John Rabchuk suggested this task force focus on identifying potential funding sources for the project until the feasibility study is completed and presented to Council. Holly Cabel recommended John create an initial list of potential philanthropic corporations and categorize them into “donations” and “grants”. John will create a list and circulate it via email to the remaining members of the task force. The members can then add other potential funding sources to the list.

The following were identified as potential funding sources:

LaFarge
Ozinga
Nicor
Dunham Foundation
Unilock

5. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. River Corridor Foundation Public Outreach Committee Direction and Discussion

i. Active River Project Handout – Rick Brems

Rick Brems has made all the recommended revisions to the project handout. The handout will be an asset when discussing the project to potential donors and organizations (See attached.) The cost of the handout is \$354 for 1000 copies. John Rabchuk confirmed The River Corridor Foundation had already committed \$500 towards the publicity materials. Rick requested authorization to print this draft.

Discussion took place on the graphics and verbiage on the handouts. The group agreed to move forward and print the handouts as is.

B. Pottawatomie Garden Club Presentation Scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2017, 1:00 – 1:45 PM at Baker Methodist Church

A meeting is already scheduled with the Pottawatomie Garden Club for Monday, July 24, 2017. It will be held at the Baker Methodist Church from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. in the Kiwanis Room. John Rabchuk and Rick Brems will create a PowerPoint presentation for this meeting.

John Rabchuk also met with the Downtown Partnership on Friday and they offered to get involved in the Active River Project. Trish Beckjord and Rick Brems supported the idea of engaging the Downtown Partnership and other business

groups on the project. They felt these groups may be an asset in promoting the project to others. There may also be opportunities to collaborate together on some mutual projects.

Trish also suggested scheduling a couple of separate Active River Project presentations after the Feasibility Study is presented to Council. She recommended hosting a presentation exclusively to business leaders and members that belong to the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Partnership and Convention and Visitors Bureau. A separate presentation should be held for the general public.

The political climate of the country may also prove to impact this project in the future. John mentioned there is a position paper to end all EPA funding, which may impact EPA as a funding source for this project. On the upside, there are political discussions about improving infrastructure; strategizing the project as an infrastructure improvement may be an option.

6. Member Organization Updates

A. Park District

Holly Cabel did not have any specific updates. At this point, the discussions have been ideas and thoughts; therefore, she has not taken any of these concepts to the board. Projects planned for this year include:

- Phase I of Boy Scout Island
- RFQ on Phase I of Golf Course Stabilization
- Limited monies are also available under professional services for the circulation bike trail through Pottawatomie Park

In addition, Trish Beckjord spoke to David Yocca from the Conservation Design Forum (CDF) regarding the floating islands in Lake Ellyn. Per Mr. Yocca, CDF believes they came up with the best solution of anchoring the floating islands due to the storm water conditions of the lake. At this point, the CDF plans to install only one island on an experimental basis.

i. River Corridor Foundation – Floating Islands

John Rabchuk viewed the engineering feasibility study last Friday. There are approximately three different preliminary designs that may work depending on the hydrology of the river and the conditions of the river bottom. Scott Shipley has not had the opportunity to review the preliminary concept designs so it may change. It has been determined however the floating islands in the lagoon will not work. This is primarily due to the channel directing the water away from Boy Scout Island. Even with culverts installed the amount of water going into the lagoon would be minimal. The lagoon could still be a kayaking course, but more of a marshland and osprey station.

ii. Kiwanis – Signature Project Letter Being Distributed

The local chapter of Kiwanis Club has allocated some monies to fund a signature project in the area. John mentioned Kiwanis will be mailing out two dozen letters to local organizations/groups soliciting signature project ideas that may need funding assistance. The project needs to meet the criteria established by the committee to receive funding, but foremost, it needs to benefit children. This task force, the City of St. Charles and the St. Charles Park District will be receiving a letter.

Karen Laskowski suggested creating a children sensory garden as a potential project.

B. River Corridor Foundation

i. Bob Leonard Walkway Landscaping and Furnishings Project

John Rabchuk recommended stopping by the area and taking a look at the Bob Leonard Walk. Furnishings have been installed and the area looks very nice. One plaque needs to be remounted in concrete but the rest of the bench plaques will be installed the end of March, as weather permits.

ii. Gratitude’ Sculpture Project – Planned along Bob Leonard Walkway for 2018

Al Patten, from the River Corridor Foundation, is heading the Gratitude Sculpture project on the north end of the Bob Leonard Walk. This project will take a couple of years complete and it will need funding.

C. City of St. Charles

i. Engineering Feasibility Study Update

Chris Adesso and Peter Suhr met with Greg Chismark and Scott Shipley last week to discuss the preliminary concepts prepared by WBK. One concept was consistent with the master plan, in terms of looks and geometry; the other was different in and it incorporated different features. The information was reviewed and discussed.

Chris mentioned there is a defined channel in the sediment, extending underneath the trestle bridge and running perpendicular to the dam. This indicates the regular flow, or channel, of the river is centered on the dam. In addition, the information revealed there wasn’t as much sediment behind the dam as previously thought.

WBK presented a third concept. Scott Shipley will now examine all three concepts. It may take him a couple of weeks to review the plans and then it will be presented to Council.

A few high level discussions have taken place regarding the features on the river in regards to how they may or may not affect water levels, and the control structures. Chris Adesso mentioned this aspect of the concept study will be very important during the upcoming discussions and as to which option will be chosen.

Trish Beckjord asked if the discussions included the improvement of the fish passage and habitat restoration, Chris Adesso mentioned the current discussions were still too preliminary, but the concepts discussed so far have a lot of habitat improvements in mind. Once the specific concept is narrowed down, particular enhancements will be discussed and determined.

At a previous meeting the need for a watershed plan was discussed. Trish Beckjord recommended the meeting agenda should include a discussion on a watershed plan. This portion of the project will be a large undertaking in terms of timing, cost, and the amount of time it will take to complete. Karen Laskowski mentioned that, if it was needed, it will take a long time to complete. She added the EPA will sometimes fund a watershed plan, but in this particular case, this is a very large watershed.

Karen Laskowski confirmed that most agencies today require a watershed plan especially for funding purposes. She offered her services to start gathering information on the need and scope of the watershed study. She will reach out to her contacts to see what would be necessary for this project.

ii. Wind Emotions Kinetic Sculpture – City Installation Scheduled for Spring

The bid is currently out of the concrete foundations and site work at the Wind Emotions kinetic sculpture area. The bid will close on February 16. The sculptures should arrive mid to late March and the lights have been ordered. Chris Adesso would like to get as much of the project completed before April 31, weather permitting.

Chris also budgeted approximately another \$20,000 in next year's capital budget to complete this project. Of course, the budget will not be approved until April.

From a River Corridor standpoint, John Rabchuk cannot apply for the grant reimbursement until the project is completed. John will need to include a picture of at least the semi-completed project. He hopes to complete this process by the end of March or early April.

Jim Enck distributed a proposed landscaping drawing of the area, which will be included in next year's installations. (See attached.) Jim has incorporated Tom Anderson's request for a bench and the two signs. One sign will be on a boulder identifying the grant donations and the other will be a free standing City pedestal sign identifying the area. Trish Beckjord will give Jim some suggestions of native plant species to use on the project. Chris recommended reducing the size of the brick plaza on the drawing; otherwise he may have to apply for a revised Stormwater permit. The plaza material was also discussed.

Permeable concrete is too difficult to work with, but forced pavers could be considered.

Some maintenance work will also need to be completed. This includes work on the sidewalk, tuck pointing on the river wall and on the northern stairs. Jim Enck mentioned the landscape plans encourage pedestrians to stay away for the wall, due to the drop of the wall.

7. Other

John Rabchuk would like to resume meeting twice a month starting in March. This will be discussed and determined at the March meeting.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Memorial Community Center.

Motion by Chris Adesso to adjourn the meeting, second by Holly Cabel.

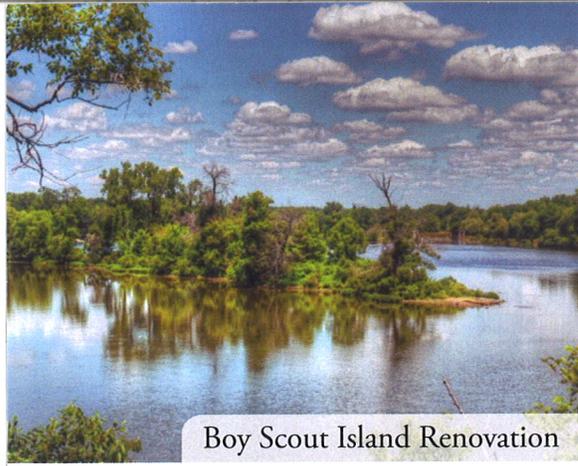
Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

-Motion carried at 9:19 a.m.

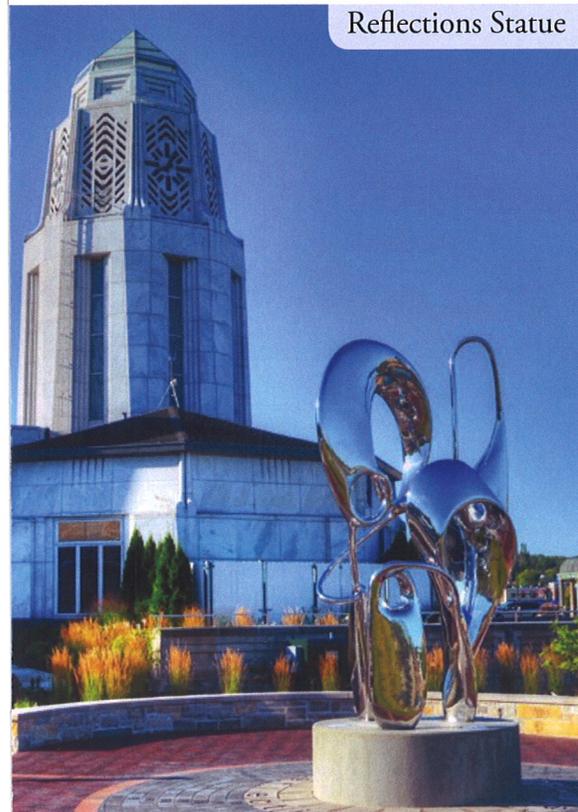


NEW DOWNTOWN LIFESTYLE

- Unique and Attractive Identity
- Expanded 'River Based' activities
- Improved connectivity to existing walk/bike trails
- Encourages new family / health-wellness opportunities
- Continued shoreline landscaping / stabilization
- Visual and performance art opportunities
- Enhance river environment / water quality
- Promote additional economic opportunities



Boy Scout Island Renovation



Reflections Statue

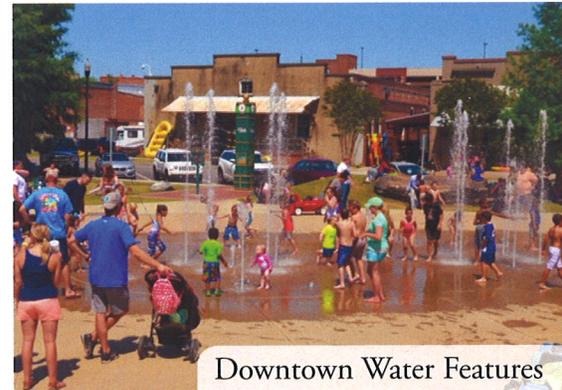


DESTINATION ST. CHARLES

an Active River Project

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Public and private contributions - 'Investing in St. Charles'**
- **Grant funding**
- **Short term / Long term project plans**
- **Sculpture / visual arts donations**
- **Community / Educational involvement**
- **Ecological improvements**
- **Collaborative effort**

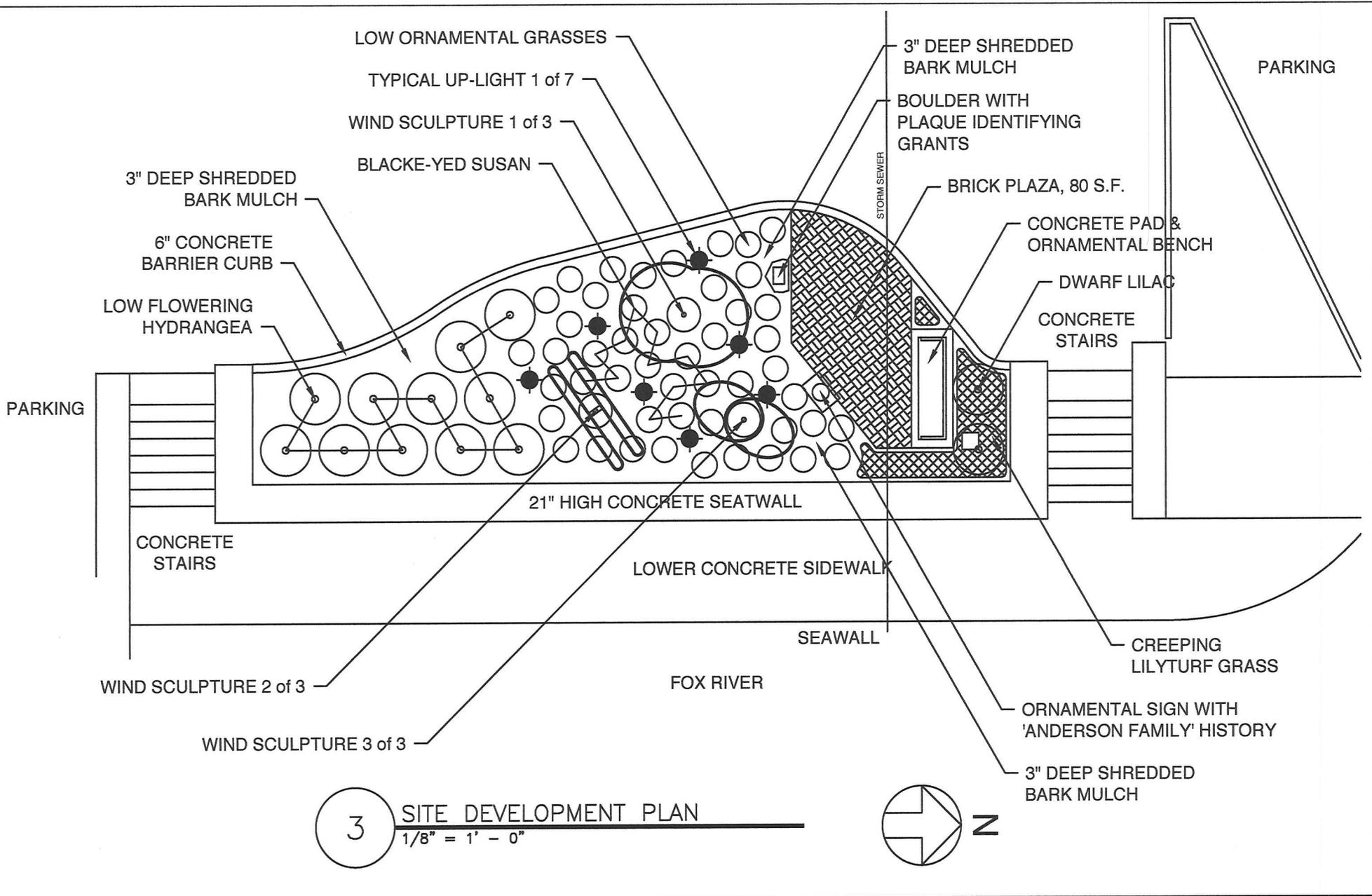


Downtown Water Features

ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE

City of St. Charles
St. Charles Park District
River Corridor Foundation
Kane County Forest Preserve

www.stcrivercorridor.org



Subject:
SITE OPTION No. 3

Project:
STATE STREET WIND SCULPTURE

Date:
02/05/17

Scale:

Revision:

Project No.:

Drawing No.:

Sketch No.:

No.3