



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: April 24, 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):*

* March 6, 2017 - Task Force Meeting Minutes

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
MARCH 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: Greg Chismark (WBK), Phil Held, Karen Laskowski, Ed Werneke, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:05 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the February 6, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Trish Beckjord second by Holly Cabel 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.

3. Active River Project Update Presentation by Greg Chismark from WBK Engineering LLC

John Rabchuk introduced Greg Chismark from WBK Engineering LLC. Greg was present at the meeting to give the Active River Project group members a brief status update of the Concept Feasibility Study.

Greg has been working on the Active River Project Engineering Feasibility Study and preliminary concepts. Greg gave a brief overview of where the project is at, the concepts WBK has developed so far, and next steps. He explained this study was still in progress and many concepts were still being explored and not finalized.

WBK gave a brief review the sediment probes, sediment depths and the topography of the river bottom data from the Army Corp of Engineers (hereafter referred to as “ACOE”). This data indicated that there is a defined channel in the sediment, extending underneath the trestle bridge and running perpendicular to the dam. In addition, there wasn’t as much sediment behind the dam as previously thought. This data is approximately two and half years old but reliable.

Greg Chismark reviewed three possible concepts that were being developed keeping in mind the project scope, the constraint(s) while maintaining the river pool north of UPRR trestle to support current, usage and aesthetics.

Concepts are still being considered with control structures gearing to different kayaking skill levels. Three concepts have been developed and Scott Shipley from S2O Design is developing potential design configurations based upon the concepts created by the WBK efforts. Features between are being reviewed and compared between the WBK and S2O Design drawings.

The regulatory drivers of the project are:

- Safety
- Ecological improvements
- Recreational
- Flood storage

Chris Adesso had planned a preliminary presentation at the March Government Services Committee meeting. Both Chris Adesso and Greg agreed there were still too many unknown variables, therefore it was determined that WBK would submit a written update in the form of a Memo in the March Government Services packet, with a final presentation to Council later this spring/summer.

4. Member Organization Updates

City of St. Charles

The delivery of the Wind Emotions Kinetic Sculpture(s) is anticipated to arrive on March 27. Chris Adesso hopes to receive the sculptures around that date, and weather permitting, installing them within the week.

Greg Chismark, from WBK, mentioned they have “painted” the pavement. The asphalt has been removed but he requested the locations of the sculptures be staked out one more time.

From a River Corridor standpoint, John Rabchuk reminded everyone that he needs to apply for the grant reimbursement by May 1. Pictures of the erected sculptures and the corresponding plaques need to be included with the submission in order to receive the reimbursement. The lighting and landscaping do not necessarily need to be completed but depending on the weather the timing will be close.

The bids for the concrete foundations and site work at the Wind Emotions kinetic sculpture area has closed. The City received three bids and has made a decision on the contractor conducting the work.

5. Update on Second Meeting with Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Source

Holly Cabel, Mark Koenen and John Rabchuk met in January with corporate/philanthropic funding source interested in the Active River Project.

John Rabchuk had a follow up meeting with same philanthropic group a couple of weeks ago. The concept of the project, being a wellness facility/community, was very appealing to the philanthropic members, but they preferred not to be a direct donating source. Instead, they have offered to assist in creating a coalition for the Active River Project. They, in turn, will connect with their large corporate/philanthropic partners to the Active River Project and pitch the project to them.

The funding source also recommended contacting specific foundations in this area that have a strong connection to wellness projects. John Rabchuk met with one of the sources and they were extremely enthusiastic about the project. John Rabchuk has now scheduled several other meetings with local foundations to discuss the project.

Looking towards the future, John Rabchuk hopes to raise approximately \$2,000,000 from the corporate/philanthropic side to cover the Design Engineering phase of this project. Once the design phase is completed and approved, this task force could apply for grants for the Construction Engineering phase of this project.

6. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

The Hitchcock Design Group recently attended a CMAP meeting regarding the five major rivers in the Chicago region. During a discussion the Active River Project was mentioned. John Rabchuk has heard the discussion stirred a lot of interest within the group that attended this meeting.

John Rabchuk mentioned Phil Held from the River Corridor has taken a very active approach promoting the Active River Project on Facebook. It currently has 800 likes and a reach of approximately 34,000 hits.

Phil Held stated the site has received some very positive comments on the project and he hopes this group has been connecting to the site on a regular basis to read the comments.

7. Other

Rick Brems mentioned that he will be bringing extra PR handout to the meeting every week if anyone needed extra copies.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for April 3, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Memorial Community Center.

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

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

-Motion carried at 9:17 a.m.