



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: August 28, 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):*

* July 10, 2017 – Task Force Meeting Minutes * July 24, 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
JULY 10, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Chris Bong, Holly Cabel, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Tom Anderson, Phil Held, Ed Werneke, Isabel Soderlind

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the June 19, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes

Motion by Trish Beckjord second by Jim Enck, to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Bong, H. Cabel, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

Motion carried at 8:04 a.m.

3. Engineering Feasibility Study

A. Review & Discuss Presentation to Government Services Committee

According to John Rabchuk overall the presentation at the Government Services Committee meeting went well. Greg Chismark did a nice job presenting the Feasibility Study. Approximately seven residents attended the meeting whose interest was to know the impact of the Active River Project on their waterfront property.

Overall, the Active River Project Task Force members appeared to be familiar with the outcome of the June 26 Government Services Committee presentation.

Two motions were taken to the July 5th Council meeting as a result of the Feasibility Study Presentation from the Government Services Committee meeting:

1. “Motion to direct staff to work with the St. Charles Park District and any other public agencies to pursue the concepts and the next logical steps to develop a detailed preliminary design scope of service and to verify funding availability for preliminary engineering.”
2. “Motion to direct staff to coordinate a trip between staff and elected officials to Greenville, South Carolina.”

Ongoing discussions have now focused on who will be attending the Greenville,

South Carolina, River Project. A few of alderman have expressed an interest in attending, but they are already supporters of the project. At this point in time it is unsure which aldermen will be attending.

John Rabchuk sent an email to the mayor, Mark Koenen and Rita Payleitner indicating that this “trip” needs to be planned. A meeting with Greenville’s economic director, Nancy Whitworth, should be scheduled to discuss the impact the project has had on the downtown area.

Discussions should focus on the following while in Greenville:

1. How was this project organized?
2. Who contributed towards the project?
3. Who ran the project?
4. Who is running and maintaining the area now?
5. How did you generate the community “buy-in” to support the project?
6. How did you determine the structure of the “governing body” for this particular project, with the various organizations/governmental bodies involved?
7. How was this project funded and monies generated?

The Greenville river project does not have white-water but it has had a great impact on their downtown area; it is similar to the Naperville Riverwalk area but on a larger scale.

John Rabchuk felt that it would be an advantage to have Mark Koenen, Chris Minick and/or Rita Tungare present and engaged in the delegation to Greenville. Holly Cabel would most likely attend representing the St. Charles Park District.

John Rabchuk mentioned the City would like him to be part of the delegation. Several other people have also shown an interest in attending and paying their own way: Craig Larson, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Tom Anderson. Rick Hitchcock, from the Hitchcock Design Group, has also expressed an interest in attending the Greenville consortium.

According to John Rabchuk, everyone is waiting for the feedback from St. Charles Park District Board meeting which is scheduled to take place tomorrow (July 11) before moving forward. In addition to the Park District Board, a presentation of the Feasibility Study will be given to the River Corridor Foundation (RCF) on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

The Task Force also discussed options to visit another river project like Columbus, Georgia or Denver’s Waterway project. Each project has been unique but all of them have had resurgence in growth in businesses located in the downtown area. John Rabchuk will email Mayor Rogina and inquire if there would be an opportunity to send another group of aldermen to another similar river project.

B. Discuss Suggestions and/or Changes for the July 11th St. Charles Park District Board Presentation

The results of the Feasibility Study will be presented to the St. Charles Park District Board tomorrow, July 11 at 6:30 p.m. Greg Chismark from WBK will be making the

same presentation as the one made at the Government Services Committee meeting.

Holly Cabel will be the liaison for the Park District. She will be addressing any questions from the board after the presentation, in particular those regarding next steps on the project.

Trish Beckjord recommended the two motions made at the Park District Board meeting be stated very “clearly”. Chris Adesso will forward the motions made at the Government Services Committee/City Council meeting to Trish Beckjord so there is no ambiguity between the motions made at the Government Services Committee meeting and the Park District Board meeting.

The Memorandum and FAQ list included in the Government Services Committee meeting packet have been submitted to the Park District Board and the River Corridor Foundation.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Discuss Press Coverage of Engineering Study

John Rabchuk mentioned that there has been some press generated from the Government Services Committee presentation. There was an article on page 6 of the Herald; someone also mentioned that it had been on the Channel 5 news. He also heard Alderman Gaugel was on the DuPage Radio talking about the Active River Project.

B. Potential for Active River website and/or Facebook

Phil Held mentioned there have been a few hits of “likes” generated on Facebook since the Government Services Committee meeting but no questions regarding the project.

Rick Brems and Phil Held met with John Arends regarding the River Corridor and Active River Project website. Mr. Arends suggested two separate websites that will be linked together. The proposal will include a redesign of the River Corridor website and maintaining and developing the Active River Project site. Proposals will be given to Phil Held and Rick Brems to present to the River Corridor Foundation. The cost will be approximately the development of two sites for the price of one.

C. Presentation to Pottawatomie Garden Club

The presentation to Pottawatomie Garden Club is scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2017, from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at Baker Methodist Church. John Rabchuk reminded everyone that an updated presentation will need to be created.

5. Member Organization Updates

A. City of St. Charles Park District

As mentioned above, the Engineering Feasibility Study will be presented to the St. Charles Park Board tomorrow, Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will be similar to the one being given at the June 26 Government Services Committee meeting.

B. City of St. Charles

No updates discussed at this meeting.

C. River Corridor Foundation

The Engineering study presentation to River Corridor Foundation (RCF) on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.

6. Update on June 23, 2017 Meeting with Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Source

John Rabchuk had another meeting with the corporate sponsor and a philanthropic funding source on June 23, 2017.

Tentative discussion centered on \$1.0- \$1.5 million in philanthropic donations over a 3 to 4 year period. Most of the discussion focused on how to structure the donation; this corporate sponsor does not want to be named. They prefer to channel the money through philanthropic organizations that are showing an interest in the project.

The monies requested are for the design engineering (DE) portion of the project, giving these groups some input in the design of the project. Approximately \$15 to 18 million would be needed for construction engineering (CE) phase of the project but that would be through various grants, state and federal funds.

The Active River Project will apply for a \$250,000 grant from the Dunham Foundation. This \$100,000,000 foundation is based in Aurora; most of the projects funded are based in Aurora. There have been some exceptions made. The Dunham Foundation was a significant donor to the River Edge Park project in Aurora where the pavilion is named for John Dunham. This group will work on the application this fall for a February or June submission deadline. Monies awarded would go towards the design engineering, public outreach and capital campaign.

John Rabchuk has also given the City and the Park District a list of available funding sources to research.

The Task Force also discussed who would take charge of this project. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) indicated that it could be a combination of governmental agencies, but it has to be a governmental agency that will need to own the project since it is on the river. As discussed at a previous meeting, this is a different type of project therefore a decision will need to be made as to who will be responsible for making decisions on this project in the future. This could be a Task Force that makes decisions on behalf of Active River Project in conjunction with the scope of work and design engineering, etc.

7. Other

A. Update on the Wind Emotions Sculpture

Tom Anderson has a friend that would like to donate a bench for the Windy Emotions Plaza area. The City's standard bench cost approximately \$2,000. Chris Adesso reminded everyone that the installation of a bench in this area will need approval from council. If a bench is installed, accommodations will need to be made to pedestrians and the area will need to meet the ADA standards.

Chris Adesso mentioned some issues occurred at the site during the 4th of July fireworks. There were residents viewing the fireworks at the site that evening and the lights, which were just recently installed, were trampled on. The area now has been restored and the lights fixed.

Chris recommended the Active River Project Task Force proceed with a landscape design that will encourage people to stay off the landscape and lights and hold off on installing benches as this time.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for July 24 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center. Motion to adjourn by Trish Beckjord, 2nd by Rick Brems.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Bong, H. Cabel, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
JULY 24, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Chris Bong, Holly Cabel, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Phil Held, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:09 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the July 10, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Trish Beckjord second by Jim Enck, to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Bong, H. Cabel, M. Myers, J. Wessel

Motion carried at 8:10 a.m.

3. Financial Planning Progress

On July 5, 2017, the City of St. Charles approved the motion to direct staff to work with the St. Charles Park District and any other public agencies to pursue the concepts and the next logical steps to develop a detailed preliminary design scope of service and to verify funding availability for preliminary engineering.

John Rabchuk spoke with Cathy Camm recently. She indicated that a preliminary “financial” meeting had already occurred between Mark Koenen, Chris Minick, Holly Cabel and Cathy. According to Cathy Camm, everyone appeared to be very excited about the project.

John Rabchuk emailed Mark Koenen, Holly Cabel and the two financial directors the various website links and funding research the Active River Project Task Force (“Task Force”) conducted last year.

The Task Force discussed various aspects of the project and funding sources:

- Identify sources in the City budget that could be allocated to this project. The group’s intention is to alleviate some of the financial burden from the City and the Park District by researching other funding sources.
- Research local families that own large businesses and are strong supporters of the community could be local sources of funding.

- Can this Task Force assist by identifying other sources of funding such as grants? The Park District has a grant writer on staff. Karen Laskowski, who attended a couple of Active River Project meetings in the past may also be good resource for grant information.
- A list of private foundations and other funding sources were submitted to the City and the St. Charles Park District. The Park District currently has a few RFP/RFQ's that may identify other funding sources applicable to this project.
- Fundraising organizations/consultants involved with similar projects are also good resources. These organizations could identify alternative funding sources and available funds e.g., EPA and Army Corp of Engineers.
- Research federal, state and the Department of Transportation as sources of money. This should be a discussion point during the visit to Greenville.
- Need to assure there is funding for "management" and continued enhancements. Greenville may be a reliable resource for information.
- Could a private foundation be considered to organize, raise and manage private monies, possibly an endowment managed by a private foundation? Hitchcock has identified at least three consulting groups that can accomplish this task.
- Discuss the potential of a "permit" or "user" fee to generate revenue for the project e.g., rental of kayaks or paddle boats, lockers, restrooms, etc.
- The next step includes Phase I Design Engineering (DE) that will include legal counsel, design forums and community input. The Design Engineering will need to be completed before applying for grants, etc.
- Could the Task Force raise sufficient philanthropic monies to pay for the "soft" costs of the project?
- Would the City consider hiring a consultant to research funding potentials for this project, e.g. Kathy Blaha Consulting? Hired consultant(s) could layout the blueprint and develop the strategic solutions for this project. How did other cities generate their monies? Would construction companies have connections to these types of funding resources?
- What will be the overall management structure of this "new" functioning group? Who will or should participate? How do we solicit those participants? Should it be set up as a non-profit, 501(c)(3)? What special interest groups should be part of this management organization?

4. Planning For Delegation to Greenville, South Carolina

The City of St. Charles also approved the motion to direct staff to coordinate a trip between staff and elected officials to Greenville, South Carolina."

A. Members Attending the Delegation

The site visit to Greenville, South Carolina is tentatively scheduled for October 4 and 5, 2017. The delegation will consist of five members from the City, three members from the Park District, one from the Active River Project Task Force

and potentially 3-4 civic-minded business leaders.

City attendees will include: Mark Koenen, Rita Tungare, Alderman Ed Bessner, Alderman Lora Vitek and one more elected official that has not been identified yet.

St. Charles Park District will include: Holly Cabel, Cathy Camm and Commissioner Bob Carne.

Active River Project: John Rabchuk

John Rabchuk has been assigned as the coordinator of the delegation. He will be extending an invitation to those within the private sector who have expressed an interest in attending the Greenville site visit.

B. Site Visit

Site visit is tentatively scheduled for October 4-5, 2017. Per John Rabchuk the Greenville city representatives have been very accommodating and the site visit should focus on answering questions on the larger picture of the project e.g., how was the project organized? How did you fund it? Who “owns” it? etc. The specific features of the project will be determined by the topographical and environmental factors of the river here in St. Charles.

The tentative agenda includes flying down on a Wednesday, October 4. There will be a three hour meeting on Thursday morning, October 5, followed by a guided tour. City, Park District and business community leaders will be involved in the meeting.

John Rabchuk recommended the members view the Greenville, South Carolina website for more information on the project. The website has a great deal of information on the project including the \$15 million investment that has turned into a \$100,000,000 worth of new investment in the downtown area, all within a two year period.

<https://gis.greenville.gov/downtownreborn/index.html>

John Rabchuk proposed some questions for the Greenville visit:

- How did they get the community to buy into the vision of Falls Park and the other key elements of their downtown rebirth?
- They pulled financial resources from the state, federal, city, Furman University, the hospital, the business community and a large number of private donors. How did that happen?
- They must have had naysayers - how did they address them? How did they handle the riparian rights issues along the river, as they have far more land owners involved than we do?
- How do they measure the impact of the Falls Park project on the community? What are the advantages and the disadvantages? Would they have done anything any differently?
- How did they organize to operate and maintain the park once it was built?
- My understanding is that they have multiple entities involved, so who coordinates the actual efforts and responsibilities?
- While Falls Park was certainly an important element of their downtown rebirth,

what are the other key components and how was the overall vision created and managed?

Attracting new business to the area has been another success of the project. BMW has one of its largest factories in the world located outside of Greenville. These types of industries have brought an international flair to the city's culture.

5. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Active River Website & Face Book

Per John Rabchuk, the River Corridor and the City has agreed to split the cost for an Active River Project website.

The Task Force discussed utilizing the new Active River Project website for input from the community. What are their suggestions for the project? Could a list of features be listed and the community check off their favorite features e.g., bike trails, kayaking, walking trails, splash park, etc.?

B. Presentation to Pottawatomie Garden Club

The presentation to Pottawatomie Garden Club is scheduled for this afternoon July 24, 2017, from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at Baker Methodist Church.

C. Presentation to St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

A presentation to the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce is planned for Friday, July 28, 2017, from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. at the Chamber Office.

D. Presentation to St. Charles Exchange Club

This presentation will occur Tuesday, August 22, 2017, from 7:00 to 7:20 a.m. Colonial Café on Randall Road.

6. Member Organization Updates

A. St. Charles Park District

The Feasibility Study presentation went well. Per Trish Beckjord, there is good support from the Park District for this project. Commissioner Bob Carne will be traveling to Greenville as the Park District representative. The Park District however continues to have questions and concerns as to their financial commitments to the project.

B. City of St. Charles

No discussion.

C. River Corridor Foundation

No discussion.

7. Update on Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Sources

No future meetings have been scheduled at this time.

8. Other

A. Consider a Small Project for Next Year

The Task Force discussed the option of creating another small project to keep the ongoing momentum of the Active River Project. John Rabchuk mentioned the City has a \$100,000 budgeted this year for the Active River Project. A portion of this money has already been spent on the Wind Emotions Sculpture site and future landscaping plans, but the remainder could be utilized for some other purpose i.e. a small project, for consulting costs, design fees etc. Other projects are still in the works:

- Phase II of Boy Scout Island scheduled for next year.
- RFQ is out for the stabilization of Pottawatomie Golf Course.
- “The Key” sculpture at the end of the foot bridge honoring Sharon & Vern Oie

Additional Ideas:

- Small splash park in the downtown area
- Treehouse
- Marsh Project
- Active River Project website

Rick Brems will email pictures of the treehouse he visited in Barrington to the members of this task force.

If the Task Force considers a marsh project, Trish Beckjord suggested contacting a company called Inter-Fluve. This is a river restoration and water resources engineering firm specializing in investigations, design and restorations of rivers, lakes and wetlands. They specialize in fish life in the river and come highly recommended by experts in the field. They could be hired to do a design engineering feasibility study for approximately \$10,000.

For the next meeting, John Rabchuk recommended the Task Force members bring other ideas of a “small” potential project.

B. Water Quality of the River:

With the current flooding going on, the Task Force discussed the water quality of the river and if there might be impacts on the water features of the Active River Project. Are water quality samples routinely taken? Who is responsible for monitoring the water? Can this project improve the quality of the water?

C. Feasibility Study Presentation to Conservation Foundation Kane County Advisory Group

Trish Beckjord mentioned that she will be calling be Greg Chismark (WBK) to request a presentation of the Feasibility Study to the Conservation Foundation Kane County Advisory Group on August 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. She will email the Task Force members once she receives a confirmation from Greg. In addition, Sue Harney is giving a presentation on a whole nature base play area recently built near the library in Dundee.

9. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center. Motion to adjourn by Trish Beckjord, 2nd by Rick Brems.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Bong, H. Cabel, M. Myers, J. Wessel

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.