



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: September 25, 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):*

* August 7, 2017 – Task Force Meeting Minutes * August 21, 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
AUGUST 7, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Chris Bong, Rick Brems, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:07 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the July 24, 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, R. Brems, M. Myers, J. Wessel

Motion carried at 8:07 a.m.

3. Planning For Delegation to Greenville, South Carolina

The City of St. Charles has been busy making arrangements for the delegation traveling to Greenville, South Carolina.

A. Members Attending the Delegation:

City Officials: Mark Koenen, Rita Tungare, Lora Vitek, Ed Bessner, Ron Silkaitis

St. Charles Park District Officials: Holly Cabel, Cathy Camm, Bob Carne

River Corridor: John Rabchuk

Other potential attendees: Tom Anderson, Rick Hitchcock, John Collins, Craig Larsen and John Hoscheit

Holly Cabel mentioned that Greg Chismark also expressed an interest in the site visit. John Rabchuk will extend an invitation to Mr. Chismark.

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 was the project funded? Who “owns” it? etc. The specific features of the project will be determined by the topographical and environmental factors of the Fox River as it flows through St. Charles.

The delegation will depart on 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(s). The delegation will be flying back Thursday afternoon.

C. Questions to Ask During the Visit To Greenville:

John Rabchuk proposed some questions for the Greenville visit. He requested other pertinent questions be forwarded to him so they can put on a comprehensive list.

- 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?

Are there other questions we should be asking?

Trish Beckjord wondered if Falls Park fell under the jurisdiction of the park district. How is the park district involved?

John Rabchuk mentioned that Falls Park had TIFF Districts. They also conducted some private fundraising but he was not sure how these were organized.

Rick Brems was not present at this meeting but John was aware that Rick was gathering information from Columbus, Georgia project. Uptown Columbus is an organization that has teamed up with the Business Improvement District to offer residents and visitors unique experiences in shopping, dining, tourism and entertainment along the Chattahoochee River. John believes the Park District & City may support this organization, similar to the St. Charles Downtown Partnership. In some ways the Columbus, Georgia project is different in that the river is 5 miles long and the river was more of the focus of the project.

John mentioned Mr. Brems was currently in Charlestown, South Carolina and

drove through Greenville. Rick Brems contacted John and mentioned he was very impressed with Greenville.

John Rabchuk recently emailed Mark Koenen and the Mayor regarding the Greenville visit. He mentioned the emphasis of the visit was not to focus on the actual features of the project but more on the financial funding for the project and the impact on the economic development of the downtown.

As a comparison, Trish Beckjord suggested Rick Brems gather similar information from the various river projects. How would these other projects answer these questions we are asking at Greenville?

Please take a minute to view the Greenville website
<https://gis.greenvillesc.gov/downtownreborn/index.html>

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Active River Website Design

Per John Rabchuk, the River Corridor and the City have agreed to split the cost for an Active River Project website. Tony Zehnder and Phil Held are involved in this project.

Ideas were discussed for the website:

- Create a Frequently Asked Questions page for the public to view.
- Create links to other similar projects, e.g., Columbus, Georgia, Providence River Relocation Project in Providence, Rhode Island, etc.

<http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/gacolriverwalk.html>

https://www.rudybruneraward.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/06_providence.pdf

Arends, Inc. of Batavia, Illinois, is designing the website plus a new site for River Corridor Foundation. John Rabchuk will be meeting with the developer soon. They hope the website will be up and running by September 1, 2017.

Holly Cabel requested the link to the new site be placed on the Park District 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 St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Active River Project presentation on Friday, July 28, 2017, went well. Rick Brems presented to approximately twenty people. The presentation was well received.

C. Presentation to St. Charles Exchange Club

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

D. Feasibility Study Presentation on Thursday, August 10.

Greg Chismark is also scheduled to give a 15-20 minute presentation of the Feasibility Study to the Conservation Foundation Kane County Advisory Group on Thursday, August 10, at 9:00 a.m. at Hickory Knolls.

The Pottawatomie Park presentation on July 24 went very well. There was a good size group with many questions being asked regarding the project.

5. Member Organization Updates

A. St. Charles Park District

Holly Cable mentioned the St. Charles Park District was working on Shoreline project. A Request for Quotes was conducted and the Park District will be interviewing vendors next week.

The Boy Scout Island needs additional work on the ramp and parking lot. Some additional repairs are needed due to the recent flooding.

Holly mentioned issues on the river regarding motorized boats versus non-motorized boats have come up, but this is nothing unusual. The St. Charles Park District does not have jurisdiction on the river. If there are any boater issues on the river the public should call the Conservation Police. They regulate the behavior of boaters on the river. Holly added that the Park District does regulate the number of non-motorized boat rentals (paddle boats and kayaks) on the river so they don't overwhelm the area.

B. City of St. Charles

Chris Adesso mentioned the Bob Leonard Walk is cleaned up and opened after last week's flooding.

The City and Park District cleaned up various areas for the Color Run race this past weekend. Jim Enck was there and stated there was a good turnout. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the race. Maybe more events like this should be considered for future fundraisers. The "Tug of War" across the river might also be a good fundraiser.

The group then began to discuss the City's current budget for the Active River Project. John Rabchuk mentioned \$2,300 will be going toward the Active River Project website, but could the remaining funds be utilized for other smaller scale projects.

Chris Adesso mentioned the City has several Active River Project related projects to complete:

- Approximately \$25,000 budgeted to finish the Wind Emotions site. B&L will start landscaping the area soon.
- Maintenance Work on the Freedom Trail. The Freedom Trail from the Municipal Building to Pottawatomie is uneven and needs to be remedied. For now the he brick pavers will be removed and a temporary asphalt path will be installed. Chris hopes the City will be completing this project before the Scarecrow Fest in October.

- The City has also committed to pay for the base for the Oie “Key” sculpture.

The group discussed the funding process of projects utilizing the City’s budgeted dollars this fiscal year. If the River Corridor Foundation (RCF) is interested in utilizing some of the funds, the RCF should review the River Corridor Master Plan projects and discuss one of those potential projects with Mark Koenen.

Highlights of the discussion:

- Monies currently budgeted for projects need to be utilized within the same fiscal year. Keep in mind any project over \$25,000 needs City Council approval.
- If the City is managing the project, the City would need to solicit the services according to the purchasing policies of the City. This would include the following:
 - A person would need to be designated as a project manager.
 - The goal of the project would need to be relayed to a City staffer.
 - A solicitation document (RFP/RFQ) would need to be created.
 - The services would need to be approved by City Council and the funds could be expended.
- Reimbursement of a project managed by another group. If the project is under \$25,000, that could be processed as a reimbursement. This would be similar to the project the City and Park District worked together on recently.
- Another option would be for the RCF to apply for another Riverboat Grant, “matching” funds and utilizing a Reimbursement Voucher. This would be similar to the Wind Emotions project. Would the River Corridor Foundation however need to solicit bids for the project? If the City was doing a reimbursement voucher they would want to know if this vendor was the best person for the job. Were they the lowest bid? If not, why were they chosen?

C. River Corridor Foundation

Chris Adesso mentioned the River Corridor Brick Program was presented to Government Services Committee on July 24. The program should be approved at tonight’s Council meeting without any issues. The Brick Program will be promoted more in the near future.

6. Update on Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Sources

A. No future meetings have been scheduled at this time.

John Rabchuk has continued to communicate with the potential corporate/philanthropic funding sources. John has emailed the Feasibility Study information to them and has extended them an invitation to Greenville, South Carolina. They still are still very interested in the project.

7. Other

None.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center. Motion to adjourn by Trish Beckjord, 2nd by Jim Enck.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
AUGUST 21, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Trish Beckjord, Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Ed Werneke, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the August 7, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Tony Zehnder second by Rick Brems, to accept and place the minutes on file.

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

Motion carried at 8:05 a.m.

3. Planning For Delegation to Greenville, South Carolina

The City of St. Charles has been busy making arrangements for the delegation traveling to Greenville, South Carolina.

A. Members Attending the Delegation:

City Officials: Mark Koenen, City Administrator; Rita Tungare, Community & Economic Development Director; and Aldermen Lora Vitek, Ed Bessner and Ron Silkaitis

St. Charles Park District Officials: Holly Cabel, St. Charles Park District Director; Cathy Camm, Superintendent of Finance & Administration; Bob Carne, President of the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners

River Corridor: John Rabchuk

Other potential civic/business leaders: Greg Chismark and John Wills from WBK and Rich Hitchcock, President at Hitchcock Design Group, have confirmed that they will be attending.

John Rabchuk has not received a confirmation from Tom Anderson or Craig Larsen. He will also try to contact John Collins.

B. Site Visit

The site visit is scheduled for October 4-5, 2017. The delegation will arrive to Greenville on the evening of Wednesday, October 4. There will be a three hour meeting on Thursday morning, October 5, with city staff, park district and civic/business leaders. Meeting will be followed up with a guided tour of Falls Park led by Mayor Knox White.

The following video links have great background information on the project:

- Ted-Talk from Mayor White concerning Falls Park project
<https://youtu.be/2L8HPajQ730>
- See new Greenville City website
<https://gis.greenvillesc.gov/downtownreborn/index.html>

Rich Brems recently traveled through Greenville. He mentioned that he was very impressed with the city and their project. He took a lot of photographs and shared them with everyone at the meeting. The population ranges from 45,000 to 57,000 with the area booming in the last 13 to 15 years.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Update on the Active River Website Design

Rick Brems spoke with Arends, Inc., who is designing the interactive River Corridor and Active River Project websites. At this time, they are going through and sorting through all the information that Rick has sent them regarding the project. The contractor hopes to have the site up and running shortly after Labor Day.

Arends, Inc. is being paid monthly and will be responsible for maintaining and updating the website. Additional information and updates will be forwarded to Arends and they will post the information on the website within 48 hours. Information can be sent to Rick Brems, Phil Held or Tony Zehnder and they will forward it to Arends.

In addition, Rick has been speaking with a drone pilot to get some current pictures/videos of the river with the expectation that these can be added to the website.

B. Presentation to St. Charles Exchange Club

There will be a 20 minute presentation of the Active River Project to approximately 20 members of the St. Charles Exchange Club tomorrow, Tuesday, August 22, 2017, from 7:00 to 7:20 a.m., at the Colonial Café located on Randall Road.

5. Member Organization Updates

A. St. Charles Park District

Holly Cabel stated the Request for Quotes (RFQ) has been completed for the shoreline restoration and stabilization project at Pottawatomie Park Golf Course. The St. Charles Park District received twenty-one RFQ submissions and they have narrowed it down to WBK. This is just the phase plan and not the

implementation.

Holly Cabel also mentioned the construction at Boy Scout Island has begun. The Park District however has discovered some under water damage to the launch and it will need to be fixed. They do hope to complete this project sometime this fall.

John Rabchuk took a moment to commend the City and the Park District for all their efforts cleaning up many areas of the city. Many areas had flooded and needed to be cleaned up for this year's Bob Leonard Walk event.

John Rabchuk also mentioned Mark Koenen, the City of St. Charles and the St. Charles Park District have had ongoing meetings investigating and researching the funding aspects of this project. While John Rabchuk did not have any specific information regarding the meetings, he stated that they have been very positive and the group has been moving forward on this initiative.

B. City of St. Charles

Chris Adesso mentioned new plantings have been installed at the Wind Emotions site. Contractors are also working on the Freedom Walk from the Municipal Building to the Police Station. Bricks were removed and replaced with asphalt.

At the last meeting, this group discussed utilizing any funds remaining in the Active River Project budget for a small project. Mark Koenen mentioned all monies are being utilized by the City for various Active River related projects, e.g., removal of bricks and pouring of asphalt on the Freedom Walk, the creation of an Active River Project website, the trip to Greenville, landscaping of the Wind Emotions site, etc.

C. River Corridor Foundation

i. Community River Day Concept

John Rabchuk and Mark discussed the opportunity to expand the Bob Leonard Walk/Run and Colonial Café Kids Color Run with other events being held throughout the same day. This could include:

- Tug of War Across the Fox River
- Bratwurst Festival
- Craft Beer Fest
- Breakfast at Pottawatomie Park

John Rabchuk has researched "Tug of War Across the River" events and sand pits would be needed on both sides of the river. The group discussed if this type of event was even feasible and potential locations to hold the event.

6. Update on Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Sources

A. Dunham Foundation Meeting Request

John Rabchuk recently received an invitation to a meeting from the Dunham Foundation. The meeting invite is extended to potential grant applicants to discuss the grant process and procedures. The meeting is scheduled for early September.

When John met with them back in May, they encouraged him to apply for a \$250,000 grant. Robert Vaughn is the executive director of the foundation and he appears to be very intrigued by the Active River Project.

John hopes the approval of this grant will open the door for other potential corporate and philanthropic sources to contribute to the project. These funds will be used for the overall design engineering of the Active River Project which is in the \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 range.

B. Update on Other Potential Corporate Funding Source

John Rabchuk continues to keep in touch with other corporate funding sources and they continue to be very responsive to the Active River Project especially with the Greenville, South Carolina trip being planned.

7. Other

A. Plaque Donations for Planters

Tom Anderson has a family that would like to purchase four (4) memorial plaques. The plaques would be placed on all four sides of the planters at the “If I Could Fly” sculpture site on the Bob Leonard Walk. The cost for each plaque is \$500 for a total of \$2,000. The large cement containers will hold annuals and perennials and maintained by the City.

Chris Adesso reminded everyone that City Council just approved the River Corridor Memorial Brick Program the beginning of August. He mentioned these plaques may also need to be approved.

John Rabchuk will discuss this with Mark Koenen and send Chris Adesso all the necessary information regarding the plaques and the application for the website.

B. Pottawatomie Garden Club Bench Donation

The River Corridor has also received a request for at least one bench from the Pottawatomie Garden Club. The River Corridor does not have any additional memorial benches or pads at this point in time; therefore they would need to be approved independently. It may be possible to incorporate the Memorial Planter Plaques and Benches to the Memorial Brick program. Location options for the benches were discussed:

- Gratitude Sculpture location - It was noted that it may not be the most conducive site due to the orientation of the sculpture.
- Bob Leonard Walk - At this point in time, there aren't any potential spots on the Bob Leonard Walk.
- Wind Emotions - This site is not conducive to a bench at the present time.

Other potential options:

The St. Charles Park District already has a memorial bench program;
Pottawatomie Garden Club could submit an application to the Park District.

Camp Kane Heritage Foundation is also making improvements around the site of the Jones Law Office, which is on City property. They will be adding brick pavers and a new flag pole. There is the potential of placing a bench on that site.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center. Motion to adjourn by Jim Enck 2nd by Tony Zehnder.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.