



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title:	Active River Project Update – Information Only
Presenter:	Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee Date: February 26, 2018

Proposed Cost: \$ N/A	Budgeted Amount: \$ N/A	Not Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/>
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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):*

* January, 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
JANUARY 8, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Chris Adesso, 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 8:06 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the November 13, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Trish Beckjord second by Rick Brems, to accept and place the minutes on file.

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

Motion carried at 8:07 a.m.

3. City and Park District Active River Project Meeting Discussion Updates

The City and the Park District have met on a couple of occasions to discuss next steps. Mark Koenen and Holly Cabel have also had a follow up meeting. According to Holly Cabel, the meetings to cover the ground work for this initiative has been positive and it appears to be moving forward. Items discussed during this section of the meeting included:

- City of St. Charles and St. Charles Park District Board are discussing the ground work for an inter-governmental agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement will formalize the responsibilities and financial commitment from each entity. Mark Koenen and Holly will be drafting the agreement, but they need to get direction from their respective Park District Board and City Council.
- Mark would also like to identify the role the philanthropic entity will play in this project.
- Mark and Holly will schedule a conference call with Kathy Blaha. Purpose: discuss Kathy's expertise and determine if her experience is applicable to the Active River Project.

- Holly's impression is the City would like a joint partnership from each of the entities involved in this project.
- St. Charles Park District Board President Bob Carne and Vice-President Brian Charles will be meeting with John Rabchuk before they meet with the City aldermen representatives, Lora Vitek and Dan Stellato.
- Per Holly Cabel, the preliminary engineering phase design may be a two to three year process. For now, WBK has a very preliminary draft outlining the various phases of the project.
- Creating the inter-governmental agreement which would include funding responsibilities are the first steps in moving forward on this initiative. The next step would be for WBK to finalize an outline of the actual phases for this project.
- The group discussed other City projects that may tie back to the Active River Project, e.g., the river wall, Indiana footbridge repairs, bike trail, etc.
- Once the design engineering phase is completed, applying for grants (including federal and state) and philanthropic monies will become applicable.
- Several members present mentioned there is very little information being disseminated by the City in regards to the Active River Project, in particular on the City's website. Holly Cabel mentioned that the project has been discussed at the City "update" meetings.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Update and Presentation of New River Corridor and Active River Website

Rick Brems has not had the opportunity to meet with John Arends regarding the Active River Project website. He does have a meeting with Robert later today and he hopes to have the Active River Project video and website project completed soon.

Phil Held received an email from John Arends on December 22; the Active River Project had 80 to 90% of its initial content in place. Proofreading and other minor adjustments still need to be completed but Arends hopes to complete the project by January 11 or 12. There are still videos that need to be added to the site.

Holly Cabel was unable to find the updated Active River Project plan on the River Corridor website. The St. Charles Park District website had a link to this plan; please notify Holly where the plan is on the Active River Project or River Corridor website so the St. Charles Park District site can link to it.

<http://www.stcharlesactiveriver.org/index.php>

B. Dunham Foundation Update

John Rabchuk spoke with the Dunham Foundation during the holidays and the Active River Project is not being considered for any funds this year. Currently the foundation is focusing on education, primarily in the city of Aurora, due to the state cut backs. The Dunham Foundation is the only philanthropic group John Rabchuk is aware of that has sponsored a project in the preconstruction phase, e.g., River Edge Park in Aurora.

John Rabchuk indicated the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley has

requested that former grant recipients wait at least two full years from the date they received payment from the Community Foundation before applying for a new grant; therefore the Active River Project will not be able to apply for another grant until next year.

The Grand Victoria Riverboat Foundation will still be a good source for grant money.

C. Kiwanis

John Rabchuk mentioned that the St. Charles Kiwanis Club has a signature project in this week's agenda. There will a motion made at the meeting to initiate a project relating to the Active River Project.

In addition, and for the first time, Kiwanis is going to utilize social media (Facebook) to raise funds for the "Day in the Park" event. This program is in conjunction with Fox Valley Special Recreation Association. If this method raises sufficient funds, this may be another opportunity for the Active River Project to raise monies in the future.

D. Scheduled Presentations

John Rabchuk will be given a presentation to the St. Charles Bank & Trust Pioneers Adventure Club, Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. The speaking engagement will be held at the Charlestown Cinema. This will be a one-hour presentation to approximately 100 people.

There is also another presentation to the St. Charles Golden K Club that is still to be determined.

5. Member Organization Updates

A. St. Charles Park District

i. Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization

Holly Cabel stated money is being allocated for the Golf Shoreline Stabilization project. The entire plan will be designed and then dollars will be allocated to each section of the project starting in the fall.

ii. Boy Scout Island Boat Launch Project

Holly reported Boy Scout Island project will start in March. Repairing the launch is the first priority and then the expansion of the parking lot. According to Holly, the expansions will double the number of parking spaces. It will be also more efficient when conducting drop offs.

B. City of St. Charles

Chris Adesso was not in attendance. No updates given at this meeting.

C. River Corridor Foundation

Heart of the Fox: Run, Tugs & Hugs Event Scheduled for May 20th

Instead of the Bob Leonard Run this year, the River Corridor is planning to rename the event to: "Heart of the Fox: Runs, Tugs & Hugs". In addition to the

Color Run, the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (FVSRA) group is requesting a Color Run and a Tug-of-War event for children with special needs at Pottawatomie Park. The course however still needs to be laid out.

John Rabchuk has requested a meeting with Northwestern Hospital to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the event, as a “health and wellness” event, e.g. Northwestern Hospital could take blood pressure checks,” talk with a doc”, etc.

In addition, there are several entities that are offering to donate monies toward the event. Colonial is offering to sponsor the Color Run(s) and several banks are offering to donate monies toward the event. Restaurants may also want to get involved, especially those that are located in the First Street Plaza area. John Rabchuk will be attending the Downtown St. Charles Partnership Board meeting this coming Wednesday to promote the event.

The keynote event would also include an adult Tug-of-War across the river in the downtown area. At the moment, the committee is looking to hold the event from the Harris Bank parking lot across to the 1st Street Plaza, as one of the potential locations for the this event. The committee discussed pros and cons of different locations and logistics of the event. Fox Valley Recreation Association may also be interested in putting a couple of teams together for this event. The event will need to be advertised soon.

John Rabchuk has also spoken to John Baird, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, from School District 303. Mr. Baird indicated he would organize this portion of the event utilizing his team of high school students.

The event is being planned for Sunday, May 20. Pottawatomie Park has already been reserved. The 5K will begin at 7:00 a.m. The 10K will begin soon after that. The Color Runs will be conducted around 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the Tug-of-War will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. John Rabchuk is looking to publicize the Active River Project at the event by organizing a display area in the 1st Street Plaza. The display can include pictures and possibly videos.

The River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles will discuss this further next week.

6. Other

Trish Beckjord mentioned the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) is holding a monthly meeting this week on Wednesday, January 10, at The Centre of Elgin to focus on grant funding sources. The program will assist FREP members and the watershed community in their search for funds for a variety of projects. Nancy Williamson will be giving a presentation on IDNR grants, Grand Victoria Foundation website, Community Foundation of The Fox River Valley website and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation website.

Trish emailed the announcement to Mark Koenen and Holly regarding the upcoming meeting. These meetings are always open to the public and this may be a good networking opportunity for those seeking grants to attend. Trish mentioned she was planning to attend, but would also forward the notice to Greg Chismark at WBK.

Holly will check in with Laura to see if she should take advantage of this opportunity.

7. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.