



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Active River Project Update –Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Please check appropriate box:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	X	Government Services – 06.27.16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development		City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	\$0.00	Budgeted:	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Executive Summary:

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)*

May 2, 2016 - Task Force Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2016 – Task Force Meeting Minutes

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only

For office use only: Agenda Item Number: 3.b

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
MAY 2, 2016**

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

Members Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyers

Others Present: Tom Anderson, Ed Werneke, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

Visitors Present:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:01 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 18, 2016 Active River Task Force meeting. Motion by Trish Beckjord, second by Jim Enck to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyer

Motion carried at 8:04 a.m.

3. Communications and Marketing Update

A. Update on Logo Design and Branding Efforts

Jim Enck, Trish Beckjord and Candy Boulay attended the “DamNation” presentation on April 22, at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva. They felt that those attending the presentation were overall very supportive of the Active River Project. Comments regarding the graphic design were very positive and most people agreed the tag line should state “Destination St. Charles”.

Overall, comments from the Downtown Partnership has also been positive, but they recommended the Task Force consider coordinating with the colors of the new Downtown Partnership, “Discover Your City Side” logo. This would be an attempt to maintain a cohesiveness between the two organizations. Committee members felt the colors had no bearing on the Active River Project therefore the current logo colors will remain green, white and black.

Discussion from last month continued on the “name” to place underneath the logo: “Active River Project” versus “Active River”.

Motion was made by Trish Beckjord, 2nd by Jim Enck for the name to remain as “Active River Project” until the project progresses and a motion to change the name would be considered if and when the general public began to identify the project with another name.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyer

Motion carried at 8:17 a.m.

4. Task Force Updates

A. Update on St Charles Park District Related Active River Projects

Holly Cabel mentioned the Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIP) meeting on May 12, 2016, at the WMS Boathouse at Clark Park in Chicago. The agenda includes a presentation on how rowing came to Clark Park, the overall initiative to get people on the Chicago River and some unique construction elements of the boat house. Libby Scarlatos from Row America will be attending.

Ms. Cabel also mentioned decisions will be made on the boat storage structure; one possible location could be south of St. Mary’s Park. The boats that were previously stored at Campana are now at the Alpaca farm.

B. Forest Preserve/Park District

Holly Cabel also mentioned meetings were also in progress between the railroad, the Park District and the Kane County Forest Preserve. She will keep the Task Force updated.

C. Grant Applications Update

i. Bob Leonard Walk Update

The Kane County Riverboat Grant application was submitted on February 29, 2016, but the Task Force will not receive any confirmation of the funds until this coming fall.

ii. Charlemagne Island Sculpture Project

A decision on the Community Foundation Grant was anticipated today, May 2, 2016. The River Project Task Force should hear soon if they received the \$25,000 grant.

The City will not move forward on the engineering phase of the sculptures until the grants are approved. Chris Adesso mentioned the City will most likely need to go through a Request for Proposal/Qualification (RFP/Q) once the grant is confirmed. The team that provided the Master Plan (WBK) would be a good choice, but ultimately any item over \$25,000 requires an approval from Council.

D. Engineering

Greg Chismark of WBK has supplied an outline of work required for the feasibility study and it is estimated at \$115,000, far less than anticipated. This estimate only covers the elements

for the river park concept; it does not include trails, etc. WBK has already shared this information with Scott Shipley.

E. Cost Comparisons from Similar Projects in Other Communities

Trish Beckjord began the analysis and cost comparisons from similar projects from other comparable communities. Documenting the information on a spreadsheet appeared to be the most logical for comparing similar projects around the country, but the spreadsheet became too cumbersome. Instead, she created a summary sheet for Falls Park located in Greenville, South Carolina. This method proved to be more organized and manageable. Her concept is to create a “Summary Sheet” for each of the comparable projects which will be more effective and efficient. The Task Force members agreed.

Trish Beckjord will include the following categories for each of the “Summary Sheets”:

Population
Project Size
Project Timeline
Project Elements and Costs
Partners of the Project
Project Benefits
Enhancement Funding Strategies
Lessons Learned
Website References

Potential River Projects/Cities to Analyze and Compare:

Falls Park, Greenville, South Carolina
Charles City Riverfront Development Project, Charles City, Iowa
White Water Park, Manchester, Iowa
Chattahoochee River Restoration Project, Columbus, Georgia / Phenix City, Alabama

F. Meetings and Presentations

- i. Potential Site Visit to Greenville, South Carolina – Falls Park Project
John Rabchuk discussed a potential site visit to Greenville, South Carolina, with Mark Koenen. There is an opportunity to meet with the mayor and the economic development director of Greenville, which could focus on the project details including costs, funding and the economic benefits of the project.

Visiting several areas in Iowa were also discussed. These included Manchester, Cedar River and Charles City, Iowa. In addition, several aldermen will be meeting with Mark Koenen to discuss the benefits of visiting some of these types of projects. There is no doubt that these projects have made a large impact on the economy of each of these cities. Each of these cities have said that would do it again.

- ii. Rick Brems visiting Columbus Georgia / Phenix City, Alabama
Rick Brems also mentioned that he would be visiting the Columbus, Georgia / Phenix City, Alabama, and their river project area in May. He will take pictures and gather information.

The Task Force members indicated they needed to be proactive.

iii. May 23rd Government Services Committee Presentation

John Rabchuk will be giving an update regarding the Active River Project at the May 23 Government Services Committee (GSC) meeting. Items to be include in the presentation:

- Share the WBK feasibility engineering study cost estimate
- Review the funding and cost analysis Trish Beckjord is preparing to other comparable projects and communities
- Share copies of the Active River logo design
- Share the project success of Greenville, South Carolina
- Review the Columbus, Georgia / Phenix City, Alabama, project
- Update on the Community Foundation Grant and kinetic sculpture(s)

Mr. Adesso mentioned he would need the highlights of the presentation submitted to him no later than May 5. He will prepare the executive summary which is due to the Director of Public Works by May 9.

G. Other Outreach Efforts

i. Private Fund Raising

No status update available at this time; still awaiting City commitment.

V. Other and New Business: None

VI. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Motion by Trish Beckjord to adjourn the meeting, second by Holly Cabel.

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

-Motion carried at 9:12 a.m.

MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
MAY 16, 2016

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

Members Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyers,

Others Present: Candy Boulay, Ed Werneke, Tony Zehnder

Visitors Present:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened by Chris Adesso at 8:02 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the May 2, 2016 Active River Task Force meeting. Motion by Trish Beckjord, second by Rick Brems to accept and place the minutes on file with the following correction: Page 2 stated: Motion was made by Trish Brems, 2nd by Jim Enck for the name to remain as “Active River Project” until the project progresses and a motion to change the name would be considered if and when the general public began to identify the project with another name. It should state: Motion was made by Trish Beckjord.

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

Motion carried at 8:06 a.m.

3. Set Meeting Schedule

- a. No meeting on Monday, May 30th
- b. Next meeting will take place on June 13th

4. Task Force Updates

a. Park District

Park District Staff Laura Rudow and Melissa Caine attended a presentation by Chicago Park District regarding their Rowing program and boat house. Holly stated it was a good meeting. Also in attendance was Libby from Row America. Melissa Caine would handle any rowing programs through the district.

Rick Brems suggested a demonstration take place at the upcoming 5K River Corridor Fun Run. Holly Cabel stated both Row America and the Active River Task Force should be involved in any presentations. It was decided to just have an information table at this event.

Chris Adesso stated the fire department would need to be notified about this event.

Trish Beckjord asked if there were other opportunities this summer to have a table or tent at events. Holly Cabel stated there are rental events and the committee would have to work with each individual group to seek permission.

b. Grant Applications

Bob Leonard Walk

An application was submitted on 2/29/16. Notification is not anticipated until fall 2016.

Charlemagne Island

An application was submitted on 4/7/16. Notification is not anticipated until June 3rd.

c. Engineering

Greg Chismark of WBK has supplied an outline of work required for feasibility study. WBK will review estimate with City staff. John Rabchuk stated he anticipated this would have come in large; the study will show possible costs to construct, maintenance of upper pool. Chris Adesso stated the concept vetting study will determine what will or will not be possible while maintaining the upper pool. Rick Brems stated he has visited other sites; water control has been done; we need to look at bigger picture; share examples of other sites. Holly Cabel stated committee should be careful on wording; measurables should be done. John Rabchuk stated small things lead to big things; many groups are participating in the project.

d. Cost Comparisons From Similar Projects in Other Communities

Trish Beckjord prepared project profile information for projects in Greenville, South Carolina, Manchester, Iowa and Columbus, Georgia. John Rabchuk stated Trish did a great job with this project. Trish stated Charlotte location has a hydraulic control flow.

John Rabchuk will give information to some aldermen before the next presentation to the City.

e. Meetings and Presentations

- a. John Rabchuk will give a presentation to the ShoDeen foundation on Thursday.
- b. John suggested that at the appropriate time the ARP should contact Northwestern Medical concerning the possibility of funding from their foundation with a focus on building a healthy community.
- c. Government Services Committee of City Council on Monday, May 23, 2016 (presentation time should only be 15 minutes)
 1. Project profiles prepared by Trish Beckjord
 2. Active River Project Status Update
 3. PowerPoint presentations for Greenville, Manchester and Columbus
 4. Potential for a site visit to Greenville, South Carolina with a STC delegation. Tremendous impact on the downtown area of Greenville. Invitations from the Mayor and Economic Development Director of Greenville
 5. Request funding for Engineering Feasibility Study to prove/disapprove any negative impacts of the project concepts.
- d. Metro West Council – Fox River Valley subgroup – to be scheduled

- e. High School Environmental Class water quality testing
 - 1. Getting organized for starting program in fall 2016.
- f. Pottawatomie Garden Club – presentation to be scheduled

g. Other Outreach Efforts

- a. Private fundraising
 - 1. No status update available at this time – awaiting City commitment
 - 2. Trish Beckjord stated she would reach out to the Downtown St. Charles Partnership to seek more involvement.

5. Other and New Business

None

6. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 8:00 a.m. at Baker Community Center.

Motion by Trish Beckjord to adjourn the meeting, second by Holly Cabel

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Chris Bong, Monica Meyers - Motion carried at 9:21 a.m.