



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 23, 2018

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):*

* February, 2018 – Task Force Meeting Minutes *March, 2018 – Task Force Meeting Minutes

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Tom Anderson, Ed Werneke, 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 January 8, 2018 Active River Task Force meeting.

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

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

Motion carried at 8:08 a.m.

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

A. Update on Discussion with between Consultant Kathy Blaha, Mark Koenen and Holly Cabel

A conference call was held between Kathy Blaha, Mark Koenen and Holly Cabel approximately a week ago. Per Holly, Mark described the St. Charles Active River Project and its current status to Kathy. Ms. Blaha mentioned her involvement in several projects ranging from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Florida. Her expertise however was forming private/public partnerships to financially support the operations and maintenance on projects similar to what was being discussed in St. Charles. Holly and Mark determined Kathy's expertise was not applicable for the Active River Project at this point in time. It however will be very valuable in the near future if and when the project is underway. Mark and Holly asked Kathy for referrals on a group(s) that may manage the project from its inception.

This Active River Project committee (hereafter referred to as "Committee") discussed similar river projects that St. Charles could model in its current phase?

John Rabchuk mentioned he was having lunch with Rich Hitchcock later in the day. Rich has mentioned he has two other firms that have taken on similar endeavors. John will ask Rich for some referrals.

Rick Brems recommended creating a survey of 20 questions that can be distributed to other similar river projects. Those that have gone through these efforts before could be great resource:

- Columbus, Georgia – Richard Bishop
- Charles City, Iowa
- Greenville, South Carolina
- Manchester, Iowa

These projects may be able to outline the steps and process they took to have their project come to fruition. Also, would the formation of a new entity/group comprised of governmental, corporate-business and philanthropic be an advantage to lead this project at this point in time?

Rick Brems mentioned Charles City, Iowa, utilized the Renaissance Group. The Renaissance Group provides comprehensive resource development services to a wide variety of not-for-profit organizations throughout the Midwest. The Columbus, Georgia project may also be a good resource. They are very similar to St. Charles in that they set up inter-governmental agreements.

John Rabchuk will be meeting with Mark Koenen on Wednesday, February 7, to discuss the opportunity to team up with the River Corridor on a project. This may include a discussion on the Indiana /Piano Factory Bridge. This opportunity sounds very similar to the Greenville project, where non-for profit organizations applied for the philanthropic/corporate donations. In addition, Mark has requested a copy of the Active River Project video for the Council Retreat scheduled this coming weekend, February 10.

The grant cycle for the Grand Victoria Riverboat is March 1. Trish Beckjord also mentioned there may be opportunities to apply for “Public Trail” grants. The Piano Bridge may qualify since it is part of the public trails system. The Committee also discussed other grant opportunities e.g., the Community Foundation, Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD), Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and IDNR.

In addition, John Rabchuk heard the IDNR showed a video snippet of the Active River Project at a recent civil engineering meeting. The program centered on potential river projects.

B. Update on Constructing the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of St. Charles and St. Charles Park District regarding the Active River Project

There were no updates on this item.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

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

John Rabchuk emailed the link to the Active River Project video to the committee members previous to this meeting. Rick Brems and Robert Rydin have been working on shortening the video to approximately three minutes. The first part of the video focuses on what is currently going on the river. The second portion of the video focuses on the Active River Project conceptual plan including pictures and prospective features of the project. Rick Brems hopes to have the video finalized soon. Please contact him if you have any suggestions or recommendations.

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

Further development will continue with John Arends adding pictures and video snippets on a particular aspect of the project e.g., improve fish migration, white water rafting, etc. These video presentations will be a minute or less, with the focus on those that connect via Facebook.

B. How to Utilize Heart of the Fox to promote and Educate Active River to the Community

Heart of the Fox: Run and Tug Event Scheduled for May 20th

This event is being co-sponsored by the River Corridor Foundation (RCF) and Kiwanis. John Rabchuk passed the logo for the event to the Committee members. The RCF event committee has asked Northwestern Medical to sponsor the event. It will have a wider appeal to Northwestern Medical if it is promoted as a Tri-City event. In turn, Northwestern can promote it as a health and wellness day with various health related stations at the event.

The event has the potential of pulling large numbers of people therefore John Rabchuk wanted to take this opportunity to promote the Active River Project. He requested Phil, Tony and Rick to work on a couple of stations where pictures and videos can be shown and information can be distributed. One can be set up on the 1st Street Plaza and another on the east side of the river.

Rob Rasmussen, from 1st Street Development, will be starting construction on Building 2 this coming month. Mr. Rasmussen said that he will move any equipment and material out of the way to conduct the Tug across the river and in that parking lot.

An application has been submitted and the RCF event committee is requesting to close 1st Street just north of the Westside Parking deck to West Main Street. A meeting with the City's Special Event Committee however has not been scheduled yet. Chris Adesso suggested John stop by the Building and Code Enforcement Office to see if they have received the application and if a meeting has been scheduled.

Once the event is approved by the City, John Rabchuk would like to discuss a test run across the river with Chris Adesso and Peter Suhr. Chris Adesso suggested that John Rabchuk include this test run on the Special Events application. The event costs incurred by Public Works will be estimated and needs to be approved by Council before proceeding.

The Committee briefly discussed the logistics and rules of the Tug portion of the event. The teams will fall into either the Municipal and Community division and will include various teams from South Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva and Batavia.

John Rabchuk made presentations to the Partnership and Chamber of Commerce regarding the event. Both groups appeared to be very enthusiastic and are planning to get involved in the event. Jim Di Ciaula, President of the Chamber, is organizing a “Mini-Taste of St. Charles” on the upper deck of the Klinkhammer Parking garage. There will be booths and tables set up for food and promotional items.

Note: subsequent to this meeting the Chamber has elected to help promote the Heart of the Fox to its members, but will not play an active role in renting booths or applying for permits to utilize any City property. There is no planned use of the Klinkhammer parking deck for this event.

C. Scheduled Presentation

There is also another presentation planned for 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 mentioned the Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization Committee just held their first concept meeting. This project will run along the entire golf course shoreline. It will most likely go to the full St. Charles Park District Board in March/April.

ii. Boy Scout Island Boat Launch Project

No discussion.

B. City of St. Charles

Replacement of Piano Factory Pedestrian Bridge. No discussion.

C. River Corridor Foundation

See item 4B.

D. Kiwanis

On Thursday, the Kiwanis group will be making a pledge to the City for a children signature project related to the Active River Project. The specific project has not been announced but it could be a splash park, treehouse, etc. Monies will be collected or applied towards the project for the next couple of years depending on the cost.

6. Other

Trish Beckjord mentioned the Conservation Foundation will be having a Winter Membership and Awards Luncheon titled “Monarchs, Mergers and More” on Thursday, February 15 from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the Abbington in Glen Ellyn. Anyone who is interested can attend.

In addition, the Conservation Foundation has started a new initiative titled “Nature RX”. The focus of this program is to highlight the health and emotional value of being out in nature and encouraging that lifestyle. The Beyond the Basics program had a number of speakers who are conducting research on the health benefits of being out in nature. It has drawn a large crowd of approximately 400 participants. Per Trish Beckjord, this is another aspect of encouraging Northwestern Medical to sponsor the Active River Project.

Once the Active River Project gets to the design phase and the design team is chosen, the design team can make sure there is an emphasis or element of health & wellness to attract grant monies. Other foundations such as the Lester Norris Foundation and the Shodeen Foundation are also focusing on health and wellness projects.

Trish Beckjord also mentioned the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) executive team may be interested in providing a marsh/boardwalk concept plan out at Boy Scout Island. President Jeff Mengler was very interested in talking about this further at the next FREP meeting. The Committee was encouraged on a marsh area concept in an effort to keep non-motorized boats separated from the motorized boats out on the river.

7. Adjourn

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

Motion was made by Jim Enck, 2nd by Tony Zehnder to adjourn the meeting

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
MARCH 5, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Trish Beckjord, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind, John Radman (Kiwanis)

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 February 5, 2018 Active River Task Force meeting.

Motion by Holly Cabel second by Rick Brems, to accept and place the minutes on file.

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

Motion carried at 8:08 a.m.

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

A. Provided Alternative Consulting Firm Contact Information to Holly

John Rabchuk forwarded the contact information of two consulting firms to Holly but she has not had the opportunity to discuss it with Mark Koenen. Holly did look up the websites of one of the firms and one seemed to have experience creating a non-for-profit group prior to a project. Holly has forwarded the information to Mark.

The Committee discussed the experiences of the two consulting groups. One of the firms had been instrumental in setting up the structure to financially support various elements of a park project in Louisville, Kentucky and in Columbus, Indiana. It appears the firm created a formalized non-for-profit group which included the city, park district, and local foundation(s). In addition, they provided the structure to raise funds, what it would encompass, etc. Their experience appears to be more applicable to the current stage of this project. Holly felt a phone conference with the firm was warranted but a meeting has not been scheduled.

Rick Brems gave Holly Cabel the contact information for the mayor of Columbus, Georgia, and Richard Bishop, director of the Uptown Columbus Project. Mr. Bishop

was instrumental in the creation of both the Uptown Columbus and the related river project. Richard Bishop will be retiring soon but he can refer Holly to some of the other contacts of the project.

B. Update on Inter-Governmental Agreement between City and Park District

The Inter-Governmental Agreement between the City and the Park District is still progressing. Holly has received direction from the St. Charles Park District Board and will discuss the information with Mark. Once the agreement is finalized, it will need to go to the Board and Council for approval.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Update and Presentations of New River Corridor and Active River Websites

- i. City to utilize new Active River video in their meetings with local federal representatives

John Rabchuk mentioned the new Active River Project video was being presented to local federal representatives in Washington DC while Mark Koenen was attending the American Public Power Association (APPA) Conference last week.

- ii. How to use Heart of the Fox to promote and educate the Active River Project to the community

See *River Corridor* section of these minutes below.

B. Scheduled Presentations

- i. Mayor Schielke and Communications Director Christopher Cudworth have asked for an update on Active River Project

Two weeks ago the online version of the Chronicle announced that Batavia will be prioritizing the Fox River and its riverfront in a comprehensive plan. Around the same time this article was published, Mayor Schielke from Batavia contacted John Rabchuk and requested a presentation on the Active River Project.

5. Member Organization Updates

A. St. Charles Park District

- i. Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization

The Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization Project presentation is still scheduled for March. The project has been segmented into several phases and is scheduled to be completed throughout several years. The shoreline restorations include the lagoon area, the bridge and the island hole of the project. Monies have already been budgeted this year for the plan and the first phase of the project.

ii. Boy Scout Island Boat Launch Project

The bid for the Boy Scout Island Boat Launch repairs has been awarded. This project will be completed in the spring before the boat launch opens. The parking lot phase of this project is already budgeted and is scheduled for the fall.

B. City of St. Charles

i. Replacement for Piano Factory / Indiana Pedestrian bridge

- The ITEP grant application has been submitted, but Chris Adesso has not heard any further information.
- The City FY18/19 budget is being finalized and is scheduled to be presented to Council in April.
- Chris Adesso was not aware of any other Active River City related projects budgeted for the upcoming year.

C. River Corridor Foundation

i. Heart of the Fox – 5K & 10K runs; Color Run with FVSRA and WDRA inclusion and Tug of War across the river on Sunday, May 20, 2018

The committee discussed the PR booths to promote the Active River Project during the event. The committee discussed the logistics of setting up tents and/or booths on both the east and west side of the river, displaying the ARP concept plans, sign-in sheets for those interested in receiving more information on the project, supplying power to the booths, publicizing the event, contacting school booster clubs for the Tug of War, etc.

John Rabchuk has already received indication that RCF will receive applications from the St. Charles and South Elgin Fire Departments. Publicity has been sent to the newspapers but nothing has been published so far.

Still to complete:

- Application for the St. Charles Township needs to be filled out for the 10K.
- Amplification application permit needs to be submitted for 1st Street Plaza.
- Update/amend the Special Events application to include electrical power on 1st Street.
- Set up meeting to coordinate layout and logistics of the Tug. John Rabchuk will include Jeremy Craft, Public Services Division Manager and Chris Adesso in the meeting notification.
- Will coordinate a test run of the rope across the river on May 18, the Friday before the race, and complete the set up on Sunday morning.
- Promote the publicity of the event including social media.
- Contact Sport Booster Club from the high schools.
- Park District will start sharing the event information and post it on the Park District website once it is publicized.
- Inventory Control will temporarily store the ropes and mat.
- Need access to water spigot by the Harris Bank / Minute Man to fill orange

barriers with water.

- Rubber mats will need to be laid out once 1st Street is closed.
- AC Financial Advisors banner will be hung on the middle of the rope with zip ties. (Make sure the banner has eyelets on the top of it.)
- Consider placing an Active River Project exhibit/video on the east side of the river, around the Harris Bank. Inquire to see if electrical power is accessible around this area.
- Place information on the event on the River Corridor website and do social media blasts.

The Arcada has an event that evening therefore the event needs to be cleaned up before 5:00 p.m.

ii. Kiwanis Signature Project – Commitment to Active River

John Radman from Kiwanis was present at the meeting to explain the St. Charles Kiwanis Signature Project. The Kiwanis service organization has been searching for a signature project for over a year and they have spoken to local organizations gathering ideas. There are various criteria's and preferences the project will need to meet:

- Have a lasting impact on the community.
- Must promote awareness of Kiwanis and the role Kiwanis fulfills within the community.
- Clearly identifiable as a product effort of this club.
- Focus on St. Charles children; accommodating all children.

Preferences:

- Choose a location in the downtown area.
- Incorporate the project with Active River Project.
- Have year round accessibility.

Several ideas have stood out, e.g., a children's splash park, or an all accessible treehouse or playground, but they are still open to any other projects that may meet the above criteria. Kiwanis has started to set monies aside for the project and are also looking at applying for grants. If the Active River has any ideas on a project that meets the above criteria Kiwanis would like to be involved.

Kiwanis' offer to get involved with a signature project for the Active River Project is very similar to the Greenville river project model, where private and service organizations make donations toward a specific feature of the project.

Jim Enck suggested getting a list of other Kiwanis signature projects around the country. There may be other ideas this group could consider.

6. New Business: None

7. Other: None

8. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Motion was made by Tony Zehnder, 2nd by Rick Brems to adjourn the meeting

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.



Kiwaniis[®]

CLUB OF ST. CHARLES

P.O. Box 3, St. Charles, IL 60174

March 5, 2018

Active River Task Force
St. Charles, IL

Dear Mr. Rabchuk

Kiwaniis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Club of St. Charles was chartered on March 19, 1964. We have become an integral part of the St. Charles community ever since.

In 2017 we awarded monetary grants of \$52,300.00 to 36 local agencies; examples include CASA Kane County, Community Crisis Center, Fox Valley Special Recreation Association, Lazarus House, Fox Valley Hands of Hope, Salvation Army, and Living Well Cancer Society to name a few. Our club has an active roster of 75 caring individuals who are pillars of our community.

We have initiated a search for a "Signature Project" that will enhance our community, as well as to promote the positive impact that Kiwanis has throughout St. Charles. The criteria that we have established for this "Signature Project" are:

- 1) The project must have a lasting impact on the community.
- 2) The project must promote the awareness of the role that Kiwanis fulfills, and be clearly identifiable as a product or effort of our club.
- 3) The project must have a positive focus on St. Charles children.

We have and continue to review many excellent ideas to this end. Some projects that we have reviewed are A Downtown St. Charles Splash Park, an All Access Tree House, an All Access Playground...

We are very interested in the Active River Project. We believe that there may be synergy between what the Active River Project is planning and what we have in mind for our "Signature Project".

We ask that you consider the Kiwanis Club of St. Charles, as an interested party, in your continuing efforts to make St. Charles IL a destination city by enhancing the downtown and our beautiful riverfront.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you and your organization. Please feel free to contact me at johnmradman@aol.com, 630-639-1187.

Thank you for your consideration.


John M. Radman Co-Chair Kiwanis Signature Project