



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee Date: June 25, 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):*

* May, 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
MAY 7, 2018**

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

Members Absent: Chris Adesso, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Isabel Soderlind

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:05 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 2, 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: C. Adesso M. Meyers, J. Wessel

Motion carried at 8:05 a.m.

3. Active River Project Funding Issues and Discussions

A. 2018 City of St. Charles Budget Proposal

This year the City has budgeted \$400,000 for the Active River Project. John Rabchuk was recently informed that the \$400,000 is conditional and the amount may not be entirely for the preliminary engineering of the Active River Project.

The City is currently focusing on completing the 1st Street Plaza. They are seeking a \$150,000 donation/grant from philanthropic donors for components of the project and the Active River Project.

B. May 3, 2018 Meeting with Alderman Lora Vitek, Mayor Rogina, Mark Koenen and John Rabchuk

- John Rabchuk gave a brief recap of the May 3 meeting that included Mark Koenen, Mayor Rogina, John Rabchuk and Ald. Lora Vitek. Ald. Vitek is the Community Relations director for Delta Dental Foundation of Illinois. Her background lends itself to discussing fundraising in today's climate and the

opportunity to finding philanthropic donors for city projects. The list of potential grants created by Trish Beckjord was reviewed at this meeting.

The meeting also included a discussion on the 1st Street Plaza extension and an interest in creating a walkway under the Main Street Bridge.

The following points were discussed at this Task Force meeting:

- John Rabchuk recapped several points made at last month's meeting with the Mayor, Mark Koenen, Holly Cabel and Jerry Ferstman. Mr. Ferstman provided the City a vision on how to proceed forward on the Active River Project. The discussion included turning the Active River Project into an Active River development project. John Rabchuk felt it was a very positive meeting that offered a feasible strategy moving forward. Mr. Ferstman felt this type of project was viable here in St. Charles. (See April 2, 2018 Active River Project Meeting minutes for more information.)
 - Step 1: Identify all the available land parcels that could be re-developed within the downtown area and identify related concerns within those parcels.
 - Step 2: Develop a committee to determine the best use for these parcels so the City could develop a "master" plan.
 - Step 3: Conduct various studies including demographic and financial viability studies necessary for bonds and financial backing for the project.
- The Active River Project group discussed the opportunity to create a City Center Park or children's water feature park at the "old" Manor Restaurant parcel on the south east corner of 1st Street and W. Main Street. The Kiwanis Signature Project could potentially be incorporated into this initiative. Group discussed options, alternatives, and impacts.
- The concept of a walkway being built underneath W. Main Street was a topic of discussion. Discussion included the potential of flooding and the impact of the dam modification. Further engineering studies are needed to determine impacts and solutions. The City plans to have another meeting with WBK to discuss next phase of this initiative. Per Holly Cabel this phase may take two years with the first three tasks of this preliminary study costing approximately \$1,000,000.
- The Active River Project would entice developers to invest in these available parcels. If this project turns into a re-development project, the Active River development may become the focus.
- Jim Enk made the point that all the river projects this group has studied, the river project was the driver that triggered development of the surrounding area.
- The City should consider developing the vision and the design standards before developers begin to invest in the properties that are currently available.
- Trish Beckjord recommended a watershed plan should be completed; otherwise this project will not qualify for federal and state monies. In addition, this plan may take up to two years to complete. She also suggested approaching CMAP for assistance.
- Trish Beckjord recommended this committee research and create a packet of information regarding funding opportunities. This packet could explain funding

sources applicable for this type of project and their prerequisites and requirements. Currently there is a conceptual plan so some grants will support the project others may not. Further research will benefit this committee as well as the City.

- Trish Beckjord suggested this will be an opportunity to develop a “green overlay district”. This project will require sustainable stormwater management strategies for the parcels being developed. There will be more grant opportunities available if the Task Force highlights the purposes of this project e.g., improving the quality of the Fox River. The project could also include various “green” initiatives i.e., green roofs on buildings, solar energy, etc. This environmental component could turn this into a signature project that could be a major financial draw. In addition, if each parcel is being developed independently, an overall Stormwater management concept is needed.
- The City needs to set standards for this project and sustainability could be incorporated into the standards. Once the City develops the set the standards and the financial viability study is complete, then the search for developers can begin.
- Rick Brems also mentioned the “green” effect could be expanded. He recently saw a TV show highlighting various pedestrian and bike bridges around the country built out of recycled bottles. They are proving that these bridges are stronger and lasting longer than steel.
- Rick Brems mentioned various patrons visited the Active River Project booth on Cruise Night. The majority of them thought the project sounded very “exciting” and would be a boost to the downtown area.

Holly Cabel left the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

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

No updates at this meeting.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Scheduled Presentations

i. St. Charles Exchange Club

John Rabchuk presented an update on the Active River Project to the St. Charles Exchange Club on Tuesday, May 1, at 7:30 a.m. at Colonial Café.

ii. St. Charles Golden K Club

This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17 at St. John Neumann Church from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

There will be an Active River Project presentation for 100 members of the Golden K Club. John Rabchuk will update the current Active River Project presentation.

iii. Baker Methodist Church

This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15 at Baker Methodist Church starting at 7:00 p.m.

This will be a joint presentation with Aldermen Payleitner. The Church is very interested learning what the City has planned for the St. Charles downtown area.

5. Member Organization Updates

A. St. Charles Park District

- i. Pottawatomie Golf Course Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization Effort Phase I will begin this Fall

No update. Holly Cabel was not present for this portion of the meeting.

- ii. Boy Scout Island Boat Launch Project

No update. Holly Cabel was not present for this portion of the meeting.

B. City of St. Charles

- i. Replacement for Piano Factory / Indiana Pedestrian Bridge

No update at this time. The announcement of the ITEP Grant for the Indiana Pedestrian Bridge will not occur until late spring or sometime this summer.

C. River Corridor Foundation

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

No discussion.

- ii. Gratitude Project Sculpture

The concrete baseboards are in and the conduits have been installed, but the group did not have any further information on the status of this project.

6. New Business: None

7. Other: None

8. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Motion was made by Trish Beckjord, 2nd by Jim Enck to adjourn the meeting

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.