



**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: August 27, 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):*

\* June, 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  
JUNE 4, 2018**

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

**Members Absent:** Chris Adesso, Rick Brems, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

**Others Present:** Tom Anderson, John Hull, Natalie Nelson, Isabel Soderlind

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:10 a.m.

Introduction of Natalie Nelson, St. Charles Park District Administrative Assistant, who will assist in taking minutes at future Active River Project meetings and John Hull, resident of St. Charles, who is very interested in the Active River Project.

**2. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the May 7, 2018 Active River Task Force meeting.

Motion by Trish Beckjord second by Jim Enck, to accept and place the minutes on file.

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

Motion carried at 8:12 a.m.

**3. Active River Project Funding Issues and Discussions**

**A. 2018 City of St. Charles Budget**

The City of St. Charles has budgeted \$400,000 for Active River Project for the current fiscal year. The City is also planning to budget another \$300,000 for the following two fiscal years, thus a total commitment of \$1,000,000.

The City is soliciting bids for Phase I Engineering work, borings in the river and demographic studies. In addition, the City currently has a Request for Proposal (RFP) out for the three (3) remaining lots of 1<sup>st</sup> Street Development.

John Rabchuk attended a meeting with Mark Koenen, the Mayor and Ald. Laura Vitek. Ald. Vitek has philanthropic background experience. The group collaborated together to explore other sources of monies for projects connected to the Active

River. The original grant list created by Trish Beckjord for the Active River Task Force was reviewed by the group.

The Committee discussed potential Active River projects and its potential impact on 1<sup>st</sup> Street and the river.

John Rabchuk recently spoke to Hitchcock and mentioned that Kathy Blaha has worked with the same developer from Louisville on several different river projects. Holly Cabel has not had a chance to call the developer but will try to make contact with him soon.

#### **B. Private Developer Interest**

Jerry Ferstman, developer of the Promenade in Bolingbrook, also contacted John Rabchuk last week. Mr. Ferstman expressed an interest in being involved in the project and requested another conversation with Mark Koenen and the Mayor. John Rabchuk will reach out to the City to see if they would like to speak with Mr. Ferstman again.

The committee discussed different models on how the project could proceed and potential financing: (1) Hire a firm to create an economic study of the project to see if the project is viable and rate of return, or (2) Identify all the available parcels that could be re-developed with in the downtown area, develop a committee to determine the best use for these parcels and develop a “master” plan and then conduct various studies including demographic and financial viability studies necessary for bonds and financial backing for the project.

#### **8:40 – Holly Cabel and Natalie Nelson left the meeting.**

C. Update on Constructing Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the St. Charles Park District.

No update.

#### **4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach**

**A. River Corridor and Active River Websites** - No update

**B. Cruise Night results and Chamber Support** – No update

**C. Heart of the Fox – Booth Feedback**

The Heart of the Fox event was held on May 20 and it went well despite the weather. John Rabchuk recommended the Tug of War event be moved to Pottawatomie Park across the lagoon, running parallel to the river, next year. The set-up of the rope/matts and communications with the various teams during the tug will more efficient and effective.

Midwest Compost (West Chicago) is storing the rope and mats pro-bono until next year's event. They indicated they would like to be a sponsor of the event next year.

The Active River Task Force also praised the Public Works department for their assistance during the event. John Rabchuk mentioned how pleasant and helpful it was working with the public works crew members. The guys couldn't have been better to work with. They were just as dedicated to find solutions to the set-up challenges. John sent a thank you note and followed up with a phone call to Peter Suhr.

Trish Beckjord took pictures of the event and they will be posted on the River Corridor Foundation website. Trish will forward the pictures to Rick Brems.

#### **D. Scheduled Presentations**

i. City of Batavia Presentation

Mayor McLaughlin and Chris Cudworth, Communications Director in Batavia are still interested in having an Active River Project presentation but John Rabchuk has not heard back from them yet.

ii. Golden K Presentation

John Rabchuk conducted an Active River Project presentation for approximately fifty (50) people to the Golden K Club. The presentation went well.

There are no other speaking engagements scheduled until the fall.

#### **5. Member Organization Updates**

##### **A. St. Charles Park District**

- i. Pottawatomie Golf Course Shoreline Restoration and Stabilization Effort Phase I will begin this Fall - Summer 2018 Construction  
No discussion.
- ii. Boy Scout Island Boat Launch Project  
No discussion.

##### **B. City of St. Charles**

- i. Replacement for Piano Factory / Indiana Pedestrian Bridge  
Not discussed.

##### **C. River Corridor Foundation**

- i. Beginning the process of identifying/evaluating new river front enhancement projects

The River Corridor has expressed interest in identifying some new available river enhancement projects. If anyone has a viable project in mind, the River Corridor has approximately \$50,000 available for river enhancements. Typically, grants will match monies toward a project. Project ideas could include Boy Scout Island design concept or some tie-in with 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Creek project, bioswales or rain garden on the east side of Route 25. Also being considered are benches, fishing piers or a public art area on the east riverbank extending from the Prairie Street Bridge south to the City's lift station.

ii. Gratitude Project Sculpture

The dedication for this sculpture will be Saturday, June 23 at sculpture site.

**6. New Business:**

No new business.

**7. Other:**

Trish Beckjord attended the annual Fox River Summit last March. An interesting concept was introduced by one of the speakers from the Ann Arbor Watershed Council. The organization started as a group of Public Works representatives but the organization is now managed by a larger body comprised of representatives from all the communities located along the river. This group is now working together making decisions and recommending improvements along the entire river. Per Trish Beckjord, this is a concept the cities along the Fox River should consider. Could we create an organization that can work together and strive for what is best for the river ecologically? The Tri-Cities should consider working together for the benefit of the river and all of the communities along the Fox River.

**8. Adjournment**

The committee will not meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center.

Motion was made by Trish Beckjord, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Enck to adjourn the meeting

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.