



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: October 22, 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):*

* August, 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
AUGUST 6, 2018**

Members Present: Chair John Rabchuk, Chris Adesso, Trish Beckjord, Rick Brems, Jim Enck, Tony Zehnder

Members Absent: Holly Cabel, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Jon Hull, Natalie Nelson

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:07 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

A motion was made by Trish Beckjord and seconded by Chris Adesso to accept and place on file the minutes of the June 4, 2018 Active River Task Force meeting.

A voice vote was taken. Ayes – unanimous; Nays – none; Absent— H. Cabel, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

The motion carried at 8:09 a.m.

3. ARP Funding Issues & Discussions

a) 2018 City of St. Charles Budget

Chris Adesso reported the City of St. Charles received pricing for a portion of Phase I Engineering work, but the City is waiting to move forward with this work until the completion of an Economic Impact Analysis of the Fox River Corridor Master Plan, for which the City recently released an RFQ. He stated he was not privy to the status of the consultant selection, as that is being executed in the Economic Development Department. The RFQ documents are posted on the City's website.

Discussion occurred regarding the City of St. Charles' 2018-2019 fiscal budget. The City has budgeted \$400,000 for ARP expenses, conditional upon participation from other agencies, for the purpose of professional services. Mr. Rabchuk stated that the City hopes to make up its budget shortfall of \$500,000 with a new gasoline tax, which has not yet been approved, and they are exploring other revenue sources.

Mr. Adesso recommended reviewing City Council materials online from March and April to learn more about the City's financials and budget.

Further discussion focused on ensuring river improvements are part of the City's downtown redevelopment initiatives. Mr. Rabchuk reported the City intends to use the Economic Impact Analysis to attract developers to downtown. Engineering will occur after the economic study is complete.

Mr. Rabchuk stated the City's budget for funding river projects is conservative because there is no guarantee tax revenue will be sufficient or that issuing bonds will be profitable to bondholders. Ms. Beckjord said that raising some funds requires the completion of a watershed plan. She also recommended setting up a reserve fund for river improvement maintenance.

- Borings in river for potential dam-like structures, etc. will not occur until the City's economic study is completed.
 - Ms. Beckjord asked that the minutes reflect that the City's economic study will not include demographic studies.
 - The role of the ARP taskforce was discussed. Now that the City and Park District have adopted Active River Project Master Plan, the group's role is primarily advisory. Mr. Rabchuk stated that the City receives and files the group's meeting minutes, but acting upon the group's recommendations has been slow. Mr. Enck suggested writing a letter from the ARP to the City, requesting to be included in meetings with consultants on projects pertaining to riverfront development. Mr. Rabchuk will write the letter to Mark Koenen.
- b) Strategies for attracting private developers to downtown near the river were discussed. Mr. Rabchuk reported upon a conversation he had with Jerry Ferstman, who recommended following Greenville's model for downtown redevelopment. In this scenario, municipalities attract private developers by promoting multiple downtown parcels and potential riverfront projects as a package together. This is different from the traditional approach to attracting developers, referred to as "if you build it, they will come." He said developers are most focused upon securing City financial support and future profitability, rather than finding communities with fully established riverfronts.
- c) Update on constructing IGA between City and Park District was not discussed.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

- a) River Corridor and Active River websites were not discussed.
- b) Ms. Beckjord announced two upcoming events:
- The City of Carpentersville is leading a tour to view recent improvements at four locations on the Fox River on Wednesday, August 8, from noon to 1:30. Meet at the Public Works Training Room at 1075 Tamarack Drive in Carpentersville.

- The Fox River Study Group is hosting a presentation on Fox River water quality on Wednesday, September 12 at 2200 Harnish Drive in Algonquin. This presentation will discuss data collected by the State of Illinois' water testing of the Fox River since 2002.

5. Member organization updates

a) Park District

- Shoreline restoration and stabilization efforts along east bank of river – north of Pottawatomie Park were discussed. The project will include installation of retaining walls with timber and native rocks. Work will begin in the fall and is likely to continue for 2-3 years. These efforts will help prevent the continued loss of Golf Course land to the Fox River. Mr. Rabchuk stated that recent trimming appears to have exposed the shoreline and attracted nuisance geese.
- The potential purchase of UP RR right of way from Randall Road to the river was discussed. The purchase price is \$1.6 million, with \$800,000 in matching funds from the Park District. The question of ownership and maintenance of the RR trestle bridge has yet to be addressed but will probably become part of final negotiations if the Park District is successfully awarded this grant.

b) City of St. Charles

Replacement of the Piano Factory pedestrian bridge was discussed. Mr. Adesso reported the City did not receive the ITEP grant funds for replacing or repairing the bridge. The bridge remains open unless and until the City's consulting engineer's annual inspection report suggests otherwise.

c) River Corridor Foundation

A list will be developed to identify and evaluate new riverfront enhancement projects with smaller scopes and quicker results that the public can see. Among the list are the following improvements in and around Prairie Street, which may be paid for with grant funds or other fundraising monies collected:

- Connecting Bob Leonard Walkway and the north side of Prairie Street at the wastewater discharge, which would serve as an alternative route when the Prairie Street underpass is flooded.
- Planning potential native plantings, benches and bioswales along Rt. 25 south of Prairie on east and west sides of roadway was not discussed.
- Establishing a fishing pier off the east side by Langum Park was suggested, which would serve to attract anglers away from bicycle path traffic.

6. New business

Upcoming meeting dates were discussed. The September meeting falls on Labor Day, and the group decided to cancel that meeting and reconvene on October 1, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center. The group agreed that meetings should continue on a monthly basis until after the City's economic study is complete.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Beckjord and seconded by Tony Zehnder.

A voice vote was taken. Ayes – unanimous; Nays – none; Absent— H. Cabel, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.