



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 22, 2019

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, 2019 – 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 18, 2019**

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, Jon Hull, Tony Zehnder

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Minutes Review and Approval

October 1 2018 meeting minutes were approved by proxy last October and submitted to the November GSC meeting.

An email vote was taken on October 30, 2019. Ayes – unanimous; Nays – none

3. Update on Presentation by City Economic Consultants

A. Preliminary presentation to Special City Council Workshop conducted on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Committee discussion. The overall tone of the presentation by HOV (the economic analysis consultants hired by the City of STC) was very positive with a number of comments about the excitement that the HOV staff felt as they worked on this project. Their analysis of approximately a dozen cities that have developed similar riverfront projects was also very positive: especially in the area of the economic development that was spurred in each city by their river projects.

There were two areas of the presentation that the ARP Task Force members had questions about however. First, the presentation was heavily focused on the recreational and tourism aspects of the project as opposed to the potential impact on economic development. Second, there were comments made by some aldermen suggesting that this entire project is primarily recreational and should be managed and financed by the Park District. One alderman stated that this entire project was initiated by the Park District and should be completed by them. This is not true. The project was initiated by a joint effort of the City, the Park District, the River Corridor Foundation and the Kane County Forest Preserve; and, as the consults analysis indicates, the primary result of this type of project in all of the other communities has been in the area of economic development – not recreational opportunities.

- B. Discussion of planned final presentation of analysis and direction going forward to the City of St. Charles Planning Commission on Monday, March 4.

The City intends to utilize the Plan Commission to create an amended comprehensive plan for the downtown area and the Active River Plan will be part of their consideration for this area. This will be the first formal presentation of this plan to this Commission.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

- A. Possibility of utilizing Active River Project as part of City Comprehensive Plan Update

See above.

- B. Committee discussion on how to promote and educate the Active River to the Community.

The River Corridor Foundation has created a Public Outreach Committee under the direction of Rick Brems with the mission of creating more public awareness and understanding of the ARP and additional riverfront improvements under consideration. This might include public presentations, social media, etc.

5. Member organization updates

- A. Park District Projects

- i. Shoreline Restoration and stabilization effort for the fall of 2019
Holly Cabel updated the group on the Golf Shore Stabilization Project. Construction will start in the fall of 2019 to minimize disruption during the golf season.
- ii. Boy Scout Parking Boat Launch Project – Finalizing Spring of 2019
Holly Cabel gave an update on this project.
The UP Right-of-Way. The Park District was awarded a matching grant to be utilized for the purchase of the UP Railroad right of way from Randall Road to the Fox River. Negotiations with UP will begin. The Forest Preserve is negotiating for the purchase of the UP Right of Way from Randall Road west to the Great Western Trail.

- B. City of St. Charles

- i. East First Street Plaza – Construction in Spring of 2019
Discussion focused on whether the First Street Plaza extension to the river would accommodate an underpass of Main Street Bridge. The design has not been completed at this point.

- ii. Plans for the deteriorating Freedom Trail
The City will continue to repair the brick walkway with asphalt as required. There are funds allocated for reconstructing the underlying break-wall in the City's long-range capital plan, but these funds could be utilized for the ARP if/when that plan is approved.

C. River Corridor Foundation

- i. Discussion of this year's Heart of the Fox on Saturday, June 15, 2019.

Discussion of the two races, a 5K & 10K runs, two color runs, games, and tug of war across the river. Event video was also discussed.

- ii. Investigating upgrades to Langum Park corridor – East side of Fox River along Route 25

Committee discussion. This Langum Park Trail Master Plan potential project will be presented at the February 25, 2019 Government Services Committee meeting by Jim Enck and John Rabchuk and to the St. Charles Park District Board on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. No formal plans yet, but wanted to make each group aware of the potential for changes and to gather comments.

6. New business; None

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be determined at a later date when more information will be forthcoming from the City of St. Charles and the St. Charles Park District.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Beckjord and seconded by Rick Brems.

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

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.