



**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: November 28, 2016

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):*

\* October 3, 2016 - Task Force Meeting Minutes

**Recommendation/Suggested Action** *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only.

**MINUTES  
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING  
ST. CHARLES  
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN  
OCTOBER 3, 2016**

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

**Members Absent:** Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

**Others Present:** Isabel Soderlind

**Visitors Present:** Tom Anderson, Tony Zehnder

**1. Call 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 August 22, 2016 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

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

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

Motion carried at 8:09 a.m.

**3. Member Organization Updates**

**A. Update on St Charles Park District Related Active River Projects**

**i. Boy Scout Island:**

The first stage concept plan was received and shared with the St. Charles Park District Board. Holly Cabel shared the first draft of the Concept Plan. This included:

1. Increased and improved parking flow
2. A two car staging area
3. Additional shelter locations
4. Boat slips areas

The concept plan presented by the engineers does not include the creation of an island, as had been planned. Instead a culvert would be added to create the flow into the lagoon area. This is just the first concept draft plan and there may be an opportunity to create some floating gardens in the lagoon in the future. The plans still needs to be presented to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) & Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

The Park District continues to budget monies toward items related to the Active River Project in next year's fiscal budget. The Park District proposes shoreline improvements along the golf course and the implementation plan of Boy Scout Island.

Some of the activities will include switching from canoe rentals to kayak rentals, implementing docks for these activities and the floating gardens/islands in the lagoon.

## **B. City**

### **i. Kinetic Sculpture Project**

Tom Anderson mentioned he forwarded an email from Whitaker to everyone last night. Whittaker is currently working with a structural engineer to understand the wind loading of the sculptures, which will determine the spacing and foundation requirements for the sculpture. The email also included a 360 degree view of the sculptures in their new location. Chris Adesso mentioned the City would move forward on this project once this information was determined.

John Rabchuk stated the River Corridor has mailed the deposit for the sculptures.

Seating: The sculptures will be set on the narrower portion of the lot which leaves space for seating in the broader area of the parcel as part of a future project. Metal benches and/or Adirondack chairs will be considered for this space and planned for in the future. The seating will be determined at a later date and the city can install them. Chris Adesso mentioned the City currently had four permanent Adirondack chairs behind the mayor's office that were nice heavy recycled material. He invited the committee members to take a look at them and to consider them for the site. To offset the cost of the seating, John Rabchuk mentioned the possibility of "selling" memorial benches. The River Corridor has been successful in this endeavor. John Rabchuk has also contacted the Downtown Partnership regarding the creation of a similar program for Adirondack chairs. He however has not heard from them yet.

Tom Anderson mentioned there was a Cottonwood tree near the designated area that had many dead branches. The tree is located on Carroll Tower property and needed to be trimmed or possibly removed. The recommendations would be made to Carroll Towers. If the landscaping project came under budget, the ARP could consider paying for a replacement tree.

Press Release: John Rabchuk prepared a press release back in August, which was reviewed and edited by this group. John was holding on to the draft until this item was formally approved by Council that evening. The press release includes Tom Anderson's donation and grant monies received, etc. John will email Tom Anderson a copy of the press release for his review. Tom also suggested submitting historical photos of his grandfather standing at this identical site with the press release.

Landscaping: The type and height of the lights will be taken into consideration while designing the landscaping surrounding the sculptures. Chris Adesso mentioned the City will manage the landscaping portion of this project. Initially, mulch will be installed around the sculptures. Once the exact positioning of the sculptures and foundation is

determined, the lighting consultant will determine the actual placement of the lights. WBK's landscape architect will then draw up the landscape design with special consideration towards a sustainable landscape, keeping it simple

- ii. Council Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Engineering Feasibility Study set for October 3, 2016

The Intergovernmental Agreement for the Engineering Feasibility Study, funded between the River Corridor, St. Charles Park District and the City of St. Charles, will be formally approved by the City Council at tonight's Council meeting. John Rabchuk mentioned he would not be able to attend. Jim Enck mentioned he would represent the Active River Project at the meeting to address any possible questions.

- iii. Consideration of Active River related projects in the Five-Year Capital budget

John Rabchuk stated that he had a conversation with the Mayor recently. In their discussion, the Mayor mentioned his recent visits through several "active river" cities and noticed the positive results these active river projects had made on the vibrancy and improvement of their downtown areas. The Mayor did state that he would like to receive the results of the feasibility study before completely endorsing the project.

John Rabchuk inquired on how the group could start initiating some of the ARP plans in the City's Five to Ten year plan.

Chris Adesso mentioned that there are some Active River related projects already in the City's current Four-Year Capital Plan. Currently there is the State Street Creek and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Creek Watershed and Stormwater Master Plan, which are related to the Active River Project. These projects will assess the water quality feeding into the river and determine any stormwater related capital projects needed on the two tributaries to the river. Chris was not aware of any other capital projects, but welcomed John to contact the city staff to discuss next steps, the Phase I Engineering study.

John Rabchuk would like to start planning for the next steps i.e., after the Feasibility Study is completed. The study should be completed by May-June and presented to Council by early summer. Depending on the results of the feasibility study, the City may initiate discussions with IDNR ACOE, but John recommended this group begin discussions with private foundations. Funds will be needed for a full Phase I. The discussion of this group should then turn to: (1) determining the next project(s) on the list; (2) preparing marketing materials; and (3) fundraising for this project. Third party fundraising i.e., Columbus, Georgia, is a great model and Rick Brems has this information. The group would also like to consider a professional fundraising group to raise the monies necessary for this project.

John Rabchuk would like to continue giving updates and presentations to Kiwanis, Rotary, VFW and other similar groups to keep the momentum going. Willowgate HOA is also interested in a presentation regarding the Active River Project. The information can include grants received, the feasibility study being conducted, etc. The group should consider updating presentation materials, videos and PowerPoint presentations.

John proposed meeting only once a month, on the first Monday of the month, until the Feasibility Study is completed. Due to the construction at the Baker Community Center, the November and December meetings will be held at Pottawatomie Park Community Center for November/December. The meetings will then move back to the Baker Community Center beginning January 2017. Meetings will focus on setting up a timeline moving forward. Rick Brems will present the information from Columbus, Georgia at the November meeting. The group agreed, they needed to take this time to prepare and plan ahead for the next steps which can include: (1) determining next project(s); (2) fundraising; and (3) updating presentation materials to various groups.

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

- i. Bob Leonard Walkway landscaping & furnishings project is currently out for bid. It is anticipated the bid process will be completed by early November 2016.
- ii. Discuss potential projects that may qualify for Community Foundation and/or Riverboat Grants in 2017.
- iii. “Rhythm on the River” Fundraiser  
The River Corridor is holding their fundraiser “Rhythm on the River” on October 29, 2016, at the Arcada Theatre. The music of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young cover band will be featured. The River Corridor have donated monies towards the sculptures and landscaping of the Bob Leonard Walk. Checks can be written to the Rotary or the River Corridor. Credit card payments will be accepted at the door.

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

- A. Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon: Wednesday, October 19th, 11:00 AM at Royal Fox Country Club.
- B. Willowgate Homeowners Association: John Rabchuk recently ran into a member on the Willowgate Homeowners Association. The Willowgate HOA may be interested in a presentation regarding the Active River Project. This will be determined in the near future.

#### **5. Other**

- A. John Rabchuk will email the press release draft to all the group members. He would like everyone to review it one more time before it is released.
- B. Trish Beckjord suggested researching Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) or federal grants to see if any of these Active River project(s) would qualify for grant monies. She wondered if anyone, or someone they knew of, would be knowledgeable to assist the group with these types of grant applications.
- C. John Rabchuk and John Wessel (St. Charles Park District) will be the points of contact for the Feasibility Study.
- D. John Rabchuk also requested an outline of suggestions from Chris Adesso on the next steps from a City/Engineering perspective.

**6. Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, at 8:00 a.m. at the Pottawatomie Park Community Center.

Motion by Trish Beckjord to adjourn the meeting, second by Holly Cabel.

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

-Motion carried at 9:10 a.m.