



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 4.b

Title:

Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter:

Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: January 29, 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):*

* November, 2017 – Task Force Meeting Minutes

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only.

**MINUTES
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING
ST. CHARLES
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

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: Ed Werneke, Tony Zehnder, Isabel Soderlind

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:01 a.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the October 16, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Trish Beckjord second by Tony Zehnder, to accept and place the minutes on file.

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

Motion carried at 8:05 a.m.

3. Meeting with Mark Koenen, John Rabchuk Holly Cabel and Rita Payleitner

John Rabchuk, Holly Cabel and Rita Payleitner met with Mark Koenen last week. John and Holly shared their impressions of the meeting with the Task Force group.

- John Rabchuk felt the meeting went well and he sensed that the City was ready to move forward.
- Holly did not get the same impression, but felt there was a solid direction on the next steps e.g., set up meetings, set up phone conversations, etc.
- There was a positive conversation regarding the structure of the project i.e., what we know in regards to:
 - costs of the next step
 - discussion on the “stop/go” within the process
 - approximate dollar amounts
 - time frame
- There was a discussion regarding who should be responsible for paying for the design phase. Mark Koenen would like this project to be a cooperative project or partnership between the City and the St. Charles Park District but John Rabchuk suggested the City would need to be responsible for the cost of the design phase. John explained the Park District does not have a way to obtain any of the funds

except for raising property taxes and the philanthropic organizations will contribute to the project only if there is a plan in place. This only leaves the City to pay for this portion of the project.

- The next step to this project will include 3 incremental phases. This stage will take approximately two years to complete and will include and studies on permitting investigations, geotechnical studies, environmental impacts and related costs. The findings and results of each phase will be evaluated and it will determine if the project will move forward. There is a logical progression of decision making throughout the phases that will lead to “go” or “no go” decision points.
- This next phase alone will cost approximately \$900,000 to \$1,000,000, which does not include the legal aspect and community outreach the project will entail sometime in the future.
- The discussion also included the need to create an agreement between the City and the St. Charles Park District. Once the terms of the document are created and finalized by both parties, it will need to be approved by the Park District Board and City Council.
- Holly and Mark are scheduling a phone meeting with Kathy Blaha from Kathy Blaha Consulting. Kathy is an adviser who provides guidance to nonprofits and public agencies on creating and implementing park project with a focus on public-private partnerships. Her experience may help in how to best structure this project and the option for creating a steering committee between different entities.
- John Rabchuk will contact the Dunham Foundation to investigate if the community outreach portion of the project qualifies for grant monies. Conversations are in progress with the Dunham Foundation, but John is unsure if the Active River Project will fall within the geographical qualification parameters.
- Discussion with Mark also included utilizing the River Corridor Foundation as a mechanism for attracting philanthropic monies. These monies would go towards specific projects e.g., landscaping, seating at the park, build a plaza, children’s water feature park, etc. These philanthropic groups would donate monies into the Foundation and be spent on specific components of the project. (Similar to Downtown Greenville project.)
- This Task Force discussed the concept of a “steering” committee to manage this project, similar to the Uptown Columbus, Georgia, project. The difference is Uptown Columbus was more of a private business project and St. Charles will be more of a public project. At this point this project is not at a place to make that decision but can be considered in the future.
Rick Brems will conduct more research on the inception of the Columbus steering committee and forward it to Holly to discuss with Mark.
- It is essential for Council to understand the benefits this project will bring to the city.
- Holly Cabel’s Action Steps outlined by the meeting with Mark:
 - Conversation with Kathy Blaha
 - Review and present the Uptown Columbus Georgia information from Rick Brems to Mark Koenen

- Mark Koenen and Holly Cabel will have conversations with a few of their board members and get their input for creating an intergovernmental agreement between the two entities regarding this project.
- Holly mentioned that she and Bob Carnes shared their Greenville trip notes with the Park Board. It is unsure whether this information has been shared with the City Council with the exception of the Active River Project October meeting notes included in the November Government Services Committee packet.

4. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach

A. Update and Presentation of New River Corridor and Active River Websites

No discussion.

B. Scheduled Presentations

There are a few Active River Project update on meetings. Presentation schedule is as follows:

- St. Charles Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, October 30, 2017 - Completed
- St. Charles Rotary Club on Thursday, November 2, 2017 – Completed
- Fall Benefit Concert – Saturday, November 4, 2017, Norris Cultural Center
- St. Charles Bank & Trust – Seniors Program – Thursday, January 11, 2018
Classic Cinema
- St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Executive Board Update – TBD

5. Member Organization Updates

A. Park District

No discussion.

B. City of St. Charles

No discussion.

C. River Corridor Foundation

John Rabchuk mentioned the City, is applying for ITEP Grant for the Indiana Street Pedestrian Bridge. Karen Young, Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering is filing the application. John Rabchuk inquired whether this project will be tied to the Active River Project. Chris Adesso mentioned the bridge was inspected this year and it needs repairs and referred John to connect with Karen for the specific details.

6. Update on Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Sources

All discussions are on hold until project direction is formalized.

7. Administration

No discussion.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Community Center. Motion to adjourn by Jim Enck 2nd by Tony Zehnder.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.