



## **BRAINERD RIVERFRONT MEETING**

March 1, 2018  
3:00–5:00 p.m.

**Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce** - CTC Conference Room  
224 West Washington St., Brainerd, MN 56401

**Our Vision – Maximize our Mississippi Riverfront by creating recreational, economic and cultural opportunities for Brainerd’s residents and visitors.**

**Attendees:** Mark Ostgarden, LeAnn Goltz, Matt Kalroos, Erik Roberts, Holly Holm, Ashley Storm, Jeff Ledin, Don Gorham, Tony Sailor, Karl Samp, Rod Osterloh, John Forrest, Ashley Kaisershot.

**Meeting Chair:** Rod Osterloh

**Minutes Completed by:** A. Kaisershot

**To:** Brainerd Riverfront Committee

**Encl:** Meeting Packet

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1) Introduction of Committee Members**
- 2) Updates and Agenda Items**

- a) River to Rails Event overview**

A. Kaisershot provided an overview of the River to Rails Event that was held on February 26, at the Northern Pacific Center. This event was an opportunity to showcase the ongoing initiatives from the Mississippi River to the Northern Pacific Center. We were the first project to give a five-minute, high level overview. The presentation contained an overview of the project, provided some facts to form a basis for park and trail development, gave an update on the Three Bridges Trail, a list of ongoing initiatives and programming efforts, and listed ways for people to get involved and follow our efforts.

- b) Business After Hours – Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce**

Rod Osterloh spoke at the February Business after hours event at Roundhouse Brewery. Rod was allotted five minutes to speak on behalf of the riverfront and introduced our banner program. The brewery provided a donation for each beer that was sold that night. \$161.00 was donated to the Brainerd Riverfront Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1) Proposed Right-of-Way Vacation**

#### **a) Site Review**

A proposal was submitted to the city with a request to vacate the right of way adjacent to Boom Lake. Fifteen feet of right away was previously platted as a part of the original plat of Brainerd. Regarding access, there's an opportunity to further the trail and connectivity network into adjacent developments. Additionally, this parcel is at a high elevation, providing scenic views and vistas of the Boom Lake area. This location could be suitable for a viewing deck and/or platform. Discussion was had to begin an evaluation on existing parcels and easements and right-of-way that could allow for accessibility and greenway development. **A public hearing is set for May 7.**

The Brainerd Riverfront Committee will submit a letter of support on maintaining ownership of the parcel, stating the facts on the property. This letter will be submitted for an April Council meeting.

### **2) Mississippi Moments**

Seasonal photos, videos, interviews, and content will be developed for each season (four submissions). The concept of "Mississippi Moments" originated as an educational piece, and the idea of bringing areas of the Mississippi to our members and followers. The Mississippi Moments will share the vastness and opportunity of our existing riverfront park and trail network; and bring portability to our follower base. This content could be added to the MN-MRPC state and national website, as well as National Geographic. K. Samp and H. Holm expressed their interest in being interviewed. Dan Hegstad's flyover video was discussed and committee members championed his skills and vision.

### **3) Rotary Riverside Park Update**

J. Forrest provided an updated on Rotary Riverside Park development efforts. The park consists of 150 acres, nearly 4,210 feet of riverfront. It contains nearly two miles of trails. The Fields of Seeds project is nearing it's second round of planting. 18,000 plugs will be planted and will take 3-4 weeks to mature. A park master plan is in the process of being finalized. The main purpose of this park is to serve as a passive park, offering trails and scenic views.

Education is a large programming element in the park. Conservation efforts are underway as well as invasive species management.

### **4) Camping**

The Park Department will allow overnight camping for kayakers, canoers, and bikers at Lum Park, with a limit of two tents. Discussion occurred around the importance of Brainerd becoming a "24-hour Trail Friendly Community," and the need to expand camping options for tourists.

Further study should evaluate the possible areas for ideal camping locations. Collaboration with public safety and the Park Board will be vital for the success of this effort. Webcams should be researched to aid in observation needs of law enforcement and park staff.

## **5) Banner Program Overview**

R. Osterloh provided an overview of the banner project's progress to date. The deadline to submit banners is March 23. Orders will be submitted on April 1. A tentative installation timeframe is around fishing opener/Memorial Day.

**Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.**

**April Brainerd Riverfront Committee meeting is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Our staff believes that this document accurately reflects the business that occurred during the meeting. If any member feels the minutes contain errors, omissions and/or inconsistencies, persons should notify Ashley Kaisershot at [Ashley.kaisershot@njpacoop.org](mailto:Ashley.kaisershot@njpacoop.org). The meeting minutes will be considered approved if feedback isn't received within seven (7) days.