



## **BRAINERD RIVERFRONT MEETING**

April 5, 2018  
3:00–5:00 p.m.

**Brainerd Community Action** – 213 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401

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

**Attendees:** Erik Roberts, Holly Holm, Ashley Storm, Jeff Ledin, Don Gorham, Tony Sailor, Rod Osterloh, Ruthie Gmeinder, John Forrest, Ashley Kaisershot.

**Meeting Chair:** Rod Osterloh

**Minutes Completed by:** A. Kaisershot

**To:** Brainerd Riverfront Committee

**Encl:** Meeting Packet

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

### **1) Updates and Agenda Items**

#### **a) Community Engagement Plan – Review of Goals**

A draft review of the CEP was presented. Goals to engage with the public and increase outreach efforts were developed and a series of categories were formed to address each task outlined in the Mississippi River Partnership Plan: communication, gathering spaces, environment, and education. A. Kaisershot led the group through the proposed role, task, and priority for each category. A recommendation was made to add an *economic development* category with associated tasks. BRC members were asked to review the plan and offer comments.

Upcoming engagement opportunities could include a riverfront survey, including questions that can be included in next year’s MnDNR program application, seasonal photo contest, and a community event at the future plaza site.

#### **b) Letter of Support from MN-MRPC**

A letter from the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission supporting the bonding bill was presented. It was determined that a draft letter of support would be crafted and sent to river champions and area businesses. An update was received from S.E.H. regarding our bonding request. It’s expected that the House and Senate will come out with their versions of the bonding bill by the end of April.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

#### **a) Letter of Support**

The Brainerd Riverfront Committee will submit a letter of support on maintaining ownership of the right-of-way. A letter from a citizen was submitted to the Council supporting the ownership, recommending denial the vacation request.

### **2) Riverfront Banners**

A single banner will be printed for review. MnDOT approved an application to allow banners to be installed on the approaches of the bridge on Washington Street. The application window for sponsorships will close during the month of April. Installation is tentatively scheduled for the end of May. City Council approval is not required, only an update from Administrator Torstenson is needed.

### **3) Update on March Collaboration Meetings**

#### **a) Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association**

The Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association is looking to disband. The CLTA leadership team supports the development of a similar organization in the City of Brainerd. The leadership team expressed interest in assisting and mentoring the new board. R. Osterloh and J. Forrest will share the requirement and opportunities with area trail advocates.

#### **b) Comprehensive Plan – Ward Meetings**

In an effort to gather neighborhood specific feedback, the city held four ward meetings in the 4 wards throughout the city. It was encouraged that committee members attend the final ward meeting on April 5. Feedback received to date did not specifically correlate with priority investment needs around river, park and trail improvements. A synopsis of responses will be compiled and available for review. A community survey will also be available in the upcoming months for participation.

### **4) Progress/Plan for Trail at Steamboat Landing**

An evaluation of the topography and feasibility behind an access to the river at steamboat land was discussed. The riverbank provides a difficult barrier regarding safe and adequate access down to the river. Originally, it was thought to provide an access to the river where the proposed access for the plaza would be built. The city is required to provide a handicap accessible access for all temporary facilities. It was determined that a hiking trail may be an appropriate alternative solution to accessing the river at this time.

An RFP to move ahead the title work of the plaza site is being written by the engineering department.

## 5) General Updates

The Crow Wing County is working with the Mississippi Headwaters Board to implement geo-fences to track the number of people using specific corridors. Geo-fencing could be an opportunity to track the number of park/trail users in Kiwanis Park, Rotary Park, Cuyuna Lakes State Trail, Paul Bunyan State Trail and identified park entrances throughout the corridor. This is an opportunity to gauge how many users utilize the river park/trail network. The cost of a fence is around \$500.

The winter season video was completed. It was decided wait to use the winter content until next season. The spring video will be developed and completed to ensure it can be used during the spring season. The tagline of "Open Every Season" was introduced and received support.

Work needs to begin on crafting a riverfront survey and planning for a pop-up event at the river.

## 6) May Meeting – Strategic Planning Session

A working session will be held to determine the priority work plan for the coordinator and BRC. The team will identify priorities (either in terms of projects outreach efforts, or coordination and collaboration with area partners).

**Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**

**The May Brainerd Riverfront Committee meeting is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce.**

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.