



BRAINERD RIVERFRONT MEETING

May 3, 2018

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce - 213 South 5th Street
Brainerd, MN 56401

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

Attendees: Pam Boehmer, Rod Osterloh, Jim Roloef, Don Gorham, Erik Roberts, Ashley Storm, Holly Holm, Kent Montgomery, and Ashley Kaisershot.

1) COLLABORATION MEETING UPDATES

a) Relay of Voices – The Great River Run

A meeting was held on May 1st to learn more about an upcoming opportunity called the *Relay of Voices: The Great River Run*. The actual event will occur in summer of 2019. A team researchers and choreographers will be running the span of the Mississippi River. This group met with Brainerd stakeholders to share an overview of the project, ask for interviewees when the team arrives, and to learn about our connection to the river. A virtual-ultra marathon will be available. Project updates will be shared when more information becomes available.

b) KAXE Listening Session

Rod participated in a listening session and championed the work that is being completed along the riverfront.

c) Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association

Cuyuna is looking to expand their 501.c.3 westerly towards the city of Brainerd. This board will be looking for members to fill vacant seats on their board of directors. A meeting to learn more of this opportunity is schedule for May.

d) River to Rails

A map was completed by the River to Rails team that showed a list of conceptual and ongoing projects. Don Gorham will serve as co-chair of this effort.

e) GMRPTC Task Force Meeting

A task force continues to meet to craft a narrative and application to earn a high designation from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Applicants can apply at any time. A meeting will be held in May to review the project description(s) that have been created.

2) PROJECT UPDATE

a) **Banner Project**

A total of 34 banners were sold to date. A physical banner was presented to the group. Installation is scheduled before Memorial Day. Discussion on the success of the program occurred, and opportunities to build this program further and identify corridors where other banners and branding can occur.

b) **Plaza Area/Hiking Trail at Steamboat Landing**

The temporary plaza or gathering site at the plaza location must be ADA compliant and it is considered a “temporary facility.” The complexity and funding/donation of materials is posing a concern. Hiking trails could be a solution to getting people to the river and will be evaluated further.

CLC may be able to assist in a variety of ways 1) to develop a birding list along the river corridor 2) assemble an invasive species list for an identified path along the river. A project scope will need to be submitted. Remediation of the invasive species will be a separate project and will need allocated funds.

c) **Title/Survey RFP at Proposed Plaza Site**

Cost proposals are due to the city by May 15. The cost of the ALTA survey will be shared between the City of Brainerd and the school district. Ashley will look into the feasibility of a real estate sign that illustrates the “Future Home of the Steamboat Plaza Site.” The sign will include a rendering of the plaza concept and similar graphics to our banners.

d) **Vine Street Vacation Letter**

A public hearing will occur on the right-of-way vacation on Vine Street on May 7th. The Brainerd Riverfront Committee submitted a letter opposing the vacation.

3) **Bike Repair Station**

A bike repair station, received from Crow Wing Energized, will be located adjacent to the fire hall. Additionally, the historical society is looking to donate two historic railroad ties. Mark Ostgarden is looking to install signage to guide people to the downtown and identify Kiwanis Park and Buffalo Hills Trail. CLC has the capabilities to develop an application to assist in wayfinding for tourists. This should be explored in the near future.

4) **Bonding Bill Update**

An update on the House Bill was provided. The city’s package was not included in the House Bill. The Senate’s version should be available in the upcoming weeks. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

5) **Upcoming Event Identification – Open Discussion**

The following is a list of upcoming city events:

- 4th of July Celebration
- Rubber Duckie Event – End of July

- Canoe Days – August 4
- History Week – August 9-12 (plaque ceremony at White Park and Riverwalk event)

6) General Updates

CLC is developing a rental service for kayak and canoes. This initiative is at the beginning of its planning stage. This initiative is an important service improving connectivity along the river.

The BRC will place a link on the website to the Osprey Cam that is hosted by CLC. The college will swivel the camera during the summer months towards the river.

The BRC will use part of the funds from the banner program to fund a 1-year commitment to a webcam (estimated \$600 per year) to be reevaluated after 12 months (not to exceed \$800 per year).

The June Brainerd Riverfront Committee meeting is scheduled for June 7th at 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber.

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. The meeting minutes will be considered approved if feedback isn't received within seven (7) days.