



BRAINERD RIVERFRONT MEETING

August 2, 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: John Forrest, Jeff Ledin, Cassie Carey; Crow Wing Energize, Kalsey Stults; Crow Wing Energize, Erik Roberts, Holly Holm, Karl Samp, Jim Roleof, Cassandra Torstenson, Don Gorham, Ashley Kaisershot.

1) COLLABORATION MEETING UPDATES

a) Downtown Farmer’s Market & Pop-up Station

City of Brainerd hosts a weekly farmer’s market on Tuesday from 3:00-7:00. A small group from the BRC held a pop-up station at a June farmer’s market. The group interacted with vendors and patrons, sharing updates on the Brainerd riverfront effort, and sharing opportunities to engage in the City of Brainerd’s Comprehensive Plan update process. The BRC will have a monthly presence at the Farmer’s Market.

b) River to Rail Initiative

D. Gorham will resume leadership of “Engine 2” within the River to Rail Initiative. Upcoming meeting is scheduled for September. D. Gorham will share updates and ask for input as this initiative progresses.

c) Community Giving

Quarter 3 funding was received from the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation. Riverfront Coordinator presented at the July meeting. Recommendation from the Community Giving Board is to have more visible projects during Q3, work with CLC to engage faculty and students, and work with area service groups (MN Teen Challenge and Master Naturalist Program) to perform site improvements/projects.

2) BRAINERD RIVERFRONT COMMITTEE FUTURE PLANNING

a) Leadership

R. Osterloh has stepped down as chairman. **His work and dedication to the riverfront was instrumental in coordinating volunteers, building awareness and excitement, and moving forward riverfront-related projects.** John Forrest volunteered to serve as interim chairman until December 31. Don Gorham volunteered to serve as interim co-chairman until December 31. A chairman will be sought in December to provide

leadership for 2019.

Holly Holm and Erik Roberts volunteered to serve on the walkable bikeable committee. The purpose of this effort is to have representation from the BRC and add natural resource/environmental depth to the committee.

It was recommended that the committee add more seats to the committee and expand its membership. A. Kaisershot will work to seek additional members and coordinate with the city on formalities of committee. Awareness building and advocacy work will be needed into 2019.

b) Initiatives through FY18

The following initiatives and efforts were identified as tasks for the remainder of FY18 and BLACF Difference Maker Grant funding: continue to grow the committee, have a presence on the walkable-bikeable committee, work with the school district to determine ownership of the proposed trailhead/outdoor learning center (formerly known as Steamboat Plaza), identify funding for the trail feasibility study, define our narrative to support our legislative update in the fall, work with the DOT around the idea of recreational corridor and create more of a pedestrian environment on 210, and nurture the relationship with CLC.

c) Projects through FY18

The following projects were identified for the remainder of the grant cycle: complete the ALTA survey at the trailhead/outdoor learning center (formerly known as the Steamboat Plaza), grow the stakeholder list for outreach efforts and share news updates, identify funding for trail feasibility study, and continue to hold executive committee meetings once a month.

3) Project Update

a) Regionally Significant Status

As a part of the application resubmittal to GMRPTC, S.E.H is assisting the group to form an online portal that can be used to aid in our application. This portal can be used in a secondary capacity. The portal can allow for interactive engagement opportunities with visitors and champions of the river. The project is estimated to be \$2,000-\$3,000 for editing capabilities and ownership. Small local funding opportunities are available for this project.

b) Trail Feasibility Study

A proposal was received for cost estimates to complete a trail feasibility study along the riverfront corridor. The proposed feasibility study will evaluate trail alignments between Washington Street/210 southernly to Rotary Riverside Park. There are numerous options within the proposal for the city to choose from, including length of study area and complexity of evaluation. The estimate of the feasibility study, depending on scope selection and complexity, varies. Staff will evaluate funding options.

4) Upcoming Events

- a) **Canoe Days** was held on August 4. A community-wide canoe/kayak float occurred from Kiwanis to Crow Wing State Park and was hosted by the Mississippi

Headwaters Board. Representatives from the BRC will be present and will hold a pop-up engagement booth.

- b) **History Week** was held August 9-12. There were numerous events that highlighted the Mississippi River. A community bike ride will be held in place of the paddle tour this year. The ride will be highlighted on the BRC Facebook page. The bridge dedication, White Park marker dedication, and Mississippi River walk occurred as a part of the celebration.

The next meet is scheduled September 6 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@sourcewell-mn.gov. The meeting minutes will be considered approved If feedback isn't received within seven (7) days.