



## **BRAINERD RIVERFRONT MEETING**

August 6, 2018

3:00–5:00 p.m.

**Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce** - 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:** John Forrest, Tony Sailor; City of Brainerd, Erik Roberts, Holly Holm, Ashley Storm, Heidi Peper; SEH, Jim Roeloff, Ashley Kaiershot; Brainerd Riverfront Coordinator.

### **1) AUGUST MEETING REFRESHER**

#### **a) Review of Community Events**

##### **i. History Week (Aug. 9-12)**

A series of riverfront-related activities were available for community participation: Whyte Park marker dedication, Mississippi River walking tour, community bike ride to Crow Wing State Park. Participation in history week was low. Riverfront committee to plan and organize a yearly kayak trip.

##### **ii. Canoe Days (Aug. 4)**

The Mississippi Headwaters Board held the annual Canoe Days on August 4<sup>th</sup>. BRC members held a booth space where they gathered feedback from participants on improvement wishes along the river.

#### **b) BRC August Meeting Minute Review**

Reviewed the project and initiatives for the remainder of the Difference Maker Grant funding cycle (ending in December 31, 2018). The following priorities were identified at the August meeting.

##### **i. Projects**

- a. Complete ALTA survey at the vacant parking lot
- b. Grow the stakeholder list for outreach efforts and share news updates
- c. Identify funding for trail feasibility study.

##### **ii. Initiatives**

- a. Continue to grow the committee: Discussion occurred around the pros and cons of becoming an "official" city committee. The BRC will continue this conversation in the upcoming months and will determine a course of action for 2019. At this time the committee remains an "unofficial" committee. Riverfront coordinator to gather names for new members for the committee and share with the committee. Members can be placed onto the committee since the BRC is unofficial.

- b. Have a presence on the walkable-bikable committee: Check with city to determine requirements on committee members and the process to be appointed.
- c. Work with the school district to determine ownership of the parcels at the parking lot site.
- d. Identify funding for feasibility study.
- e. Provide a legislative update: BRC to determine its narrative, title project locations, etc.
- f. Work with the DOT around the concept of a recreational corridor, improving the pedestrian environment on 210: Learn of the specific projects that will be happening on 210 and look into the MnDOT STIP to get clarity on upcoming projects.
- g. Nurture relationship with CLC: Collaborate with CLC staff and administration to help advance riverfront initiatives and bring awareness to the purpose of our efforts.

## 2) PROJECT UPDATES

### a. GIS public ownership map review

A series of maps were available outlining public ownership within city limits. The property study is a means to identify and study available search corridors for trail and greenway development as well as parcels for park expansion. Riverfront coordinator to research parcel ownerships by the hospital.

### b. ALTA survey at plaza site

A certificate of survey was submitted to the city for review and discussion. Updates to be shared once available.

### c. Riverfront clean-up efforts

All dates for the conservation corps are full for the remainder of 2018. The city will re-evaluate this initiative in the spring when the 2019 crew dates become available.

### d. 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 committee recommends studying all aspects of the proposal. Local funding sources will be sought to fund the study.**

### e. GMRPTC committee meeting

A meeting will be held on Monday, September 17 from 10:00-12:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review the draft narrative that sets the stage for application development. City of Brainerd and City of Baxter will co-lead the committee moving forward.

### **GIS Platform**

S.E.H is assisting the group to form an online portal that can be used to aid in the GMRPTC 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. BRC leadership will seek small local funding opportunities for this project.

#### **f. Meeting with CLC on riverfront initiatives**

BRC leadership met with CLC President, Hara Charlier, to discuss riverfront project initiatives. The committee is hopeful there will be continued support and will form new partnerships in the future to advance riverfront improvement efforts.

### **3) UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMITTEE PRESENCE**

#### **a) River to Rails**

A meeting is scheduled in September for the parks and riverfront engine to collaborate. *Meeting has since been cancelled after the BRC meeting.*

#### **b) Cuyuna Lakes State Trail Association**

A meeting was held to discuss the transfer of the Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association to the City of Brainerd. A new board and mission will need to be developed in an effort to complete the Cuyuna Lakes State Trail portion through the City of Brainerd.

*Two informational sessions will be held at city hall on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The first session will be from 2:00-3:00 p.m. The second session will be held at 6:30-7:30 p.m. Both sessions will be located at the City Hall, City of Brainerd (501 Laurel Street) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.*

### **4) BRC FUTURE PLANNING**

#### **a) Complete Legislative Update – Working session**

The October meeting will be spent working on a legislative update. Within the update will be new terminology and naming for project locations and project priorities.

**The next meet is scheduled October 4 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](mailto:Ashley.kaisershot@sourcewell-mn.gov). The meeting minutes will be considered approved if feedback isn't received within seven (7) days.