



BRAINERD RIVERFRONT MEETING

April 4, 2019
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: Erik Roberts, Ashley Storm, Jeff Ledin, Cassie Carey, Ellie Burkett (WBCC), Mary Aegerter (WBCC), Don Gorham, Ashley Kaisershot.

1) GENERAL UPDATES

- a) Committee Report Out
 - i. Cuyuna Lakes Trail Association
CLTA held their first official meeting in March. Officers were elected at this meeting. Future coordination will occur with the CLTA on trail development and connectivity along the riverfront.

2) OUR MISSISSIPPI OUR FUTURE

Ms. Burkett, Walkable Bikeable City Committee Chair, gave an overview on the purpose of the WBCC. The committee works with the city to help make the city more walkable. WBCC is awaiting confirmation on their bike-friendly status through the League of American Bicyclists. This committee leads the implementation of the non-motorized transportation plan.

Our Mississippi Our Future program, through The Nature Conservancy, is a coalition that is committee to engaging all residents in keeping the water of the Mississippi River clean. Opportunities are available to collaborate in protecting critical habitat, recreation, economic impact, and drinking water.

3) PROJECT UPDATES

- a) National Park Service Design Exercise
 - i. Reflection and Group Discussion
Discussion occurred around the difference between a “trailhead” and a park and if the two project(s) are going to be combined together as we progress through the design process. Coordinator will collaborate with department staff on direction.
 - ii. Update from Staff
Grant was submitted to Otto-Bremer Trust to fund the remainder of the trail feasibility study. We expect a decision by August.
 - iii. Engagement Discussion

NPS provided a list of community engagement opportunities and types as a means to garner feedback and support on the trailhead design options. Committee to review handout and determine which engagement types will be the most impactful. NPS to attend May meeting to lead a discussion around public input options and to develop a plan forward. As a part of the May meeting, NPS staff will provide conceptual drawings for further discussion.

Grant dollars may be available through Crow Wing Energize when partnered with active living opportunities.

iv. NPS Walking Tour

A walking tour will be held on April 18th with the NPS team along the Mississippi River. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m. Members to meet at the Washington Street Dairy Queen parking lot.

b) Trail Feasibility Study

No update. Ongoing initiatives are being taken to fund the remainder of the study. Grant application was submitted to Otto-Bremer Trust.

c) CLC Logo and Branding

A partnership was formed with the CLC Graphic Design and Art Department. Students will be completing a branding assignment. A creative brief was submitted to faculty to influence the outputs. From the submissions, a new brand will be selected, and a small incentive will be given to the winner. From there, a new brand will be used to identify the riverfront.

A request was made to transfer the Brainerd Riverfront account from the City of Brainerd to Brainerd Community Action. Coordinator to facilitate the transfer of account.

4) GOAL REVIEW AND SETTING FOR Q2

a) Proposed goal list:

- i. Finish design for trailhead
- ii. Engage with the school district in the design process
- iii. Develop a financing strategy
- iv. Schedule and hold various public input opportunities

5) SUMMER ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

a) Kayak Trip

Brainerd Riverfront Committee to hold a kayak trip down the Mississippi River in the summer (TBD). Further coordination and event development needed.

b) Great River Run

Relay team to arrive at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 22nd at Lum Park. Interviewees needed and members of the committee will lead the facilitation of the event. An event permit was approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lum Park for a community picnic. Working with local running club for send-off at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 23rd as the relay team heads to Little Falls. A. Storm and D. Gorham volunteered as interviewees. Coordination with local service club may be needed to provide food. BRC offered to cook meal.

c) Art in the Park – NEW item

Cassie Carey, Executive Director for Brainerd Community Action, provided an overview of art in the park on June 30th. There is an opportunity for the BRC to hold a spot in the “community corner” booth as a way to gain support and public input.

The next meet is scheduled May 2, 2019 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.