



**Meeting Minutes
FINAL**

Meeting: Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 5/8/2019

Time: 11:45AM

Location: City Hall, 2nd Floor Training Room

Committee Members

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| Tracy Heisler, Co-Chair | Suzie Nakasian |
| Norman Oberto, Co-Chair | Kristi Pursell |
| Joe Gasior | Greg Siems |
| Peter Hark | Robert Stai |
| Peder Jochen | Glenn Switzer - Absent |
| Rachel Leatham | Erica Zweifel |

Additional Attendees

Mitzi Baker – Comm. Dev. Director, David Bennett – City Engineer/Public Works Director, Mikayla Schmidt – Comm. Dev. Specialist, Holly Larson – National Parks Service, Barrett Steenrod – National Park Service and a three other members of the public.

| AGENDA ITEM | |
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| 1. | <p>Call to Order and Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Co-Chair Heisler called the meeting to order at 11:50AM.</p> <p>A motion was made by Pursell, seconded by Nakasian to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion passed.</p> <p>Chair Heisler asked the two new members to introduce themselves. Greg Siems introduced himself, stating he is the new Northfield Downtown Development Corporation (NDDC) director and noted his excitement to contribute to the group. Peter Hark stated he works for the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources as the Asset and Resource Manager and has a strong interest in the Cannon River.</p> <p>Leatham entered the meeting at 11:51AM.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Approval of 04-10-2019 REC Minutes</p> <p>A motion was made by Gasior, seconded by Nakasian, to approve the minutes of the April meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.</p> |

| INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION | |
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| 3. | <p>Proposed Concept for Trail Extension, under 2nd Street along west side of river – Presentation</p> <p>City Engineer Bennett introduced himself and presented possible trail extension ideas for underneath the 2nd Street bridge. He noted there could be a steel walkway, a potential floating option, which would be difficult, but feasible and would require more staff time to remove the railing during flood events and shut the bridge down. Bennett estimated approximate costs to build a steel bridge would be \$500,000. Bennett stated he reached out to MnDOT for comment and they would like to see no structural connections to the bridge and are concerned with narrowing the channel. Bennett likewise connected with the MnDNR and they would like to limit any footings in the water and would like to see the pedestrian bridge attached to the vehicular bridge. The MnDNR also noted concern on debris catching in the pedestrian bridge, who would be responsible to remove debris and the impact of high water.</p> <p>Jothen entered the meeting at 11:55AM and Zweifel entered the meeting at 11:57AM.</p> <p>Discussion was held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -concerns brought up by the MnDNR -possible grant opportunities through the MnDNR and other resources -how a floating bridge would require more maintenance -what would be needed for Council to add this into a capital improvement project budget and Bennett noted the cost projections are available, but staff would need the agencies on board, -railings on the bridge -Zweifel noted she would be comfortable putting in a placeholder for this project -Bennett noted an underpass could also be an option as long as the city brings in the funds <p>Baker summarized this was a starting point for discussion and wanted the committee to start thinking about how to prioritize this with the other goals.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Philips Lighting – Brief Follow Up</p> <p>Oberto summarized that lighting can be added to the list of possible goals and noted the next step is how to make it feasible. Oberto noted the committee would have to gather a cost estimate and see where the group wants to move the idea.</p> <p>Discussion was held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -researching ideas from community examples -how Signify did not quantify dark sky regulation in their presentation -looking at “easy” projects and the potential for a donor opportunity -researching local business to work on the project -utilizing the colleges as a resource |

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| <p>5.</p> | <p>Update on watercraft takeout project – Update</p> <p>Oberto noted that he and Stai presented the idea to locate a watercraft takeout at Babcock Park to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) at their April meeting. Oberto stated the PRAB saw merit from a safety and use standpoint to locate the takeout at Babcock Park, but felt a more comprehensive look at the goals of the surrounding parks, like Ames and Riverside, was needed before going to council with a recommendation. The PRAB told Oberto and Stai they would like to see an overarching plan with a watercraft launch site as well as a biking, mountain biking and trail head location. The PRAB also noted accessibility, space, and parking should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Discussion was held on functionality, and the strengths and opportunities of the parks. Overall, the group consensus was to create a partnership between the Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Board (REAC) and the PRAB to accomplish and prioritize the goals/ideas listed above, and identify funding sources.</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>National Park Service: Updates & Next Steps</p> <p>Steenrod presented the framework of his process and how he identified segments of the Cannon River through Northfield as suggested by the REAC.</p> <p>Steenrod identified and presented a map delineating segments called:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scenic River North, Urban North, Urban Historic, Urban South, and Scenic River South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o he noted this is a working draft document o width of the corridor is not determined o and a phrase from a city plan to “Enhance the assets of the Cannon River” was part of the summarized purpose statement <p>Steenrod listed all the City of Northfield plans and studies and the linked them to actions that are site-specific and non-site-specific for all the districts.</p> <p>Baker noted this plan is a little aggressive because we want to work with Steenrod while he is still a fellow with the National Park Service. Baker explained to put the priorities in order we need to assess the parks and identify their assets.</p> <p>Baker asked the group to create a list of things they would like to accomplish and of any known gaps.</p> <p>Nakasian noted a list of “to-dos” at the end of the each chapter of the comprehensive plan, to think of equity as a guiding point and reuniting the west and east sides of downtown. Zweifel noted the example of the Tiger Trail and right-of-way that was acquired for it. Oberto suggested breaking down the map into sections and assigning sub-groups to work on different areas to help move the process along.</p> |



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| | Nakasian exited the meeting at 1:13PM. |
| 7. | <p>Other Business</p> <p>Zweifel noted that Carleton College is hosting a Water event in June at the Weitz Center.</p> <p>Gasior note the energy subcommittee of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Board will be presenting their plan to several boards and will host public meetings.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Adjourn</p> <p>Meeting adjourned by Heisler at 1:16PM.</p> |