



FINAL

Meeting: Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 10/09/2019

Time: 11:45AM

Location: City Hall, 2nd Floor Training Room

Committee Members

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| Tracy Heisler, Co-Chair | Suzie Nakasian – entered at 11:55am |
| Norman Oberto, Co-Chair | Kristi Pursell |
| Joe Gasior | Greg Siems |
| Peter Hark - Absent | Robert Stai – entered at 11:47am |
| Peder Jochen – entered at 11:47am, exited at 12:15pm | Glenn Switzer - Absent |
| Rachel Leatham – entered at 12:07pm | Erica Zweifel – entered at 11:46am, exited at 12:48pm |

Additional Attendees

Holly Larson, Barrett Steenrod and Jeremy Edwards - National Park Service, Luther Aadland - River Ecologist, and Jason Boyle - State Dam Safety Engineer.

| AGENDA ITEM | |
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| 1. | <p>Call to Order and Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Chair Heisler called the meeting to order at 11:45am.</p> <p>A motion was made by Pursell, seconded by Gasior to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion passed.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Minutes</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a) 09-11-2019 REAC Meeting Minutes</p> <p>A motion was made by Oberto, seconded by Gasior to approve the 09-11-2019 REAC meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion passed.</p> |
| REGULAR BUSINESS | |
| 3. | <p>Learning about Dams, Dam Removal and River Ecology – with special guests from the MN Department of Natural Resources: Luther Aadland, River Ecologist and Jason Boyle, State Dam Safety Engineer</p> <p>The committee, guest speakers and staff all introduced themselves. Baker noted the speakers are here to help provide information. She noted this group should think about scenario planning</p> |

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| | <p>where you plan for a future as the dam looks today and for one without. Heisler stated no plans have been made and today’s presentations are to help gain information.</p> <p>Jason Boyle presented his PowerPoint (which is attached as part of the minutes) first and reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal considerations, • societal issues, • safety, • technological and engineering feasibility, • and physical outcomes. <p>Luther Aadland then presented his PowerPoint (which is attached as part of the minutes) to the group where he spoke on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological effects of rivers and water from dams, • fish and mussel species before and after the removal of dams, • dam construction, • process-based restoration, • sedimentation issues, • and cost estimates for removal of dams and restoration. <p>The group then held discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how likely the dam is to fail – Boyle didn’t think it would fail, • flood mitigation – there would be no change for downstream, but upstream the drop from the dam would go away and the boundary would narrow about 20-30 ft., more shoreline could be available, • how the Boyle and Aadland were surprised there hasn’t been more loss of life from accidents with the dam, • how the river between Faribault and Cannon Falls would gain some populations of fish, • realigning the form of the river to the south could be done to help with flooding. • concerns on sediment into Lake Byllesby – but Aadland felt volume-wise the sediment shouldn’t be too extreme and would stabilize with ripple restoration. He also noted if dam removal were to move forward a survey would be needed to properly assess the river. • whether communities felt remorse after removing a dam; Aadland stated most people were happy, some were not, but strong opponents often flip and appreciate having a more functional and healthy river, • the river having a Wild & Scenic designation and how that affects this process, • working with the colleges to see what assessments they have on the river, • and what grant funds, public or private dollars would be available. |
| <p>4.</p> | <p>2020 Budget Request</p> |

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| | <p>Martig noted several things about the current and 2020 budget. He stated the funds are available for a takeout/launch on the river. He would like to see something more forward at Riverside Park and then analyze another potential location at Babcock Park. Martig stated he is trying to work creatively to use funding for Parks & Recreation for some of this groups initiatives.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project sharing as time allows <p>Baker noted the need to have a second meeting date, which was set for October 30th. Pursell noted a Cannon River Watershed Partnership event Keepsake Cidery.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Adjourn</p> <p>A motion was made by Stai, seconded by Oberto to adjourn the meeting around 12:50pm. All in favor. Motion passed.</p> |