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Brainerd Riverfront Committee Meeting Notes

July 28, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m.
Brainerd Lakes Chamber Building
Brainerd, Minnesota

Attendees: im Roeloffs, Holly Holm, Don Gorham, Merritt Bussiere, Erik Roberts, Gabe Johnson, Jennifer Bergman, LeAnn Goltz, Jeff Ledin, Bob Kost, Mary Koep, Tony Sailer, and Mark Ostgarden

1. Check In: Contract and Progress Made –

SEH went over the progress to date and the project steps/timeline that show what has been completed and what will be done in the remaining year. The group had a discussion about the project selection and the importance of considering the maintenance costs for the City: there's a need and then there's ability. Ultimately, it will be the City that must decide if they're willing and able to maintain any projects that come from the riverfront efforts.

2. Web Design –

The committee went through the web design information and action items provided by SEH.

Action Item 1: Do you approve of Word Press as an acceptable hosting and content management system? Yes.

Action Item 2: Do you approve Option 2 Premium Plan? Yes.

Action Item 3: Do you approve brainerdriverfront@gmail.com as the email to be associated with the new website? The Committee felt info@brainerdriverfront.org would be more appropriate.

Action Item 4: Do you approve brainerdriverfront.org as the domain name? Yes.

Action Item 5: Identify the template that most closely meets the desired goals. Motif was the selected option.

3. Riverfront Precedents –

SEH provided many examples of other riverfronts including Minneapolis East Bank Riverfront with an elevated trail; Black Dunes Riverwalk, Portage, IN; Waterside Plaza, Lake Bluff, IL; Clark Fork Wayside, Casper, WY; Swan Overlook in Hammond, IN; Waterfront Overlook, Portland, OR; Phoenix Park Plaza, Eau Claire, WI; Olympic Discovery Trail, WA, and more. They also shared features that have been incorporated in many projects, including bike racks, canoes/kayaks, seating, lighting, accessibility, rain gardens, and public art.



4. Updated Maps –

SEH provided updated maps of the Brainerd Riverfront with existing trails, proposed trails, parks, and possible new features. Committee members suggested a few changes.

5. List of Riverfront Property Owners –

Maps and a list of all property owners along the Mississippi River project area were reviewed.

6. Pop-Up Event –

SEH was sponsoring a table at the BLACF annual banquet and offered to staff an informational booth/pop-up event to visit with people about the riverfront. The committee also suggested other ideas for the future: Brainerd Lakes Music Festival in August or Brainerd Public Schools Foundation 5k in October.

7. Potential Projects –

a. Kiwanis Park Improvements:

Ideas to consider included reconfiguring the parking so it lessens the impact to the water, correct the entrance to make it safer, closing the road that leads to the dog park and making it a bike trail, and improving the canoe area. There was discussion about the possibilities and the fact that the Kiwanians and Park Board have the final say. It was suggested to leave future park projects to the Kiwanians and have the committee focus on the Three Bridges Trail.

b. Three Bridges Trail:

The committee decided they wanted to focus on the Three Bridges Trail from Washington Street to College Drive. Don Gorham made a motion seconded by Merritt Bussiere to select the Three Bridges Trail as the first project. All voted in favor and none were opposed.

c. Performing Arts Center:

The group determined this needs to be a future project and not something for the committee's pursuit.

8. Programming Idea – “Take the Day Off On the Mississippi”

A flyer was provided in the meeting packet.

9. Adjournment – The committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m.