

Mississippi Riverfront
Sub-Committee Meeting
December 17, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Introductions
2. Validate / Review Proposal
3. Frame the Public Engagement Step
4. Ideas on 1st Pop Up Event
5. Next Steps
6. Committee Member Engagement

Number one goal – improve visual, physical and access to River - area lacks coherency and there are physical barriers

Existing – overlook, trails, parks – structure is there but no clear path for how to go from one resource to the next – not user friendly

Branding Problem / Education

- What to do there – events
- Create sense of place
- Coherency
- Way finding – connecting places

Brainerd School District holds 5 and 10K runs

Jaycees duck races

Memories of Brainerd

History Week

College Drive area – sort of a promenade but doesn't work really well

Boom Lake Area

Kiwanis Park

Flood plan level trail below the hospital (north of Washington Street
Rebuild of Washington Street in 2020

Talk to Cities and county – what is their plan?

Laurel Street bridge in '04 / '05 added wider walkway

John: “start at High Rise building parking lot, north to RR bridge and then beyond –
hospital wants trail on their property all the way to memorial park

East Bank – lower trail / High Rise Trail / River walk / flood plain trails

Plaza – area south of Washington that could be plaza and / or commercial / retail – co-
development

Brainerd / Baxter shared fire department exploration so maybe relocation of:

- Brainerd fire station
- HRA offices
- McDermotts (1/3 full)

How to connect from Boom Lake – walk around

History Tour

Talked about Community Wilds and Option 1 vs Option 2 in the master plan
Is there a higher / better use? Potential to go farther south

Learning Center Building – big rock work with DNR & College – merge with the
MRCAC? Locate near college – include tribal stuff

Two Potential Tracks:

1. Enhancing east side – improve what is already there through
 - a. Connection / Access – connectivity of all the existing parks / resources
 - b. Branding
 - c. Catalyst Project
 - d. VISUAL
2. Mississippi River Cultural Arts Center (MRCAC)
 - a. Need to define the role of this subcommittee for advancing MRCAC
 - b. Put cohesive plan in place and the approach groups “you could come here”
 - c. Jim Roelofs knows of some potential donors

- d. Past conversations about auditorium and high school and at college
- e. Month long event of classical music
- f. CLC concert series
- g. Arts and culture are happening in Brainerd
- h. Location – land near college owned by college

Technical Mapping – repackage ideas – graphics – aerial photo – teleconference

Committee members: will get all stakeholder names to Jennifer to get to us

Define the role of the committee for the MRCAC and what other roles others need to fill

We will do critical path – including \$ construction & sustainability

Merritt has example from previous group

Three Zones originally: Heart of the Community / Cultural Community Commons /
Community Wilds → Two Zones: combine 1 & 2 (need new name) and 3 becomes 2

Next Meeting March 24, 3 pm

SEH TASKS:

- Propose new name for combined zones 1 & 2 (heart of the community and cultural community commons)
- Critical path for identified project – including \$ construction & sustainability (see notes for projects)
- Technical mapping - repackage ideas with graphics / aerial photos
- New term for promenade
- Review of existing maps (topo, utilities, etc) of what is there on the ground
- Attend workshop and apply for regional designation with the Greater MN Parks & Trails council