

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2018-115  
ESTABLISHING THE NORTHFIELD RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield Vision Statement reads that “Northfield is an open, safe, and welcoming community, recognized for its world-class colleges and **historic riverfront downtown**, and is dedicated to sustainably enhancing and preserving its vibrant culture, celebrated arts, strong economy, and an excellent quality of life where all can thrive.”; and

WHEREAS, the Cannon River is a defining aspect of the Community Identity as documented in several components of the City of Northfield comprehensive plan including key findings in “Chapter 3. Community Identity” as follows:

“Importance of the Cannon River: The Cannon River was an essential component of Northfield’s identity, as settlers located to utilize its power to help establish a trade center and build the community. The river also provides the basic topographical shape to the community and to a degree dictates travel patterns and infrastructure development. Recent community efforts, including the Cannon Riverwalk, have worked to better integrate the river into the community; its scenic beauty and recreational possibilities afford the possibility for further integration of the river into the community. The Greater Northfield Area Greenway System Action Plan is an important resource in helping with this integration.”

“Well-defined Historic Downtown: Division Street (“Main Street”) is the foundation of the downtown core. The streetscape provides a pedestrian-friendly environment with wide sidewalks, well-defined public spaces, active storefronts, benches, and multi-use buildings that frame the street. The physical environment and downtown buildings are well-preserved, adding to the community’s small town character and identity. However, the downtown is not without its challenges, the most significant being better integration of the Cannon River and improvements to make the area more pedestrian-friendly.”; and

WHEREAS, the “Implementation Matrix” within “Chapter 12. Implementation” of the City of Northfield Comprehensive Plan outlines numerous “Objective/Strategy” action items that relates to goals of riverfront enhancement; and

WHEREAS, other community planning documents have references to enhancement of the Cannon River including the following: Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan; Downtown Streetscape Framework Plan; Natural Resources Inventory; Comprehensive Economic Development Plan; Downtown Streetscape Framework Plan; and more; and

WHEREAS, the Northfield City Council’s Strategic Plan adopted six strategic priorities, including “Economic Development: A Community That’s Economically Thriving.” One strategic initiative under this priority includes “Riverfront enhancement” that includes related desire outcomes such as “enhanced tourism and expanded downtown”; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan priorities “leveraging” the Cannon River as a unique strategic asset in which to leverage for economic growth. This document has several identified opportunities and strategies for maximizing the economic potential of the Cannon River; and

WHEREAS, to achieve outcomes related to coordinating and strategizing regional planning for Cannon River related initiatives as referenced in this resolution, the City Council is being requested to consider establishing a Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee will work with city staff, consultants, as well as other governmental units and agencies; and

WHEREAS the Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee intends to meet as needed, but not more than monthly; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the Authority to create Boards and Commissions in accordance with Section 3.2 of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.2 of the City Charter provides that the Mayor shall appoint the members of advisory boards and commissions subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the council which is proposed to occur at a future date; and

WHEREAS, the City Council will define the scope, project and focus areas at a future date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The Northfield City Council establishes the “Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee” as follows:

1. Work to complete a Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan to include the following:
  - Prioritization to align with the strategic plan; and
  - Concept plans for strategic park improvements; and
  - Identified short term and long term projects and funding sources; and
  - Preservation and conservation of the riverfront; and
  - Identification of stormwater management project priorities; and
  - Strategies for increased active use of the riverfront; and
  - Opportunities for business expansion on the corridor.
2. The Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee shall terminate effective upon majority approval of the City Council.
3. The following members are appointed to serve on the Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee:
  - Norman Oberto - co chair
  - Tracy Heisler - co chair
  - Kristi Pursell
  - Robert Stai

- Jenni Roney
- Joe Gasior
- Todd Bornhauser
- Suzie Nakasian
- Erica Zweifel
- Glenn Switzer or appointee

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

ATTEST:

Debra Rittner  
City Clerk

Chanda Bowell  
Mayor

VOTE: Y POWNELL A COLBY Y DELONG Y NAKASIAN  
Y NESS Y PETERSON WHITE Y ZWEIFEL



## Legislation Text

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File #: Res. 2018-115, Version: 1

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City Council Meeting Date: November 13, 2018

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Ben Martig, City Administrator

Consider Resolution Establishing Riverfront Enhancement Committee and Mayoral Appointments.

**Action Requested:**

Approval of Resolution Establishing the Northfield Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee and Confirming Mayoral Appointments.

**Summary Report:**

Mayor Pownell is currently finalizing the appointments to the Riverfront Advisory Committee and will be incorporated into an updated resolution from the one provided at the October 9 City Council meeting. This information will be provided as a supplemental memo.

The City Council reviewed the attached resolution related to the creation of the Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee being contemplated in relation to implementation of the strategic initiative of “Riverfront enhancement” within the City Strategic Plan (2018-2020).

The concept is that this committee would provide some stakeholder guidance to work with staff on identifying actions steps and ultimately prioritized projects and strategies that may allow for the maximization of riverfront enhancements that would fulfill desired outcomes such as “enhanced tourism” and “expanded downtown” within the “Economic Development: A Community That’s Economically Thriving” Strategic Priority Area. Attached is a presentation from that meeting is well.

Many City guiding documents and past studies outline vision, goals, objectives and strategies around the value of the Cannon River as an economic development asset. The committee would presumably review these documents. Additionally, there would be an intentional community engagement plan as well as some concept sketches and small area planning to complement existing plans.

The scope of the committee is suggested to include the entire river corridor with a specific zone or area yet to be specifically determined. The review would include parks and trails within the corridor, the river walk business opportunities, events and activities, and more.

**Alternative Options:**

None recommended.

**Financial Impacts:**

None.

**Tentative Timelines:**

The recommendation is that this committee would be established in 2018 and beginning to meet in early 2019.