



FINAL

Meeting: Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 7/10/2019

Time: 11:45AM

Location: City Hall, 2nd Floor Training Room

Committee Members

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

Additional Attendees

Also in attendance: Holly Larson & Barrett Steenrod - National Parks Service, Comm. Dev. Director Mitzi Baker and Comm. Dev. Specialist Mikayla Schmidt.

AGENDA ITEM	
1.	<p>Call to Order and Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Co-chair Heisler called the meeting to order at 11:52AM.</p> <p>A motion was made by Siems, seconded Pursell, to amend the agenda to swap project sharing and the group exercise. All in favor. Motion passed.</p>
1.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Project sharing as time allows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pursell noted the “We Are Water” traveling inspirational exhibit is now showing at the Weitz Center, that images will be projected on a wall of The Contented Cow on Friday, and the Cannon River Nibi Walk (an Indigenous-led, extended ceremony to pray for the water) starting July 12-14 and the walkers will come through Northfield on Saturday. - Hark circulated a recent article on dam removal in the Star Tribune and noted the ecological benefits observed by some communities who have done so. He also noted bonding dollars are available for dam removal and how that could impact the strategies of this group, should they develop discussions around this and their commitment to the river. He noted a small group could potentially form to line up a strategy, resources available, and see where it lands on the priority list. - Stai stated the recreational traffic is slow because the river level is high. He said there has only been 4 days of safe travel on the river this summer.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Siems stated the Artist on Main Street project is continuing and is oriented on the river. He noted the “Goose Be Gone” exhibit by Kathy Ness has been received positively and Sheryl Nau has her exhibit “Bridge Weaving” on the 5th Street Bridge. - Nakasian noted the Transit Hub is moving along and the Union Pacific’s historic Big Boy steam locomotive is coming through Northfield, midday, on July 17th. She is working on a citywide survey on transit needs. - Oberto also commented on the Big Boy train and wants to continue discussion on a crossing under 2nd Street.
INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Group Exercise: Review of goals / policies and how they may apply to the river corridor (Continued from the June meeting)</p> <p>The small sessions consisted of review of the Comprehensive Plan chapters on Parks and Recreation and Land Use. The Transportation topic discussion was postponed due to smaller attendance at this meeting. The committee broke into small groups around 12:45PM.</p> <p>Parks and Recreation discussion items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Babcock Park – kayak & trail head, not having the grandstands present all year, pavilion - Ames Park – create a space like the Diana Memorial Playground, showcase this gateway to town, creation of a parkway, separation / natural barrier with the Ames mill - Theme throughout the parks with lighting, which stems from Bill Johnson’s vision - Specific ways to assist the underutilized parks - The ability to close off the 4th Street Bridge for events and having a removable tent - Clearing debris and dead trees along the river - Creating more articulation to the southern part of the river (very swampy) - Flood mitigation strategy (partly in part because the river has been straightened) - Expanding the buffer and trout stream - Informal mountain biking trail - Funding available for invasive species <p>Land use discussion items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site specific recommendations - Creating better connections to the river where people live and work - Addressing unattended consequences, like putting dumpsters behind the building <p>Larson stated there would be a couple more meetings to gather specifics on the topics and then public engagement for more input. Pursell noted the Cannon River Watershed Partnership could assist as a partner for the public outreach.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Meeting adjourned by Heisler at 1:24PM.</p>