

MINUTES

Kinni Corridor Project Committee Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, 4-5:30 p.m.

City Hall – Training Room

The first meeting of the Kinni Corridor Committee was convened Nov. 17, 2016. Those in attendance included: Jason Egerstrom, Rita Kozak, Gary Horvath, Dan Toland, Dave Fodroczi, Adam Myszewski, Chris Blasius, Mary Zimmermann, Angie Bond, Lisa Moody, Amy Peterson, Patricia LaRue, Julie Bergstrom, Susan Reese, Dan Mariette, Buddy Lucero and Mark Lobermeier.

Buddy Lucero opened the meeting and thanked everyone in attendance. A committee photo was taken. Buddy then introduced Mayor Dan Toland. The Mayor expressed his appreciation to all the committee members, reminding them that they will be the focal point of the community, and to have fun along the way.

Each committee member made a brief self-introduction.

Buddy Lucero reminded the committee that the City's Comprehensive Plan had long envisioned a river corridor study; an entire chapter in the Comprehensive Plan is dedicated to the subject. He acknowledged that the hydro re-licensing process was the catalyst for the project, but the plan is about more than the dams or the river. He identified three key parts of the process: (1) overall planning; (2) development of "working drawings", and (3) the implementation strategy.

Buddy introduced the draft charter. He indicated that everything the committee does will be public. Agendas, minutes, etc. will be posted on the project web site. He emphasized that the committee will need to act as a team, and for members to be cautious of making public statements and comments as individuals. Instead the members should be working through the committee. The Mayor indicated that the committee members will serve as "ambassadors" for the project.

The committee addressed preferred ways for the public to be heard at meetings. There was agreement that time will be set aside at the end of each meeting for questions and answers, including public comments.

Mark Lobermeier led a discussion around the draft mission and vision statements.

Sample Mission Statement:

To achieve the full potential of the community's relationship with the Kinnickinnic River.

Sample Vision Statement:

A community focused on wise stewardship of the aquatic, riparian and urban environments within the Kinnickinnic River Corridor.

Comments regarding the mission statement included:

- Not everyone views the river as the center piece of the community;
- Main Street is the heart of the community;
- The mission and vision should evolve over time;
- The phrase “full potential” is too strong, a little negative; and
- Perhaps we should ask the community what they think.

Comments regarding the vision statement included:

- It should emphasize community input;
- Stewardship is a good word – maybe it belongs in the mission; and
- There are other things in the City besides the river that are the center of the community.

Mark presented a document that provided an overview of the planning project scope and schedule. Buddy mentioned there will be notebooks for all of the materials distributed to the committee. The concept of the Tech Talks, community discussions on a variety of topics, was introduced as a way of building awareness and educating the public on a variety of issues. It was suggested that a topic regarding renewable energy would seem appropriate.

The topic of relicensing was raised, whether or not there could be other agencies besides FERC that may weigh in on a City decision to relicense or surrender the license. It was clarified that while the relicensing decision will occur during the planning process, influencing the final plan, the actual relicensing (or license surrender) process is not within the scope of the planning effort.

Buddy and Mary Zimmermann discussed public engagement. The community kickoff event on Dec. 8 at the library was discussed including the format which will follow the process used for the Park Master Plan. An email blast was sent to park and recreation contact lists. The gallery at the library currently has multiple 3D models of the corridor. The City will show a new drone-captured video of the corridor. There will be greeters, technical topic stations and two video stations, along with large format maps with stickers to identify issues, opportunities, problem areas, memories, etc. and to promote dialogue. It was suggested that social media tools like “Next Door” could be used. All committee members were encouraged to spread the word about the December 8 meeting.

Mary showed off the new project logo.

During Q/A, the topic of Tech Talks came up, with interest expressed for topics like tourism, economic development, redevelopment and project financing.

Mark and Buddy discussed the preliminary agenda for November 30. It was agreed that there may be too much on the agenda, and the committee agreed to prioritize the issue identification exercise.

The Feb. 2, 2017 committee meeting date was discussed as tentative, and the committee agreed it would be best to have the same day (i.e. third Thursday of the month for example) as preferred meeting dates going forward.

It was explained that the corridor extends out beyond the City limits and that there should be some outreach to those townships and counties to achieve their buy-in regarding plan deliverables.

The meeting adjourned at about 5:40 pm.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Nov. 30, 2016, at 4 p.m. in City Hall.