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## MINUTES

### **Kinni Corridor Committee Meeting**

Thursday, June 7, 2018

**4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

City Hall – Training Room

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Those in attendance included Committee Members: Adam Myszewski, Rick Bowen, Chris Blasius, Jason Egerstrom, Lisa Moody, Gary Horvath, Rita Kozak, Susan Reese, Dave Fodroczi, and Patricia LaRue. City Staff: Buddy Lucero. Scot Simpson, Julie Bergstrom, Amy Peterson, Kevin Westhuis, Consultants Jeff McMenimen, Jody Rader, and Andrew Papke-Larson from HKGi.

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2018**

Meeting minutes were approved.

#### **2. OPEN COMMENTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC**

An update was provided by Kevin Westhuis regarding FERC re-licensing. The timeline approved by City Council to remove the Powell and Junction Dams in the future does not align with FERC schedules. Generally, the dams are licensed with 30-year terms. Kevin is currently negotiating with FERC to amend the timelines to meet the goals of the Committee.

Regarding Public/Private Partnerships: This fall, the City is looking to start a committee to help with public/private partnership opportunities related to the Kinni Corridor. City Staff will help to facilitate this committee and hopes to eventually create an organization which functions similar to a land trust to work with property owners, etc. for the future development along the Kinni Corridor.

#### **3. REVIEW/CONFIRM KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM WORK COMPLETED TO DATE**

Jeff McMenimen provided a presentation of Key Takeaways that have been gathered from prior work completed by other consultants for the Master Plan process, as well as key takeaways gathered from site and background analysis performed. Four themes have emerged to categorize work moving forward:

- Parks and Recreation
- Access and Connectivity
- Land Use and Economic Development
- Natural Resources and River Ecology

In addition to the observations presented by the consultants, the committee provided the following comments regarding key takeaways:

- Educational opportunities, as well as looking for potential museum (heritage or history center) sites. Create a 'teaching place' along the River. Work with the local elementary school, environmental center. Think about future places with outdoor classrooms,

- potentially near Powell Dam.
- Community gathering places
- Business and/or development opportunities along the Kinni where Lake George is currently located
  - Creating a riverfront business area (taxable resource)
  - It was noted that this area will likely be a wetland with the future closing and removal of Junction Dam.
- In the final master plan, the committee would like to see more details of future design/styles of recommendations.

#### 4. IDENTIFY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Jeff McMenimen continued the presentation to outline issues and opportunities identified within each of the three reaches of the Kinni Corridor.

The Committee provided the following comments regarding issues and opportunities:

##### Middle Kinni Comments:

- Potential for planning a trail along the entire stretch of the river to serve multi-use (bike/ped)
  - Multi-use trail use along the river as it flows through town
    - Multi-use trail and/or a pedestrian only trail in some locations
    - There are very few areas to bicycle along the river today
- The following publicly-owned properties may be opportunities for future development:
  - Heritage Park site
  - Yard Waste site
  - Wastewater plant
  - Site near City Hall
- Regarding shared streets/paseos/woonerfs, there was some concern that there might be preferential treatment given to business owners along these future streets
- Need to make better connections to UW-River Falls
- Light Industrial sites along the River today may serve as opportunities for re-use, such as:
  - Moose Lodge
  - Bus garage
  - Compost site
    - These locations need to be identified/verified by city staff at a later date
- Signage and wayfinding efforts are already underway in coordination with the City

##### Lower Kinni Comments:

- Add connections to UW-River Falls as an opportunity
- Discussion about what a future picnic area around the Lower Kinni might look like. The committee provided an example in the past of a church which held an annual picnic along the Lower Kinni, near the Rocky Branch.
- Discussion about whether public restrooms are needed along the entire corridor.
- Clarification that Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) is of higher quality than an Exceptional Resource Water (ERW)

#### 5. DISCUSS POTENTIAL FUTURES FOR THE KINNI RIVER CORRIDOR

Discussion on potential futures of the Kinni River Corridor was facilitated by the consultant team. The Committee provided the following ideas regarding Parks and Recreation (due to lack of time, it was acknowledged that future Corridor Committee meetings will cover the other three themes):

- Canoe and kayak access is a major missing piece of the current park system along the Kinni

Corridor. Better places to drop in need to be established, besides the current spot at Glen Park.

- It was mentioned that up to 300 kayakers per day have been documented using the River. There is a large conflict with fishing enthusiasts, as well as others using the Glen Park and Powell Dam area with so many kayakers.
- Parking is also an issue. Today, many kayakers are parking in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- If addressing additional angler access, look at Jackson Preserve as an example of increased distance from parking to the water access. This hinders kayak use at the same location.
- Potential idea to negotiate hours/seasonal times for kayakers and anglers.
- The Lower Kinni is more popular for kayakers and anglers.
- For anglers, the Lower Kinni is a 'place of solitude'
  - Due to the natural feel of vegetation and natural buffers between river and adjacent land use.
- Look for ways to engage conversations between stakeholders involved in this issue.
- Education may also be a key, especially if the local outfitters can be involved.
- Need to engage land owners, especially those near the drop-in sites
- It was acknowledged that kayaking is very important to tourism and economic development in River Falls. This should not be overlooked when looking for solutions to recreational use conflicts.
- Look at "Red Cabin" off of River Road, a DNR-purchased site, good for fishing and kayakers.
  - This is due to the natural rapids feature and creating a fishing hole and adventurous kayaking conditions.
- Regarding the future impoundment areas, after dam removals:
  - By 2026, the lower impoundment will be running 'free'; by 2035, the upper impoundment will be 'free'
  - The Committee was not happy with the amusement park-theme presented in prior planning efforts surrounding Lake George.
  - Educational opportunities presented in prior planning efforts surrounding Lake Louise were welcomed
  - It was agreed that the Downtown area should be a place of future development, and the Riverwalk and trestle bridge would be good places to start.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

- Paddle Tour – Friday, June 15
  - Meet at 4pm
- Committee Meeting/Workshop – Thursday, July 12
  - Homework: The Committee should come prepared to share precedent images or information of other River cities and design examples that demonstrate ideas applicable to the future Kinni Corridor.
- Committee Meeting/Workshop – Thursday, July 26
- Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 16
- Community Workshop – Thursday, September 13
- Future Committee meetings will begin at 4:00pm

## 7. ADJOURN