

River to Rail Initiative

Notes

Meeting Date/Time

June 9, 2021

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Agenda

Attendance

- Bruce Buxton, Tyler Glynn, David Chanski, Eric Charpentier, Dave Badeaux, Brenda Billman-Arndt, John Schommer, Jessie Ernster, Sarah Porish, Matt Kilian, Allison Medeck, and Shane Riffle by Zoom

City of Brainerd

- David Chanski –
 - Incentives Report- To date \$51,485 in building permit fees have been waived and \$2,912,250 minimum in valuation has been added to R2R corridor.
 - The City is working with a consultant on the zoning code update and they want it to be a representation of the City as it is and what they would like to see in the future.
 - The Parking Commission is working on wayfinding and education as part of the management strategy.
 - Notch 8 restaurant in BN Center, Loide's Oils are open.
 - Caribou Coffee is going into the Tim Horton's site.
 - The EDA meeting in May will have Bruce Miles, consultant, help them with a strategic planning session.
 - Council is reviewing the food truck ordinance.
- Jessie Ernster -
- Jennifer Bergman –
 - A mixed use development will be coming before the city for the Thrifty White Drug site

Brainerd Restoration

- They have a concert in the parking lot scheduled for 8/7/2021.

Crossing Arts Alliance

- No report.

HRA

- Eric Charpentier –
 - They are making application for a small cities grant for 2025. It will serve the area of Washington St. during the upgrade by MnDOT.
 - They are investing \$900k in the HVAC system for the hi-rise. They have the funds and want to keep the building in good shape.
 - They would like support letters for the Thrifty White Drug mixed use development project as they apply for the housing incentives.

YMCA

- Shane Riffle –
 - They are working with Camp Vanazek and have hosted 160 kids.
 - They are working with Community Ed./CLC on child care staffing.

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- In youth sports, they have had 120 in T-ball, 115 in soccer, and a total of 350 kids in their program.
- They have a purchase agreement on 703 Oak St.

Downtown Business Council

- Brenda Billman-Arndt –
 - Banners have been received.
 - They are working on funding for a second set of banners.
 - They are having a spring fling downtown.
 - Here for Good Market is open on Tuesdays from 3 to 7.
 - They intend to plan an event, like crazy days, around the sesquicentennial celebration 9/18-25/2021.

Riverfront Committee

- Karl Samp –
 - No report this time.

Chamber of Commerce

- Matt Kilian –
 - He is beginning to work on workforce development. He noted that we have 2000 job openings but 2300 on unemployment.

BLAEDC

- Tyler Glynn –
 - They are highlighting incentives.
 - Rebranding and improving website.
 - Have exceeded the number of expected hires for the year already and interviews are ongoing.
 - The American Recovery Plan has Crow Wing Co. receiving \$12.6M that has to be allocated by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026. Rules are not totally set.

ISD 181

- Sarah Porish –
 - Center for the Arts is open and capable of livestreaming.
 - Construction in on track but there are issues with material shortages.
 - They want to be a part of all of this and want to market all the improvements to the buildings in the district.

Sesquicentennial Planning Discussion

- Mary Devine Johnson, Dave Badeaux, Matt Kilian –

Confirmed

- 18th— Kick-off proclamation from Mayor Badeaux (12pm)
- 18th— Brainerd Lakes Chamber time capsule event / community festival (12:00pm–4:00pm)
 - National Anthem; Proclamation
 - Guest speakers: Mayor of Brainerd, Historical Society, contributing organizations, Brainerd Lakes Chamber
 - Live music
 - Food – possible tie in with Eagles or Jaycee’s Rib Fest
 - Burying Time Capsule – location TBD; possibility of recovering and opening a 1969 time capsule, community survey for items, class of 2021 item

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- 18th — Downtown scratch off sales
 - Participating businesses will offer scratch off discounts
- 20th — City Hall open house + historic display (4-6:30pm)
 - Old City memorabilia will be displayed throughout City Hall before the council meeting
- 21st — Here for Good Market (3-7pm)
 - Live music, vendors, face painting
- 22nd — Trivia Night
 - 6 rounds, 10 questions
- 24th — “The Crossing” dedication
 - Marker referencing the “Crossing” and the bridge collapse
 - May work with Fire department to create a ‘draw’
- 25th — Stride n’ Seek (8:30am–12pm)
 - Brainerd wide scavenger hunt,
 - Notch 8 as beginning and end points
 - Website/registration up and running
- 25th — Brainerd Parks and Recreation community event (12pm)
 - Picnic at Gregory Park
 - Possibly small fair rides (Safari North), bouncy house, and family friendly activities
- 25th — Downtown Soup-quicentennial (11-3pm)
 - Participating restaurants will offer a variety of soups for ticket holders

In the works

- Stage North Paul Bunyan musical production – dates TBD
- 21st — Memorial Park movie night – confirmation TBD
- Ribbon cutting for Memorial Park – date TBD
- Northern Pacific Center – event and date TBD, possibly the 23rd
- Brainerd school event – event and date TBD
- 19th — All Faith Service – confirmation and event TBD
- Traveling Art Pub Demonstration – event and date TBD
- Historical Society Research Library Ribbon Cutting – date TBD
- Historical Museum Grand Reopening – date TBD

Proposed Events

- Cemetery Walking Tours
- Train Excursion with BNSF
- Dam Tour
- Historical Presentations – Jeremy Jackson (Thurs, Fri, or Sat)
- NP Center Historical Tours

Promotion:

- Light pole Sesquicentennial banners logo installed on Washington St, South 6th St, Downtown, and Mill Ave
- Weekly history tidbits in the Brainerd Dispatch on Mondays

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- Sesquicentennial page on the City's website including calendar of events, history tidbits, etc: <https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/596/150-Years>
- September 11th Dispatch wrap and Echoland Shopper
- Co-branding – the 150th logo will be available to download on the sesquicentennial website page along with an events flyer. Please include the logo on all individual event promotional materials.
- Community Focus leading up to Sesquicentennial Week
- Here for Good Market booth space
- Advertisement to the schools
- Contributing organizations' individual media channels
 - Matt will schedule a meeting soon but they are still talking about options (series of events branded for the sesquicentennial along with one major event, historic walking tours, time capsule, etc.). They all said they would help but could not be in the lead position. There was a suggestion to do a public notification for people with interest to come forward.

Next Meeting Date

- August 4, 2021, at 11:00 am in the CTC Room of the BLACC/BLAEDC offices.