

River to Rail Initiative

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date/Time

September 9, 2020

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Agenda

Introduction

- Bruce Buxton welcomed everyone and thanked them all for coming and participating.

Committee Reports

- Jennifer Bergman –
 - \$113,000 was given out to businesses in the form of grants
 - New banners are going up as part of the marketing program
 - \$25,000 was allocated to Visit Brainerd from the Cares Act to advertise Brainerd is open
 - She discussed what she saw in other communities where they are painting electrical boxes. She is discussing this with Crossing Arts Alliance and BPU
- Jill Casper (Board member subbing for Lisa Jordan-Crossing Arts Alliance) –
 - They are working on grants
 - They are looking for ways to clean, paint and move Babe Ox monuments downtown from various businesses willing to let them go.
 - They want and need more space (about double what they now have).
- David Chanski -
 - Riverfront – They made a grant request of \$3.8M to LCCMR for the riverfront. A recommendation of \$2.85M was forwarded to the Legislature on 7/21
 - He reported that the City is now able to review plumbing permits for commercial projects rather than them having to go to the state.
- John Schommer –
 - Brainerd Restoration is working on a sound system for downtown. They have applied for an operation roundup grant of \$2500. They need about \$2-4K more. There was some discussion about sources.
- Eric Charpentier – New Director at HRA
 - SCDG – Downtown remains a focus for HRA
 - NE grant is still going and there is only punchlist on the 707 Laurel grant
 - There will be another application in 2023 for the 2025 grant appropriations.
- Matt Kilian –
 - Staffer, Sue Galligan, supports the downtown coalition about ½ to 1 day per week
 - He reported on a discussion with Jeremy Jackson about the sesquicentennial that is upcoming in 2021. More discussion later.
 - He reported on the status of the Children’s Museum and that they are working toward the Lum Park site with the City of Brainerd.
- Tyler Glynn –
 - He reported on the Cares Act funding – based on the amount of funding, they could give out 360 grants, but so far have about 150 private applicants and 25 non-profit applicants

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- He reported that the Food Coop is working toward opening in the old Hockey House building soon
- The downtown Farmers Market needs a coordinator for next year
- R 2 R Incentives approved by the City of Brainerd were summarized by David Chanski as follows:
 - 118 permits have been issued
 - Total valuation \$2.8M for the permits where valuation is listed
 - Total fees waived \$48,567.08 (2019 - \$33439.24, 2020 - \$15,127.84)
 - Since 8/17 Crow Wing Co has gotten permits, MMFCU has gotten a permit valued at \$1,249,000, and Teeny Bubbles has gotten a permit
 - In all during Covid, residential permits have been steady, but commercial is down a bit.
- David Badeaux –
 - Reported that the parking commission is being set up and so far is comprised of himself, Paul Sandy (City Engineer), Brenda Billman Arndt, and Chuck Marohn. They are looking for more interested members and will be setting up a meeting schedule.
- Sesquicentennial –
 - A review of the communications between Matt Kilian, Tyler Glynn, Bruce Buxton and Jeremy Jackson was conducted with the following thoughts:
 - It should be more than one single event, a more year long series of events that could combine with all those events already being done
 - It needs a separate committee to lead the charge.
 - A conference call is scheduled for 9/18 at 10:00 am to discuss directions. Matt Kilian will send conference call information out to all parties so they can participate.

Set Next Meeting Date – It was agreed we should meet on a bi-monthly basis and the first Wednesday of the month seemed to work for everyone best. Next meeting is to be October 7, 2020 at 11:00 am. Megan will send out invitations.