

## ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 24, 2022

CITY HALL ANNEX, COCHECO ROOM

33 WAKEFIELD STREET, ROCHESTER, NH

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jon Batson (remote), Stacey Purslow, David Walker, Peter Bruckner (arrived at 6:18), Maggie McConaghy, Kerrie Landry

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barbara Murphy, Ray Felts, Esther Turner

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Jenn Marsh

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Walker called meeting to order at 6:06

### **B. APPROVAL**

- a. Motion to accept the minutes of January 27, 2022 by Jon, second by Stacey and approved unanimously.

### **C. DISCUSSION – Project Updates**

- a. **Overlook** Jenn noted that she and Dave were supposed to go to Manchester on Friday to meet with the Sunshine Initiative however, with the upcoming storm they most likely will not attend. The group will be working with the Riverwalk to secure grants and connect with potential foundations.
- b. **Outdoor classrooms**. Stacey will cover this under item F, grants.
- c. **Trails**. Dave and Jenn are meeting with a group of folks to discuss connecting the trails between Farming and Rochester. The goal is to link/enhance the trails from downtown Farmington to downtown Rochester. Jenn noted that eventually they would like to continue connecting all the way to Barrington, she stated they would need to cross Route 16. Jon mentioned that the river runs under the highway and that might be a way to make a connection. Jon also noted that the trail is missing near the crossing of Wakefield Street and has no clear sidewalks/trail.

### **D. Discussion – Riverwalk fund update**

Jenn and Dave worked with the Finance Committee the last few months to discuss having easier access for expenses from the Riverwalk Fund. The final recommendation that was approved by the City Council is to add a \$2500 reoccurring budget for the Rivewalk for any expenses. If the \$2500 is not used entirely by the end of the fiscal year the remaining funds will be transferred back to the general fund however, \$2500 will be deposited into a special fund again on July 1. These funds do not go into the Riverwalk Fund that was established a few years but will be available through another fund created for the Rivewalk. Jenn noted there is still approximately \$3000 in the Rivewalk fund that was raised in the past few years. Dave noted that if the Rivewalk has a project that needs more funding then they can still approach City Council for additional funds.

### **E. Discussion – Logo contest with High School**

Jenn and Barbara are working with the school for a logo contest for students to create a Rivewalk logo that can potentially be used for marketing and signage. The Art and Graphics teachers are excited to participate. They requested the committee come up with some guidelines and get back to them. The committee discussed and came up the following suggestions for Jenn and Barbara to go back to the teachers with:

- This will be open to high school aged students in Rochester which includes those students who are home schooled.
- Note that we are looking for a concept for a logo and that the Rivewalk will own the rights to the submissions and can enhance and alter to come up with a final logo.
- The committee will reward first place with \$100, second place with \$50 and third place with \$25. There is no guarantee that the committee uses any of the submissions as their final logo.
- Submission date will be set before the end of the school year.

**F. Discussion – Grants and other potential funding/Sunshine Project**

- Stacey followed up with Chris Pappas's office on a community grant and the program is not accepting new projects at this time.
- She noted there are transportation and infrastructure grants available. Dover has applied for an ARPA grant for their trail. Stacey asked if there was a way to track when these grants become available. Jenn said she will check with public works as they have two projects in for this year. It was asked if the overlook could be funded from the 6 million ARPA funds that was awarded to Rochester during the pandemic. Jenn will ask Deputy City Manager Ambrose to check on those guidelines.
- Stacey found a grant through AARP that is a max of \$15,000 with no match required. She spoke with Main Street at their board meeting and they had interest in working with the Rivewalk on this application, which is due March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stacey would like this grant to go towards seating for the outdoor classrooms in Hanson Pines and additional benches/seating along the river downtown. Jenn noted any grants the committee applies for need to be approved by the City manager. She also stated that anything going into Hanson Pines must be approved by Recreation/Hanson Pines Trustees. Stacey will reach out to the Director of Recreation to confirm and see what the time frame would be.
- The committee reviewed some outdoor seating that Stacey researched and agreed that the \$20 blue portable desks were a good fit. The committee will need to reach out to the schools that would utilize the classrooms to see how many seats would be needed.
- Dave noted the Sunshine Initiative will be joining the committee at their March meeting to discuss what their project. Dave met with Jay and Brian last week and said that they have chosen three cities in NH that they would like to work with in regards to helping to revitalize their cities. They chose Laconia, Manchester west and Rochester. After discussion with staff in Rochester everyone thought that the Rivewalk would be a great project for this assistance in funding and marketing. They requested we come to the March meeting with the following:

- ✓ Parties/organizations that we can partner with on projects
- ✓ Names of intersecting projects
- ✓ List of community events to attend to help create momentum
- ✓ Funding opportunities
- ✓ The story behind the Riverwalk and what we would like to see it become

**G. Other**

Stacey asked if the city was paying attention to the articles regarding the closing of Elizebeth Seton. Jenn and Dave both noted that the city was aware of the decision and was already having conversations about the potential sale of the property. Stacey noted that the property is very important as it has great river frontage.

Dave said at the last City Council meeting where they were discussing the riverwalk budget that Councilor Beaudoin asked if the committee was interested in being their own entity outside the city so they could actively fundraise and seek donations. The committee at this time thought the set up worked well being an ad-hoc committee of the City Council and would keep it mind if it would benefit the Riverwalk in the future.

- H. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Peter, seconded by Kerrie and approve unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022, 6 PM at the City Hall Annex Room.

Respectfully Submitted: Jenn Marsh