

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 22, 2024

City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room, ROCHESTER, NH 03967

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jon Batson, Peter Bruckner, Maggie McConaghy, Barbara Murphy,
Stacey Purslow, Esther Thompson, David Walker

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE –Jennifer Marsh of Rochester Economic Development, Renée
McIsaac of Rochester Planning & Development, Brian Hettrick of Sunshine
Initiative, Joyce Bruckner

ABSENT - none

A. CALL TO ORDER — David Walker called the meeting to order at 5:05.

B. APPROVAL —

A motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting January 25, 2024, was made by
Peter, seconded by Jon, and approved by all.

C. DISCUSSION —

Overlook update

The design proposal is anticipated from Fuss & O'Neill by the end of March. Special care is
required as this project sets the Riverwalk look with its choice of features (lighting, concrete
stamping, etc.). Peter Bruckner described the outlook as a “place to look from, not look to.”
This, its limited size, and benches along the walkway make seating unlikely on the platform.
A series of updates with photographs as the project progresses would be an excellent feed
to the Riverwalk facebook page.

Master plan update

Fuss & O'Neill update completion is moved out to June/July. The updated plan will include a
consistent look and a sequence for projects for the development of the Riverwalk. Some
realistic and significant funding for projects may be had in the next Capital Improvement
Plan 2025/2026. There is growing acknowledgement of the value of Riverwalk by city
decision-makers.

Potential easements

David's meeting with Jenn and Club Victoire has left the door open for a collaboration
between the City and Club Victoire to open a kayak/canoe launch pull-out at the river's edge
with a storage rack that allows boaters to secure their kayaks and canoes while they visit
downtown.

E. DISCUSSION —

Riverwalk documents

Renée has developed a pocket-size document along with a trifold and a standard page. All
looked good to the committee. Brian emphasized the primary goal of Riverwalk is the
improvement of the City of Rochester.

“What's our ask?” Renée wanted to know. Riverwalk wants to grow and will start by asking
people *Follow us*, using its existing facebook. Consistent attention to maintaining the
facebook page is assured by Riverwalk's organization within the City structure. *Join us* is
another response Riverwalk may make on its literature. A QR code may be included on the
literature to make linking to Riverwalk easy.

Renée will complete the design of the flyer and pocket piece. If she creates a postcard and stickers, those would get distributed as well. **Jenn** will get these printed to have available at this year's events.

F. DISCUSSION —

2024 events

Saturday, April 20 th	Rochester Cares Clean-up <date to be confirmed>
Saturday, June 1 st	Wings 'n' Wheels
July	Lilac Family Fun Fest
August	Riverwalk Dinner <scheduled upon completion of overlook>

G. OTHER —

Congressional District funding

Stacey brought this excellent funding source to Riverwalk's attention. The deadlines for submission cannot be met this year, but Riverwalk will keep an eye on this and be ready for 2025. That readiness requires evidence of community support and knowledge of where to obtain matching funds.

Friends of Riverwalk

Brian suggested establishing "Friends of the Riverwalk" as an organization to allow for fuller participation of interested people in the Riverwalk.

Point

The Sunshine Initiative is using a platform called Point to help manage volunteers. In anticipation of increasing interest, Riverwalk may want to set up structures to facilitate community involvement.

Media

Links on the City of Rochester website to Riverwalk's social media would be helpful for people trying to find out more about Riverwalk.

H. Adjourn — Motion to adjourn was made at 6:00 by Jon, seconded by Peter, and accepted unanimously.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 28, 2024, 6:00pm at City Hall Annex.

—Respectfully submitted by Esther Thompson