

Morgantown Riverfront Revitalization Task Force

Meeting Notes

January 19, 2023

I. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. City Updates

- **Status of \$3M grant application for trail lighting:** The City did not receive the grant it applied for from the HRM Trust. Ella stated that she already has funding for some lighting along the trail, but it will likely take 5-7 years to occur.
- **Recommendation sent to City Manager in December:** A letter was sent to the City Manager mid-December outlining suggestions for maintenance/improvements along the riverfront and to request a designated budget line to help cover the costs of these efforts in the 2023-24 budget year.
- **Invasive species treatment and landscaping in Wharf:** Marchetta said that All Star Ecology has been working in the wharf for about 2 weeks removing the invasive species and spraying herbicide. They've been hampered a little by unfavorable weather but will resume work with a bucket truck and chipper to deal with the larger species on the spot. This is a 3-year contract and includes replacement of removed plant matter with native shrubbery. Marchetta believes the treatment will likely need to continue past the initial 3-year period, and at that time it may make sense to evaluate whether to plant new trees.

II. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. New City Ambassador hired: Steve Butler has been working with our other 2 ambassadors for about 2 weeks.
- b. MRTC's Handmade Market set for April 22: Ella talked a bit about the plans for the spring market and asked for volunteers. This market coincides with Earth Day as well as Opening Day for Trails. Ella suggested this may be a good day to hold a Try It event so long as bikers are sent the opposite way of the market.
- c. Adventure WV's plans for Spring: Emily Chapman stated that they tentatively plan to open the new building around April 1st. Bike and kayak rentals will be available, and they hope to add tandem kayaks and kid's bikes. Currently working on developing website and ordering equipment. They are looking for a name for the building and are open to suggestions. Several Task Force members indicated they would like Morgantown in the name rather than just Mon. They thanked Vincent Kitch for his help and input. Damien Davis chimed in and said that the kayak launch was removed for the winter, but he will have it re-installed by the end of March.
- d. Hazel Ruby McQuain concert series plans: Vincent stated that there are plans for Friday concerts from June – August, with additional ticketed events going through the fall. A 4th of July celebration is being planned for Saturday, July 1, since the 4th is on a Tuesday.

- e. Recommendation for green wooden fence along trail near lock & dam: Discussion about painting vs. replacing – most not in favor of re-painting at this point since paint peels fairly quickly. Most people seem to think the fence should remain but probably needs to be rebuilt with either different material or a different finish that will withstand weather better.
- f. Recommendation for volunteer project(s) along riverfront: Jessica mentioned that Taryn Moser with MUB asked whether this group would be interested in cleanup up the Caperton Trail some time in April. MUB has other groups working on other sections of trail and would coordinate with DEP to provide trash bags and gloves. Ella said she can also help remove trash whenever a trail clean-up occurs. The group discussed planning a cleanup for April before the MRTC market on April 22 so it looks nice for that event.
- g. Move meeting to either 2nd or 4th Thursday: The consensus was to move these meetings to the 4th Thursday and to resume meeting monthly.

ADJOURN: 10:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 23, 2023