

## **Morgantown Riverfront Revitalization Task Force**

### **Meeting Notes**

**September 28, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom**

#### **I. Presentations/Q&A**

##### **a. New Planned Riverside Businesses & Main Street Linkages (Mark Downs)**

Mark indicated that much of Main Street's focus has been on economic vitality in the downtown. The pandemic took a huge toll on small business downtown, and recovery efforts are still underway. He feels the river is a huge asset and is being underutilized. L.J. Guiliani spoke about the importance of improving the connectivity between neighborhoods/riverfront/downtown and even Westover. In particular, the Decker's Creek corridor needs attention to become an attraction. Downtown should be the landing spot from the connector points, becoming a cultural recreation center with amenities such as bike riding, water recreation, shows, restaurants, hotels.

Mark spoke about renovation plans for the old Ghiardi aluminum building behind the Cardello building, right on the trail. The plan to redevelop includes preserving the historic character of the building (former produce warehouse – Mascioli family) with 2500 sq. ft deck along trail, 2 story restaurant with indoor/outdoor performance areas. Target completion/open date is late Spring/Summer 2024.

##### **b. Hazel Ruby McQuain Park Summer 23 Season & Outlook (Vincent Kitch)**

Vincent reported that it was a busy summer with 12 free concerts, July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, walks/runs, a wedding, and other events. Over 33,000 attendees, with representation from over 12 states. Vincent expressed appreciation to all sponsors and supporters and mentioned they are in the running for BOM (Best of Morgantown). This weekend Sept 30, Oct 1) is the Wine & Jazz Festival, movies in the park are happening through October. He is working on lining up concerts and events for the 2024 summer season.

#### **II. Riverfront News**

##### **a. Riverfront Updates**

Emily stated that she's been working with Ella and Marchetta in regards to getting the Japanese knotweed sprayed next week. There are 3 easements needed from abutting property owners. Looking for volunteers to assist the consultant. No Camping signs will be posted at various places along the rail trail.

### **Riverfront “Wins”:**

- The kayak launch was repaired, although somewhat of a temporary fix. An attempt to permanently fix the arm will happen this winter.
- The Brownie House built an access ramp to the trail

### **III. Informational**

#### Upcoming Events –

- Morgantown Wine & Jazz Festival, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and October 1 from 12 noon – 7:00 p.m. @ HRMP
- Ruby Movie Series, Friday nights, 5 and 7 p.m., October 8, 15, 22 @ HRMP
- Paw Paw Festival, September 30<sup>th</sup> 12-5 p.m. @ WVU Core Arboretum
- Public Meeting RE: Morgantown Industrial Park Access Project (bridge) on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 from 5-8 p.m. @ Westwood Middle School (Ella emphasized that folks provide public comment to encourage that the rail trail is closed for the minimum time possible)
- Collins Ferry Connector Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1 p.m. @ end of Collins Ferry Road

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

*Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. (in person walkabout and riverfront assessment @ HRMP)*