

## Morgantown Riverfront Revitalization Task Force

### Meeting Notes

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Steve Selin called the meeting to order, reminding the group that the City budget prep season for FY 24-25 is happening soon and to please submit any specific request to him by Dec 7, 2023. Steve also asked Rickie Yeager (Morgantown Director of Development Services) about the status of contracting for the next round of Master Planning for the Morgantown Downtown and Riverfront areas. Rickie stated that this process is underway and the Task Force would be engaged as appropriate during the planning process.

#### I. Presentations/Q&A

##### a. WVU Ascend Program & Riverfront Linkages (Emily Huguenin & Nathan Harlan)

Emily stated that Ascend is located 1275 University Avenue, near the riverfront. The Ascend WV program was founded based on 2 important factors: 1) a large portion of professional jobs are moving to remote status and, 2) more Americans are choosing to spend more time outside. Ascend provides the ability to do both and not be limited by location. She gave a history of the beginning of Ascend. They partner through the WV Tourism Dept to broaden the message of the benefits of living in WV. The program targets the greater Morgantown area. She shared a list of outdoor recreational amenities that are within a short distance from the Morgantown area. The program package is worth roughly \$20,000 to come and live in the Morgantown area for 2 years.

Statistics of alumni (those who have completed the 2 years) show that most have remained in the Morgantown area and are becoming active citizens and purchasing homes. Ascend also promotes outdoor recreational living and opportunities.

Emily informed the group about an Ascend Open House celebrating the new Downtown Co-working space to be held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30 pm. If interested in participating, please RSVP below.

##### b. Enhancing Riverfront Safety (MPD Special Services staff F.S. Balderson & Officer Foster)

Officer Foster – researching City properties and what can be done to enhance safety (what they are allowed to do)

Mayor Selin asked about a homeless camp update along trail. Officer Foster described the City's current encampment removal policy as far as posting and time limits for removal.

Ella thanked them for the work they are doing, the communication and the collaboration with entities to get the encampments cleaned up. She commented that many encampments are popping up just past the city line, so collaboration with Sheriffs dept is essential.

#### II. Riverfront News

##### a. Riverfront Updates and Discussion (Various):

Frank talked about fishing opportunities at the Riverfront and how the best fishing spot is not easily accessible (concrete platform immediately below dam). He would love to see steps be built, but realizes that the wheels turn slowly with the Army Corps of Engineers, so it may take time. Ella offered to explore grant opportunities for this project. Also, signage to promote fishing opportunities at the waterfront may help.

**ADOURN:** 10:05 a.m.

Please join us at  
Ascend Morgantown's  
coworking space  
for a

# COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER **14** 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Morgantown Area Coworking Space  
1279 University Place  
Morgantown WV 26506

Join us for a casual and festive celebration of community in Ascend WV's newest space. Light refreshments provided. Families welcome!

Kindly reply with your plans to attend and expected number of guests by December 11. Please also reply if you are unable to attend.

Parking in the MPA University Avenue Garage is validated for guests who RSVP. Please bring your parking slip with you.



[RSVP HERE](#)