



City of Rock Falls Hennepin Canal Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 8-14-14 Time Meeting Started: 12:00 Time Meeting Ended: 1:11

Members		Also Attended	
Alderman Schuneman – Chairman	P	Mayor Wescott	P
John Larson	P	Clerk Arduini	P
Larry Spinka	P	Administrator Blackert	P
Mike Sterba	P	Inspector Searing	P
Brian Tribley	P		
Tim Wilson	P		
Tim Keller	A		
Dave Blanton – RRDA	P		
Dave Hahne - IDNR	P		
Also Attended			
Fred Johnson	P		

Topic	Discussion	Plan of Action
1. Call to Order @ 12:00 p.m. – Chairman Schuneman	Meeting was called to order	Meeting begins at 12:00
2. Approve Minutes – Hennepin Canal Committee July 17 th , 2014	Minutes were reviewed	Minutes accepted
3. Audience requests	No audience requests	No action
4. New Business: a. Prairie trail surfaces discussion	Alderman Schuneman presented the committee with a summary of a report found in a magazine which compared types of bike trail surfaces. It was shown that limestone was the best surface when considering cost, longevity, and maintenance. Technosoil G5 was investigated by City Engineer Brian Frickenstein and it was deemed too costly. Mr Frickenstein suggested that the city try killing vegetation along the trail. The base of the trail is a former train route, and it should have a good base. Adm. Blackert stated that due to costs the city will have to do one section at a time. Dave Hahne suggested that the city contact George Bellovics from the IDNR to find information for available bike grants.	The Street department will begin spraying the area with herbicide from Linville crossing to Avenue D to determine the current condition of the trail.
b. Request for ADA sidewalk – Tim Wilson Rock Falls Tourism	Tim Wilson Executive Director of Rock Falls Tourism shared an overhead picture of the Arduini boat launch area. Rock Falls Tourism would like to install a new 30 foot ADA compliant sidewalk connecting the parking lot of the Boat Launch to East 2 nd Street. Mayor Wescott explained that the city supports the installation of the sidewalk, but it has a lease agreement with the IDNR for that area, and approval would have to be granted by IDNR.	Committee recommends to send information to the IDNR for approval of the project.
c. Placement of ADA Boat Dock donated to IDNR from tourism	Mr Hahne from the IDNR spoke about a meeting that was held near the boat launch. The land on the East side of the canal just south of East 2 nd street had been determined a good location for the installation of the dock. This area would conflict less with other canal users, would be the shortest distance, and the safest entry point of canoes and kayaks.	The city will get the plans from tourism, and make a request from the IDNR for approval of the sidewalk installation.
d. Signage discussion	Alderman Schuneman thanked the IDNR for mowing along the canal. He asked about installing mile marker signs. Mr Hahne explained that 4x6” signs are used along the canal for distance markers, but they are stolen or destroyed often. Mr Sterba showed the committee a sunburst type sign that had been used in the past. Mayor Wescott asked the committee if they would like to have the signs coordinated with the RBW District design to be drafted by that committee. The consensus was yes.	The committee would like to coordinate signage with the riverfront. A recommendation of material, size, and shape was not recommended.

	<p>Administrator Blackert stated that signage should begin at the riverfront, and go out from there.</p> <p>Mr .Blanton stated that the sign should be informational and versatile with a static recognizable component, and an area with changing information.</p>	
5.RRDA Report	<p>Dave Blanton reported on the river cleanup. The area cleaned was from Moonlight Bay to the sandbar, with canoers cleaning along the tracks from the upper dam to Oppold Marina. 1 ½ dump trucks of garbage were pulled out of the river. 20 boats helped in the effort. Moonlight Bay provided lunch for the volunteers. Mr. Blanton reported that due to high water there was not as much garbage as in the past.</p>	No action
Voluntourism	<p>Tim Wilson reported that on August 23rd, and 24th the next Voluntourism event will happen. The crews will be repairing portions of the Hennepin Canal Tow Path. Tourism has confirmed 15 National Guard volunteers, and they have 8 caution signs for the path.</p>	No Action
7.Committee Member Items	<p>Mr. Searing informed the committee that he has spoken to Com Ed about the areas of brush on their right of way. The city will be n=meeting with the head of vegetation, and beautification.</p> <p>Mr. Searing spoke about the possible installation of a pay system to collect a boat access fee at the Arduini boat launch. This would be used for future dredging, and maintenance.</p>	George Bellovics is studying the details of the boat access charge for the city.
8.Adjournment	<p>With nothing else for the good of the committee the meeting was adjourned at 1:11pm</p>	Meeting end 1:11pm



Committee Chairman