



MORGANTOWN RIVER TOWN ACTION TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 9th, 2014

MEETING AT Mountain State Brewing Company, 54 Clay St. @ 4:30 pm

- I. Introductions of those present and review of the previous month's meeting minutes.

- II. Two Minute Public Updates: Ella Belling distributed maps of the proposed West Virginia trail system and outlined the details of the steps and process regarding signage along the Mon River Trail and beyond. There is to be a meeting in Clarksburg on July 29 hosted by the Power of 32+ Regional Trail Network "Pittsburgh to Parkersburg- WV Link" the meeting is scheduled for 1 pm – 4 pm at the Harrison County Parks and Recreation Commission, 43 Recreation Drive, Clarksburg, WV. Several members of the Morgantown Action Team will be invited to participate. Although signage is not the main topic to be discussed at that regional meeting, Ella predicts it might come up. She has explored the guidelines of the Great Allegheny Passage signage program and has asked permission to use it as a model in creating a system wide signage program with consistent types of signage. Bill Kawecky will join Ella in exploring recommendations for color palette for WV signage. Parkersburg, due to the timing of a grant, has determined colors for its signage and that will be taken into consideration in the choice of color palette recommendations.

Billy Coffindaffer mentioned that he felt the activity level and the priorities for the Morgantown Action Team should actively integrate with those of Star City's Action team as well as the riverfront development efforts of Westover and

Granville. He pointed out that the substantial benefits of the River Town Program can be realized through regional collaboration. He feels that the opportunity for a louder voice and more significant projects is present should both communities, as well as other riverfront communities, work together in a regional effort. Cathy mentioned the Riverlife initiative in Pittsburgh along the three rivers has achieved that broad based collaboration and has accomplished significant projects. She also mentioned the River Town action teams that have graduated from the three year program in PA have continued to meet and have developed a Five Year Action Agenda. This collaborative effort, known as the Mon River Valley Coalition, meets quarterly and is now in the process of developing resources to implement the Action Agenda projects. Cathy invited members of the Morgantown Action team to the next meeting scheduled for September 12th at California University 7:45 am to 9 am. She also agreed to set up a meeting with Billy, Jenny, Bill Kawecki, and Steve Selin to discuss the need for regional collaboration further.

Discussion ensued as to the need for more signage in either Star City or Morgantown relating to the river and trail access and parking. The WV DOH signs are brown and white and although rather small, they do direct vehicular traffic to the trail access. Additional signage is needed to direct vehicles to free parking available near the riverfront. Free parking is a requirement of WV DOH and Ella Belling agreed to request amphitheater signs from DOH.

Anna Withrow with the Brownfields Assistance Center brought the master planning maps for Morgantown riverfront and asked Action team participants to review these maps and let her know additional amenities needed. She is bringing this project to a conclusion shortly.

The next step will be the allocation and development of resources for a final master plan for the riverfront area in Star City and Morgantown. The City of Morgantown has allocated some resources for that plan as has the River Town Program. This funding should be available this fall.

- III. Riverfront Service Events (WVU SGA; Steve): Steve Selin stated that the Student Government Association needed a service project and he has approached them about a riverfront project. Randy Moore with BOPARK stated the need for painting over some graffiti on a nearby riverfront building, next to Mountain State Brewing Co. There is a city regulation that sites building owners with graffiti on their buildings if it is not removed within 48 hours. This particular building has had the graffiti for some time. The students can paint over the wall of the building covering the objectionable graffiti and BOPARC will provide paint and brushes. Mr. Moore also suggested an additional project would be the treatment of railing near the riverfront walk.

- IV. Public Arts Working Group (Reps): Ella Belling agreed to talk to Debbie Palmer about the remaining work on the mural now underway which is to be displayed near or end the riverfront park area.

Steve Selin reported on the Public Art committee which has been developed and informed the Action team of the next meeting scheduled for July 15th at the Mountain State Brewing Co. The purpose of this committee is to outline some ideas for riverfront art projects and to develop and instill cooperation and collaboration with other art interests in the community. The next step for this committee is to identify locations for possible art projects and to develop an idea for the first riverfront art project.

- V. Wharf District Discussion (Cathy): Cathy McCollom reported that she has had two meetings with Arthur Ziegler, President of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and the developer of Station Square, a popular mixed use development in Pittsburgh. Mr. Ziegler has agreed to tour the wharf district and to meet with city and community officials

interested in further sustainable and directed development in the District. Cathy reported that Ron Justice agreed to pull together the interested parties and will work around Mr. Ziegler's schedule. Mr. Ziegler has not yet chosen the date but trying for late July, early August.

- VI. Riverfront Events update (Rickie Huffman): Thanks to the efforts of graduate student, Rickie Huffman who has volunteered to assist in the social media outreach efforts of the River Town Program, Facebook entries have increased and newsletter readership is on the rise. Rickie asked that all of the Action Teams continue to send her events and other interesting information related to river activities. She urged the members to take high quality photos during any and all events and forward them to her for posting.

Rickie is also working on an event that would connect Morgantown and Star City and will report on that suggestion at the next meeting.

- VII. Next Meeting
Wednesday, August 13th @ 4:30 pm
Lebanese Bistro @ 156 Clay St.

Future Morgantown Meetings will be held at 4:30 pm on:

September 10

October 8

November 12