



MINUTES

MORGANTOWN River Town Action Team Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2014

MEETING HELD AT Table Nine Restaurant, 40 Donley Street

Attendees: Ella Belling, Bill Kawecki, Steve Selin, Anna Withrow, Marissa Travinski, John Lichter, Romy Hilloowala, Nick Wilkins, Alex Shy, Shelby Blankenship, Jenny Selin, Justin Stone

- I. Distributed and reviewed the minutes from the October 15th meeting. There were no changes or additions.
- II. Two Minute Public Updates:
 - John Lichter gave an update on his vision to build a Whitewater Park at the Morgantown Lock & Dam. This project has gained added urgency and relevance with the proposal to build a hydro-electric plant at the site. There is an opportunity to build a Morgantown Whitewater Park concurrently with the hydro-electric facility. Contact John at jlichter@sunbeltnetwork.com if you're interested in getting involved in this initiative.
 - Ella Belling briefed the group on the Van Vooris trail access site. A gravel parking lot and restroom is currently being installed along with directional and interpretive signing. Future plans call for installing a canoe and kayak dock at the site.

III. Trail Lighting Initiative

Alex Shy, Nick Wilkins, Shelby Blankenship, and Justin Stone, WVU students in Dr. Selin's FOR 438 Public Engagement Methods course, met with the group about their class field project to develop a trail lighting plan for the Caperton Trail in Morgantown extending from the Morgantown Lock & Dam to Star City. Issues discussed included the need for trail lighting, different lighting designs, the possibility

of phasing the implementation of trail lighting, and potential co-sponsors and funding sources for trail lighting. Ensuring the safety of trail users emerged as an important reason to consider trail lighting. There was also considerable support for a Phase 1 lighting initiative in the commercial Wharf District between the Morgantown Lock & Dam and the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. It will also be key to engage the riverfront restaurant owners and Waterfront Place hotel in this trail lighting initiative. The students will be gathering further community input on their lighting plan as well as researching different lighting designs. They will complete their trail lighting plan by the middle of December. Thanks to this student team for taking this project on and contributing to making the Morgantown riverfront a cooler place to visit!

IV. Clearing Visual Corridors along River/Trail

A spirited discussion was held on the potential to clear improved visual corridors between the trail and river between the Morgantown Lock & Dam and the Seneca Center. We need to develop a detailed plan to clear these visual corridors. First, we need to identify the specific corridors we want to clear and prioritize which ones to work on first. Some identified visual corridors could be cleared by BOPARC staff using existing resources. Other visual corridors might require contracting to an external contractor. We also need to make sure we have all the right players participating in this initiative such as the Tree Board, Urban Landscaping Commission, BOPARC, and perhaps WVU groups like Adventure WV or the Grotto or Climbing Clubs. Marissa Travinski of BOPARC agreed to organize a Mon Riverfront Walk to move forward on this effort.

The Mon Riverfront Walk to discuss clearing visual corridors will be held on Thursday, November 20th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. We will meet at the trail access parking lot closest to the Morgantown Lock and Dam and proceed towards the Seneca Center. BOPARC will provide us a shuttle back to our cars.

VII. Next Meeting

December 17th Lebanese Bistro 4:30 pm.