

Riverfront Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
3/22/2023

**Opening:**

Kris Noble called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the City of Sterling Community Room.

**Present:**

Kris Noble, Heather Sotelo, Peter Dillon, Joe Strabala-Bright, Mike Sprague, Janna Groharing, Larry Schuldt, Alderman Josh Johnson, City Manager Scott Shumard, Mayor Skip Lee, Superintendent of Public Works Brad Schrader, Ron Clewer of Gorman (telephone), Mark Sauer of Mead and Hunt, and City Clerk Teri Sathoff.

**Absent:**

Nick Lareau, Joel Zirkle, Terry McGuire, Marc Geil, Skip McCloud, John Brady.

**Quiet Zone Study**

Scott Shumard reported they are currently coordinating a diagnostic meeting between the ICC, UP and IDOT. The April 3, 2023 City Council meeting will have on the agenda an agreement with UP, this agreement is to reimburse them for their cost to participate in the study. They are estimating the cost to \$25,000. The City has done a traffic count at the crossings.

**Surf Broadband**

Scott stated he has been in contact with Jennifer Alvarez with Surf Broadband. Shumard sent her the diagrams and plans for Wallace Street so she could share it with her supervisors. Alvarez stated Sterling Steel has signed on with them and that will assist the City. Shumard reiterated that it would be in everyone's best interest to have this completed during the Wallace Street construction. Kris Noble spoke with Alvarez as well, Alvarez stated they would need evidence that it would need to be moved up on the priority list. Noble sent pictures of the riverfront to Alvarez along with the diagrams as well.

**Underpass**

On March 20, the Sterling City Council approved an agreement with Fehr Graham to do a feasibility study for an underpass at either 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue or 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

**Other**

The City received a draft letter for no further remediation from the State. Once the City provides them with additional information we will receive a final letter on that. The capital budget was reviewed on March 20, tentatively, the City has set aside \$585,000 for the National building, to include on going maintenance issues as well as the roof. \$275,000 has been set aside for riverfront engineering, \$3.4 Million for infrastructure and an additional \$2 million for Phase I of the riverfront.

**Wallace Street**

Superintendent of Public Works stated NICOR and Illinois American Water have completed their portion of the work. We are currently waiting on Com Ed, AT&T and Comcast to move their utilities. The contractor should start laying sanitary sewer and storm sewer next week.

### **Playground Committee**

Kris Noble stated she has held several focus groups for the playground. She has three more groups scheduled for next week. Once all of the groups have met she will compile all of the thoughts and ideas and get them to the group. Safety is a common theme from all parents and community members.

### **Pavilion Committee**

Janna Groharing stated the next step is to have an architect involved. Groharing would like to know the vision for the concession stand, will it be staffed or vending machines. Kris Noble stated she would have additional information from her focus groups that she could share with the pavilion committee. Family bathrooms are high on the list of wants, the staffed concession stand was not a high of a priority, vending machines may be enough.

### **Fundraising Committee**

This committee did not meet. Mike Sprague asked Alderman Johnson if they had a fundraising goal set. They do not at this time, they are looking at setting the goal to be enough to fund phase 2.

### **EV5 Committee**

There are no updates from this committee

### **Upcoming Events**

The Community event will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. There has been a Facebook event created for this. Gorman will bring visuals, Ron Clewer would like to have the commission at the event. Mark Sauer will have visuals as well as a laptop with the fly through of the park space. Sauer will generate surveys as well.

### **Masterplan Update**

Ron Clewer gave an update on the progress of the Riverfront Masterplan. Gorman has been moving through potential projects and they are seeking co developers, marketing materials for this will be completed next week.

Gorman had two meetings with two hotel/event center operators and they have three more scheduled.

Scott and Joel have been working on an engineering timeline for the parking for Lawrence Building. This will tell us what adjustments need to be made to the elevation at the entrance of the Lawrence Brothers building that runs along the tracks. Clewer stated that if the City approaches the railroad with plans and drawings they would be open to discussion, if you approach them with an idea alone they will not discuss it with us.

The activity on the website has picked up, Clewer asked that everyone share the event link on their social media pages.

Clewer would like to set up tours in both buildings once the weather turns. This will allow the public to be engaged as well as create some excitement around the event.

The next meeting for the Riverfront Commission was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, at 1:00 p.m. The official time and date will be sent out.

The meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Teri Sathoff

City Clerk  
City of Sterling