

Riverfront Improvement Commission
Minutes
December 17, 2019

Present: Bill Ashton, Dee Bruemmer, Bill Churchill, Randall Goblirsch, Kelli Grubbs, Breanna Pairrett, Ryan Reed, Karl Rhomberg, and Pat Walton

Others Present: Nicole Gleason, Public Works; Alderwoman-elect Lee, City Council; Ald. Gripp, City Council Liaison; Michael Schertz, Parks Liaison; Zach Peterson, Public Works; and Steve Ahrens, Riverfront Improvement Commission

Chairman Bruemmer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Ahrens announced that a quorum for the meeting had been met.

Ashton moved to approve the minutes of the November 26 meeting. Grubbs seconded the motion and it carried.

Finance

Ahrens presented the previous month's disbursements, aged receivables report and the FY2019 Lease Report. Ashton moved to approve the disbursements. Walton seconded the motion and it carried.

Leases

Staff presented the draft license agreement with American Cruise Lines, Inc., who also plans to use River Heritage Park as portage for its passenger vessels beginning as early as 2020, providing railroad crossing access is restored. Following discussion, Grubbs moved to approve a single agreement, which incorporates short-term and long-term agreements. Walton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The City Council will now consider the license agreement at its next meeting.

Staff presented the draft lease agreement with the Freight House Farmer's Market for the adjacent suite at the Freight House for operation as a café. Ashton moved to approve the agreement. Grubbs seconded the motion and it carried.

Projects

Public Works Director Nicole Gleason provided the Commission with a presentation regarding the 2020 flooding outlook and flood-fighting plans.

Ahrens then provided the Commission with an update regarding the Strategic Plan initiative, RiverWest, and specifically, the Credit Island Slough project with the USACE. We await official word

regarding a competitive grant opportunity to conduct a feasibility study for the project, but it appears as though the project will not be funded during this round.

Staff provided an update regarding both the interior and exterior post flood restoration projects for Union Station. The coordinating committee is scheduled to meet with Fehr-Graham representatives regarding the exterior restoration and mitigation projects on Wednesday.

Following this afternoon's meeting of the joint workgroup and Gleason's presentation regarding proposed restoration projects for each railroad crossing, the City awaits responses from Canadian Pacific regarding certain discussions relating to the riverfront railroad and Canadian Pacific's decision to elevate the line. In addition, a decision is sought by CP to elevate the recreational trail throughout.

Staff Report

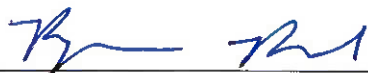
Ahrens provided updates on a variety of topics, including:

- Freight House deck project update
- Christkindlmarkt and Holiday Train at the Freight House was a huge success
- ICEtravaganza – 1/18 – Aliens and Area 51
- New City Council RIC Orientation Tours are underway

Parks Liaison, Michael Schertz, provided an update regarding a number of Parks initiatives, including the formation of the Credit Island Task Force, (which includes three RIC members) and post-flooding effects for the playground in Centennial Park.

Other Business

With no public with business to present to the Commission, and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Ryan Reed, Secretary