

Morgantown Riverfront Revitalization Task Force
Meeting Notes
September 16, 2021

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Update on Mountaineer Heritage/South U Park (Drew Gatlin): Drew reported that he'd had productive meetings with Rich Edwards, OEDC, and he has been great at connecting with WVU student resources. He asked if the other members felt they had adequately involved stakeholders in discussion and planning, and if it would be good to have more public input. Jessica felt it might be good to enlarge the stakeholder group to get more input. Mayor Selin suggested connecting with Rich to host a pop-up type of kid's event in which parents could also view and give input to design. Drew referenced the recent OEDC event at Black Bear where volunteers constructed several BMX bikes and a portable pump track and offered to see if that track might work for the event.
- b. MUB Sewage Overflow Point Signs: Emily reported that the City's Communications Director has this on his plate, but unfortunately, there has not been much progress due to understaffing and other projects taking priority. She will see how this can be expedited. Emily also reported that City Manager Haws is traveling to Charleston today to speak to the Director of Transportation about several topics; one of which is the property acquisition at South U Park.

Discussion ensued about the use of Hazel Ruby McQuain park and rental fees. Emily explained that, while many think the fees are too high, careful consideration was given in setting these fees initially, and that the fees are comparable to other like venues. There is a discount for non-profit groups to rent the park. Ron Justice said he felt the fees were within reason.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Accomplishments:
 - 3 Art Projects: Barb Watkins stated that Main Street is working on getting 3 more murals downtown and has been working with the City's Grant Writer to secure an Our Town grant, which would allow for \$100,000 with a match, and that is specifically for downtown area, including the wharf district.
 - Invasive Species: USDA staff are willing to do the work to spray the invasive species, but there are trees that could fall and become a potential hazard after they are sprayed. There never seems to be enough help at City with staffing to take care of these tree issues. Mayor Selin feels we should move ahead with the treatment of the invasive species, as it will take a while before they become a hazard and there is time to figure that out. Discussion ensued about whether any of the American Rescue Plan monies could be put toward getting additional staffing to take care of these issues so that the group can move forward. Jessica is meeting with USDA staff to discuss how this work can be accomplished.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2021, via Zoom