

Root River Conversations , December 1, 2007

These are the main themes compiled from comments from table reports, worksheet and evaluations.

River Walk

- Balance between businesses/ public, nature/ humans, public/ private
- Location
 - Between State and Marquette
 - Continuous (avoid city streets)
 - Have walk on Southside to connect with downtown
 - North side of river (adding section to Marquette Street)
 - Also utilize existing path on the north side, fill in the gaps on street use.
 - Relocate path from Mound Ave. to other side of river
- Activities
 - Art (sculpture garden, fishing theme, graffiti canvases)
 - Bathrooms and bubblers
 - Connect with 6th Street (art, bars, restaurants)
 - Educational/ historic signage
 - Events-entertainment
 - Film theatre/ concert hall on river edge
 - Indian mound history
 - Marinas
 - Nodes of activity with green spaces
 - Restaurants
 - Watercraft rental
- View and Maintenance
 - Keep view of the river
 - Keep vegetation at Mound Avenue; improve appearance of the area from both the street and river
 - Maintenance responsibility of business owners

Retaining Wall

- Artist painted murals
- Change the slope, terrace it
- Graffiti art
- Hanging planters/ sculptures
- Movie screen, amphitheater across the river
- Natural covering (wood)
- Remove it
- Vegetation hanging down

Water Street

- Access Point
- Performing arts
- Restaurants
- River viewing spot
- Shops

Downtown Connections

- Art, sculpture, music along the river and on routes to downtown
- Bridge over river
- Connecting streets: Grand, Marquette, State and Water
- Engage downtown arts community
- Natural wetland park (west of Main Street bridge)
- Park opportunity at Belle Harbor Marina
- Provide business owners incentives to add entrance/ second store front on river
- South bank(good access, restaurants)
- Walking/ bike paths
- Water Street/ Theatre/ Performing Arts Center

Boat Launches (locations downtown)

- DP Wigley
- REC Center
- Pugh marina

(Like floating piers)

Parks

- Access point to the river at the Quarry
- Benches
- Country Club-issues with fisherman
- Create parks at Belle Harbor and the end of 6th Street
- Fishing areas (Horlick dam)
- Island Park
 - Fulfill Jens Jensen's design
 - Create a gateway entrance into the park
- More port-a-pots for the fisherman
- Safety
- See the river, selectively clear invasive plants (honeysuckle and buckthorn)
- Teach fishing at the dam and steelhead facility

River Edge Landscaping

- Art (sculpture, dedicated spray can art)
- Clean undergrowth
- Consider views
- Green spaces (case facility parking lot, adjacent to Main St. and 6th St. bridges)
- Natural buffer
- Open Spaces (picnicking, soccer, volleyball, etc.)
- Trees

Boat Launches in Parks (locations)

- Clayton-more signage, awareness
- Colonial-better signage at Northwestern Ave and Spring Street
- Island
- Lincoln
- Portage around the fish weir (better portage)
- Portage around the Horlick dam?
- Quarry-kayaking
- REC Center

Launch Type

Use of piers (floating?)

Ramp/ sand/ natural slope

Comment

Parking requirements?

Evaluation

All participants agreed that this meeting meet there expectations

One comment was to gain input from religious congregations/ minority groups within the target area.

All participants felt they were able to share and discuss all of their concerns