

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

1

1 The meeting of the Great River Landing Committee of the City of Onalaska was called to order
2 at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2017. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and
3 a notice posted at City Hall.

4

5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Erik Sjolander, Ald. Harvey Bertrand,
6 Debbie Clarkin, Victor Hill, Mary Cody, John Burnett, Joe Etten

7

8 Also Present: City Engineer Jarrod Holter, Ald. Ron Gjertsen, City Administrator Eric
9 Rindfleisch

10

11 Absent: Dustin Hundt

12

13 **Item 2 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

14

15 Motion by John, second by Joe, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (December 8,
16 2016) as printed and on file in the City Clerk's Office.

17

18 On voice vote, motion carried.

19

20 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per individual)**

21

22 Erik called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion of the
23 meeting.

24

25 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

26

27 **Item 4 – Election of:**

28

- 29 • Chair

30

31 Motion by John, second by Ald. Bertrand, to nominate Erik Sjolander as Chair of the Great River
32 Landing Committee.

33

34 Erik called three times for any other nominations for Chair and closed nominations.

35

36 Motion by John, second by Ald. Bertrand, to appoint Erik Sjolander as Chair of the Great River
37 Landing Committee.

38

39 On voice vote, motion carried.

40

- 41 • Vice Chair

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

2

42
43 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Debbie, to nominate John Burnett as Vice Chair of the Great
44 River Landing Committee.

45
46 Erik called three times for any other nominations for Vice Chair and closed nominations.

47
48 Motion by Victor, second by Debbie, to appoint John Burnett as Vice Chair of the Great River
49 Landing Committee.

50
51 On voice vote, motion carried.

52
53 **Item 5 – Update on Phase I of the Great River Landing Project**

54
55 Jarrod said the public has been utilizing the Great River Landing. Jarrod said city staff also has
56 been working with the contractor regarding a warranty issue with the roof, and the contractor is
57 working to address this issue. The metal roofing is scheduled to be reinstalled the week of July
58 16-22, and the project is expected to take approximately three weeks. Jarrod said there have
59 been some HVAC issues, and the flooring in one of the shower rooms needed to be reinstalled.
60 Despite the challenges, Jarrod said there has been “very good usage of the facility,” noting that
61 Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick and his staff have been maintaining the site. Jarrod
62 told committee members the Great River Landing has been utilized more than he envisioned,
63 adding he also envisions holding a grand opening ceremony sometime between late August and
64 mid-September.

65
66 John noted he had spoken with an individual who was assisting with the roof repair and said it
67 seems that a lack of plywood on the roof contributed to the issues.

68
69 Jarrod said he will not discuss that issue due to other concerns as far as specifics.

70
71 John said he assumes there should be no additional costs, which were estimated to be
72 approximately \$100,000. John also said he hopes the city is doing everything it can to ensure
73 that it will not have to cover any additional costs.

74
75 Debbie said it appears as though the handrails were varnished; however, she described the work
76 as being “off in a lot of places.” Debbie added, “It (the top part of the handrail) doesn’t look
77 finished to me.” To be specific, Debbie said it appears that the varnish already is coming off.
78 Debbie then addressed the benches on the side of State Trunk Highway 35 and said the
79 committee had discussed placing the benches so that they faced STH 35. Debbie noted that
80 anyone who sits on the bench located by the trailhead building is facing the building’s wall.
81 Debbie said it was her understanding that that bench would face STH 35.

82

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

3

83 Erik asked if the musical instruments designed for children at the site have been relocated to be
84 ADA-compliant.

85

86 Jarrod said a sidewalk was partially installed not only to ensure that the city was ADA-
87 compliant, but also because the grass had experienced wear and tear.

88

89 John referred to the December 8, 2016 Great River Landing Committee meeting and a discussion
90 regarding Wi-Fi at the site. John said he had not found a Wi-Fi component during a recent visit
91 to the Great River Landing.

92

93 Jarrod said IT Support Specialist Mike DeLine has been working to establish Wi-Fi at the site.

94

95 Erik asked Jarrod what, if any, other feedback there has been regarding the park.

96

97 Jarrod said he has not had any specific feedback via email or written comments. However,
98 Jarrod also said he looks at the number of people utilizing the Great River Landing.

99

100 John said the feedback he has received “has been unbelievably positive.”

101

102 Erik, who also sits on the Onalaska Enhancement Foundation, noted that the OEF had met July
103 12 and said he had asked Dan Wick what type of usage he and his staff have observed. Erik said
104 Dan told him there has been an increase of traffic in the park, a majority of which is for the
105 trailhead. However, Erik also noted that more people are exploring the park area.

106

107 Victor, who also sits on the Parks and Recreation Board, said the board had discussed offering
108 more options for cyclists to purchase trail passes because the local bicycle shops are not open
109 when riders arrive early to utilize the facility. Victor said the board had discussed perhaps
110 utilizing a self-pay kiosk, adding he believes that a “more high-tech option” such as apps or
111 digital payment methods should be available.

112

113 John mentioned the possibility of perhaps relocating one of picnic tables and adding a third
114 glider in the future.

115

116 Ald. Bertrand asked if there have been any signs of vandalism.

117

118 Jarrod said that while he has not specifically discussed vandalism with Dan, he has not heard of
119 many instances of vandalism being committed at the Great River Landing. Jarrod said there
120 have been some minor incidents “here and there,” but nothing serious.

121

122 Erik noted that the website for the Great River Landing has not been updated for quite some time
123 and said the website either needs to be removed entirely or better use needs to be made of it.

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

4

124 Erik said he believes the city needs to showcase what it has at the Great River Landing as it will
125 be beneficial in making any future decisions regarding the enhancement of the site.

126

127 Joe, the newest member of the Great River Landing Committee, said it appears to him that the
128 Parks and Recreation Department has assumed a portion of control.

129

130 Jarrod told Joe the Parks and Recreation Department performs maintenance at the site.

131

132 Victor said the sundial has been brought up as an area of concern, noting that some of the paint
133 has come off of it.

134

135 John referred to a past discussion regarding bench seating at the site, noting this item had been
136 removed from the plan due to its cost (approximately \$250,000). John asked if there were any
137 funds remaining for any type of seating in the plaza.

138

139 Jarrod said the \$250,000 for the seating would have put the project over budget and therefore
140 was not awarded as an add-alternate to the bid. Jarrod also said the archaeological costs were
141 greater than expected and had consumed a majority of the contingency.

142

143 John asked if the \$50,000 budgeted for tree removal/pruning to create a better view had made the
144 cut in the 2017 Capital Improvements Budget and if so, have all the funds been utilized.

145

146 Jarrod said tree removal along the shoreline was included in the 2017 CIB. Jarrod said staff had
147 examined different methods of approaching tree removal due to being confined by the river and
148 the railroad tracks. As a result, Jarrod said it was necessary to find a contractor versed in railroad
149 procedures as it is necessary to utilize the services of a railroad flagger during a project such as
150 this. Jarrod said staff had coordinated everything and checked in with the Wisconsin Department
151 of Natural Resources regarding any necessary permits. Jarrod said that after 2½ months the
152 Wisconsin DNR responded and said that while it would not reject the city's request, it also
153 would not grant it, either. Jarrod said staff scheduled the work, and both the Board of Public
154 Works and the Common Council approved the project. The contractor was hired and scheduled
155 a date to remove the trees; however, the area saw a significant amount of rain and the river rose
156 to nearly 10 feet. Jarrod said that even though the river stage has fallen to approximately 6 feet,
157 the contractor is in the busiest part of its season. Jarrod told John he has not spoken to the
158 contractor in the last two weeks since the river stage decreased, adding he hopes the work can be
159 completed within the next one to two months. Jarrod said visitors to the Great River Landing
160 will be able to see the spillway and Lake Onalaska once the work has been completed. Jarrod
161 added that the one comment visitors to the site have made to the Parks Department maintenance
162 employee is that they cannot see the water.

163

164 Ald. Bertrand asked Jarrod if the number of visitors to the Great River Landing has exceeded

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

5

165 expectations.

166

167 Jarrod said yes.

168

169 Ald. Bertrand asked if there will come a point where the number of individuals utilizing the site
170 will become problematic.

171

172 Jarrod noted that individuals have expressed an interest in renting the trailhead facility for private
173 parties. Jarrod told Ald. Bertrand the parking lot has been full on weekends, including some
174 individuals having to park on the gravel. However, Jarrod also said it has not yet reached the
175 point where it is detrimental.

176

177 **Item 6 – Consideration of 2018 Capital Improvements Budget related to the Great River**
178 **Landing, including, but not limited to:**

179

- 180 • Seating and/or Shade Structure(s) in GRL Plaza Area;
- 181 • Interpretive Sign Panels (design & installation);
- 182 • Public Art (design & installation); and/or
- 183 • Projects detailed within Great River Landing Phasing Plan (see attachments)

184

185 Jarrod said he is currently compiling the 2018 Capital Improvements Budget, which he will
186 present to the Board of Public Works at its September 5 meeting. The Board of Public Works
187 will discuss and edit the budget at its October 3 and November 7 meetings, and the proposed list
188 will be reduced to a list that fits budgetary constraints. There will be a public hearing for the
189 2018 CIB in December, and it would go forward for possible bonding either in January or
190 February. Jarrod noted he had told the committee in 2016 to wait and see what the usage would
191 be at the Great River Landing. Jarrod said he will need to know within the next month which
192 item or items the committee would like to see included in the 2018 CIB.

193

194 John noted that in 2016 the Common Council was looking for a specific direction for the
195 committee to take with the Great River Landing.

196

197 Jarrod said, “I would agree that for a proposal to come out of the Great River Landing
198 Committee to gain any traction at all, you would need to have a specific item or proposal to have
199 an item that you’re funding. I would say if you just want to put money in for design of
200 something, it should be ‘design of what’ and have that goal in mind, or installation of an item to
201 know what that item is.”

202

203 John said it seems the first item on the list (seating and/or shade structure(s) for the plaza area) is
204 a continuation of something that the committee had wanted to do for 2017, but there was not
205 enough funding for either item. John said he would like Jarrod to work with the architect on

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

6

206 providing a cost or a design on completing what the committee had hoped to finish in 2017.
207 John said, “It would be something specific that allows the community to sit up higher – not
208 necessarily to go down, but to sit up higher where you get a better view looking down at the vista
209 down below.” John addressed the interpretive sign panels and said the committee has discussed
210 them “for a long time.” John suggested that perhaps one of the sign panels could address the
211 history of Lake Onalaska, and he also suggested placing interpretive signage along the walkway.
212 “Both of those seem very specific, and they seem very connected with the plan that we’ve had
213 for a number of years.”

214
215 Jarrod mentioned Dave Skogen’s project to committee members, meaning that there will be
216 additional construction on the east side of STH 35. Jarrod said it will be “interesting to see how
217 that fits in to what the city has done with the Great River Landing Phase I, how that all fits
218 together, and what it is moving forward.”

219
220 John referred to the committee’s December 2016 meeting and said someone had suggested
221 perhaps bringing the community back together again – perhaps in another charrette – and asking
222 citizens which direction they would like to go for the next step. John said he believes the
223 committee made the correct decision about concentrating on the eastern side of the railroad
224 tracks and allowing the community to see what the Great River Landing can be because it will
225 generate interest about the next phase. John said, “I think we’ve accomplished, to some extent,
226 what we wanted to by focusing on the eastern side of the tracks. We still have to make it a little
227 more attractive for people sit, improve the vista. But [I think we need to ask the community],
228 ‘Where do you want us to go next?’ ”

229
230 Ald. Bertrand asked if there are costs associated with the items listed.

231
232 Jarrod said no and told Ald. Bertrand that Planner/Zoning Inspector Katie Aspenson had an
233 intern work on some interpretive design panels, perhaps including a cost. Jarrod said he believes
234 the bid for the timber seating in the plaza area was “overpriced” and asked if perhaps matching
235 tables could be placed at the Great River Landing.

236
237 John asked what type of permanent shade structure could be attached to the tables and said, “It
238 would be nice if we could be given some possibilities early enough that we could endorse those
239 off to Capital Improvements.”

240
241 Victor said he is interested in the south nature trail enhancements and asked if it means
242 improving bicycle access.

243
244 Jarrod said the south nature trail enhancements would begin at the former campgrounds site
245 across the railroad tracks. Jarrod said it includes a walking path that, when the river stage is at
246 5½ feet, allows pedestrians to walk for half a mile. Jarrod said the enhancements had come out

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

7

247 of the charrette.

248

249 Victor asked if bicyclists would be allowed on the path.

250

251 Jarrod said he is not certain if that had been determined.

252

253 Victor said he is asking due to the population being drawn to the area, and also that the
254 enhancements are the most cost-efficient option listed at \$526,687.50.

255

256 Jarrod referred to one of the maps included in committee members' packets and described the
257 area as "a marshy, lagoon, lake/pond-type area."

258

259 Ald. Bertrand noted he had walked that area approximately a year-and-a-half ago and he said
260 flooding likely has changed the landscape. Ald. Bertrand said he does not believe this area
261 would be appropriate for bicyclists and suggested that perhaps it is more of a "contemplative
262 pathway" for pedestrians.

263

264 John noted the committee had discussed the fact that the water in this area being a significant
265 factor and said it is a trail that might be accessible in some locations and inaccessible in others.
266 John said that if the community believes it is important and there is sufficient funding available,
267 perhaps a raised walkway, such as those seen in Florida, could be constructed.

268

269 Victor, a former Florida resident, said there are environmental concerns associated with such
270 walkways along with feasibility questions because they can cost "millions of dollars."

271

272 John said the trail would be accessible during certain times of the year and inaccessible during
273 the early spring due to higher water levels.

274

275 Ald. Bertrand asked Jarrod if he would be willing to obtain cost estimates for the seating and/or
276 shade structure(s) as well as the interpretive sign panels.

277

278 Jarrod said he would attempt to do so.

279

280 Ald. Bertrand referred to John's suggestion about determining a direction for the Great River
281 Landing as it relates to the aforementioned items and then involving the public. Ald. Bertrand,
282 "If we can find out a reasonable cost, then that might give us an avenue to do that. If we bring
283 the public in and they're asking for the world and we can't give them the world, then they might
284 get the feeling that their input is not valuable. I would like to do that, but within some kind of a
285 context."

286

287 John said there might be some changes, referring to a proposed bridge that went over STH 35

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

8

288 and went beyond the railroad tracks. John said that while the purpose of the bridge was to create
289 a better view, he believes this goal can be accomplished by removing some of the foliage so that
290 visitors may enjoy the view from the top of the plaza. John said perhaps a bridge could be
291 constructed in the future with the assistance of a benefactor, adding, “To me, this is far more than
292 I ever imagined it could be. I’m very impressed, and you already have a beautiful view of the
293 Black River. ... What is it that people want us to concentrate [on next]? Maybe it does become
294 west of the tracks and what can we do down there in terms of the people who want to go beyond
295 just sitting and looking. They want to get out there, explore and be a part of this.”

296
297 Victor said he believes there must be an explanation of how any enhancements to the Great River
298 Landing will tie together with Dave Skogen’s project on the other side of STH 35. Victor said,
299 “It almost feels like the necessary tie-in is to get the plaza area done so that it all comes together.
300 And then obviously [the question is], where is the money going to come from to be able to do
301 that? If you get all these amazing things across the street done but you don’t have enough on the
302 other side at the Great River Landing to support all of that, I would just say we have to be careful
303 before we jump into an open forum like that to make sure that we’re ready to be able to answer
304 questions.”

305
306 Debbie said that perhaps the committee should request funding to finish the upper area before
307 going any further.

308
309 Ald. Bertrand asked Jarrod if perhaps the committee needs to wait for Dave Skogen’s project on
310 the east side of STH 35 to be completed before addressing the Great River Landing.

311
312 Jarrod noted he had told the committee during the summer of 2016 that the Great River Landing
313 first needed to be constructed and the city needed to see how the community utilized the site.
314 Jarrod said, “In the same token now with what’s happening on the east side of [STH] 35, you
315 really almost need to do that again to know how that fits in and see what that brings for a next
316 level. But I do agree that right now you have the Main Street plaza that is a concrete plaza with
317 no place to sit and really no purpose right now. Maybe it would be good to try to do a small
318 improvement there to try to, I don’t want to say finish off that area, but to try to supplement the
319 use that you already have in that area and even make another spot that is good for someplace to
320 sit or someplace to have lunch or do something like that and see how that complements [the
321 plaza]. Then when you get the proposed improvements on the east side of [STH] 35, then see
322 how they might all complement one another.”

323
324 Victor said he believes the city must preemptively be ready for what occurs on the east side of
325 STH 35.

326
327 Debbie inquired about the part of the trailhead facility that currently resembles a construction
328 office.

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

9

329

330 Jarrod said it has been cleaned out.

331

332 Debbie asked what type of use could occur in that space.

333

334 Jarrod said Dan Wick and the Parks and Recreation Board must determine if this space will be
335 rented out or sell concessions from it.

336

337 Victor said Dan has talked about utilizing the space as a concession/office area or an area the
338 public may utilize. However, Victor also noted this had led to a discussion by the Parks and
339 Recreation Board about renting out the space and said the board had tabled the discussion.

340 Victor said he does not believe the board has reached a consensus on how the space will be
341 utilized.

342

343 Ald. Bertrand asked if perhaps it could be possible for the Great River Landing Committee to
344 meet monthly over the next several months so that its members may continue this discussion.

345

346 Jarrod said the committee should meet again in late August, and he asked committee members to
347 provide him with some possibilities for Main Street. These proposals then could be included in
348 the proposed 2018 CIB. Jarrod said a particular item can be placed in the proposed 2018 even if
349 an exact cost is unknown, and the committee can meet again in September and October, refine
350 the idea and determine a specific cost if the item keeps moving forward.

351

352 John said he assumes there was limited funding available for items such as park benches, and he
353 told Jarrod that perhaps both he and city staff could examine the Great River Landing and
354 provide the committee with input as to which areas they think could be addressed, including
355 possibly placing more benches down the trail. John said he also likes Debbie's suggestion of
356 finishing what the committee was trying to do in 2017 and include it in the 2018 CIB.

357

358 Erik reminded committee members that the Great River Landing Committee meets on-call and is
359 able to meet any time. Erik also asked if parking improvements will be made both on the east
360 and west sides of STH 35.

361

362 Jarrod said that still is under discussion.

363

364 Erik said he believes it is important for the committee to focus on examining what can be
365 accomplished within Phase I of the project. Erik noted that much of what the committee has
366 discussed today has fallen within that discussion, and he also pointed out there are funds
367 available from the Onalaska Enhancement Foundation toward waterfront enhancement –
368 \$3,430.87, to be exact. Erik said, "That brings up another point of discussion. I'm not sure if it
369 falls within this committee or if it's through the Finance and Personnel Committee, or I'm not

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

10

370 sure if it would be another committee. I seriously think we need to start figuring out what we
371 can do for private donors because I've had people comment to me that, 'I think that I could get
372 enough support to fund this piece of the project.' How do we approach those? It may not be part
373 of Phase I. It might be part of Phase IV, but they are passionate. They want it done, [and they
374 have said], 'Let's make it happen. I have the people to back it.' How do we address that? We
375 have somebody who has expressed that interest – at least to me. What are we doing outside of
376 that to either embrace that or support that? And how does one go about contributing for that?"

377

378 Ald. Bertrand said he hopes whatever is done in the plaza does not conflict with a plan to
379 commemorate the support of private donors.

380

381 Erik told Ald. Bertrand there was no discussion regarding what was being asked for in return
382 other than there are individuals who might be interested in providing funding.

383

384 John said, "I think one of the things we might do, when we're talking about this dedication,
385 beyond simply dedicating it and recognizing where we are, [is] to talk a little bit about the future.
386 And whether it's the Mayor [Joe Chilsen] or the City [Administrator, Eric Rindfleisch], that there
387 is going to be a component where some type of benevolence becomes important and we would
388 be looking for benefactors. That could be part of our dedication, and along with the story of the
389 dedication, here is where we're going in the future."

390

391 Victor suggested addressing this during the public forum, giving the example of a citizen
392 dedicating a park bench to a loved one.

393

394 John addressed the topic of parking across STH 35 from the Great River Landing and asked
395 Jarrod, "Where are we in terms of property ... If you look at the road going down to the river to
396 the property that's south of that. Is that city property? At one time there was discussion that
397 maybe we needed to expand our parking and go beyond where we are. I've also heard rumors
398 that there's a possible commercial building – maybe a restaurant – going south of that. Is there
399 any need for us to think anything south of where we are? Or is that going to be primarily for
400 private commercial businesses?"

401

402 Jarrod said the city has land holdings in that area from the purchase of the former Braund
403 Lumber site as well as the old City of Onalaska Shop. Jarrod said the city has been examining
404 those parcels for last 10 years through the Community Development Authority, as well as
405 development in the downtown area. Jarrod said, "I think it's still working through more as a
406 possible development site. That area has been labeled more for that use than park land." Jarrod
407 also said the way the charrette and plan were done with Short Elliott Hendrickson, future phases
408 for the Great River Landing would occur on the west side of the railroad tracks.

409

410 Ald. Bertrand asked Jarrod if he needs certain guidance from the committee.

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

11

411
412 Jarrod said it is a matter of what the committee members would like to see. Jarrod said he
413 believes seating and/or some type of shade structure were discussed during the Phase I planning.
414 Jarrod said the shade structure originally might have been located closer to the parking lot in the
415 original Phase I plan, adding he is open to any suggestions committee members might have for
416 the area.

417
418 Ald. Bertrand asked if the plaza is considered the key.

419
420 Jarrod said that is a decision the committee needs to make, but he referred to John's suggestion
421 to place more benches down the trail.

422
423 John said that perhaps some of the benches could be placed in the plaza area.

424
425 Jarrod said that perhaps committee members could suggest expanding on a popular feature such
426 as the musical instruments.

427
428 John said he had envisioned businessmen and businesswomen having working lunches at the site
429 once Wi-Fi is available, and also adding comfortable seating. John asked what type of seating
430 should be placed in the plaza area.

431
432 Joe inquired about the timeline regarding tree removal and trimming.

433
434 Jarrod said he hopes the contractor will be available to perform the work before autumn.

435
436 Joe said he agrees that items for the plaza should be the focus in the 2018 CIB, and then perhaps
437 installing benches at the north trail. Joe noted he had walked up the north side of the trail and
438 said he is fairly certain that there currently is a beaten-down footpath that guides pedestrians to
439 the spillway.

440
441 Jarrod said that is another topic of discussion, noting that that is trespassing on Burlington
442 Northern Santa Fe property (new signage was installed recently).

443
444 Joe asked if there would have to be a singular crossing.

445
446 Jarrod the at-grade, gated crossing currently present over the railroad could be utilized in the
447 short term. Jarrod said the long-term plan was to install an ADA-compliant bridge and elevator
448 that would allow pedestrians to bypass the railroad tracks.

449
450 Ald. Bertrand asked Victor if the Parks and Recreation Board should be providing feedback.

451

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

12

452 Victor said he can obtain feedback from Parks and Recreation Board members, adding he
453 believes it would be interesting to learn from board members what they would like to see occur.
454 Victor admitted he does not know the consensus is regarding the next phase and said he is eager
455 to hear board members' opinions given the impending Skogen project on the east side of STH
456 35.

457

458 Ald. Bertrand said he believes the Parks and Recreation Board should be given a chance to
459 provide input.

460

461 Victor noted the Parks and Recreation Board has discussed usage at the Great River Landing at
462 its last few meetings, and this led to conversations pertaining to whether or not the space should
463 be rented out.

464

465 John referred to the blacktop part of the bicycle trail and told Jarrod there appeared to be some
466 erosion. John asked Jarrod if he requires Capital Improvements funding to repair the damage.

467

468 Jarrod said this area was intentionally left unpaved for the snowmobilers, noting that recycled
469 asphalt was utilized. Jarrod also said he does not require any Capital Improvements funding for
470 this.

471

472 Erik said he would welcome input from the Parks and Recreation Board as well as Parks
473 Department staff regarding what they believe should be prioritized.

474

475 Jarrod said he will ask Dan Wick to attend the next Great River Landing Committee meeting.

476

477 Erik, who sat on the Parks and Recreation Board when he was serving as First District
478 Alderperson, said he would be willing to attend a Parks and Recreation Board meeting if there is
479 an agenda item pertaining to the Great River Landing.

480

481 Victor said he will send Dan an email asking if he can add an agenda item pertaining to
482 discussing the Great River Landing. Victor said he will tell board members at the next meeting
483 that there has been a conversation pertaining to enhancing the plaza area. Victor also asked from
484 feedback from the Great River Landing Committee so that he may accurately convey committee
485 members' sentiments to the Parks and Recreation Board.

486

487 Ald. Bertrand asked if interpretive signage had been included in Phase I.

488

489 John said yes.

490

491 Ald. Bertrand asked if it would be practical to bring the Parks and Recreation Board into a
492 discussion regarding signage.

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

13

493
494 Jarrod said he believes Katie Aspenson has a cost estimate and told Ald. Bertrand the committee
495 can discuss it at the August meeting.

496
497 Joe told Victor to tell the Parks and Recreation Board the focus is on addressing seating and/or a
498 shade structure and interpretive signage, as well as finishing what was started.

499
500 John noted that not everyone in the community has visited the Great River Landing and said the
501 more people who visit the site will help the committee determine its future direction.

502
503 Erik asked if there is an estimated time of completion for the roof repairs.

504
505 Jarrod said the goal is to begin reinstalling the metal on the roof on July 17. This process is
506 expected to take three weeks.

507
508 Ald. Bertrand asked Erik in which context response to funding requests should be discussed.

509
510 Erik said he is not certain the Great River Landing Committee is the place to discuss this. Erik
511 referred to the City of Onalaska Cemetery project and said he believes it went through the
512 Finance and Personnel Committee, with funding being directed to the OEF through a special
513 account. Erik said he believes it would be logical to say the Great River Landing project would
514 be similar to the cemetery project in that private donations were brought forth for that project and
515 then paid through the OEF.

516
517 Debbie said the Wi-Fi costs could be “more substantial than we can imagine” and that she wants
518 to ensure that Wi-Fi costs are included with seating and/or the shade structure and the
519 interpretive signage.

520
521 Jarrod said he will speak to Mike DeLine within the next week.

522
523 Debbie asked if there is a known expense to install wireless at the site.

524
525 Jarrod said he does not know and told Debbie there have been attempts to activate Wi-Fi at the
526 site. Jarrod also told Debbie the city’s IT structure is changing in that the city is looking into
527 establishing connections between buildings. Jarrod said he understands that the committee wants
528 to have a strong Wi-Fi signal at the Great River Landing.

529
530 John asked Jarrod to examine what will be included on the plaque dedicating the site, including
531 the names of the individuals who were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

532
533 Jarrod told John that at the present time there are no funds available for a plaque, but he also told

**Great River Landing Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Thursday, July 13, 2017

14

534 committee members that the Great River Landing Committee can state it wants to see a plaque
535 installed at the site.

536

537 John said that the committee can fund a plaque, if necessary, and stated he believes there needs
538 to be one at the site.

539

540 Ald. Bertrand asked Erik if the August meeting agenda could include an item regarding
541 benefactors.

542

543 Erik said yes.

544

545 Jarrod asked if committee members have a date in mind for the August meeting.

546

547 Committee members decided to hold the next meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, August 24.

548

549 Mary said she believes the Great River Landing webpage should be updated.

550

551 Erik said it should not be difficult, even on a temporary basis, to shut down the website and
552 redirect the URL to cityofonalaska.com.

553

554 Mary asked that the August 24 meeting agenda include an item regarding the website.

555

556 Joe said he believes the website should be functional by the time the grand opening is held in
557 September.

558

559 Ald. Bertrand asked if the committee will be discussing public art and the projects detailed
560 within the Great River Landing Phasing Plan at the August meeting.

561

562 Erik said the committee might want to return to those items if its members are not satisfied with
563 the options brought forward regarding seating and/or a shade structure and interpretive signage.

564 Erik said Wi-Fi could be part of that bullet item if it is determined that funding is required.

565

566 **Adjournment**

567

568 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Joe, to adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

569

570 On voice vote, motion carried.

571

572

573 Recorded by:

574

575 Kirk Bey

Reviewed 7/17/17 by Eric Rindfleisch & Jarrod Holter