



### **Local Non-Profit Organizations**

*November 4, 2015*

*2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

*Red Wing Public Library, Red Wing*

#### Attendees:

*Brian Peterson, City of Red Wing Planning*

*Bruce Blair, Project Manager*

*Shawn Blaney, City of Red Wing Public Works*

*Pat Ramaker, City of Red Wing Public Works*

*Jay Owens, City Engineer*

*Bruce Chamberlain, LOAM*

*Jennifer Cater, HKGi*

*Sarah Evenson, HKGi*

*Paul Karlen, Kiwanis Club*

*Johnny Ostberg, Friends of the Bluff*

*Jason Jech, Environmental Learning Center*

*Laura Wildenborg, Environmental Learning Center*

*Leanne Knott, Friends of the Bluff*

*Sue Dopkins, Kiwanis Club*

*Dave Borgen, Red Wing Community Recreation*

*David Anderson, Friends of the Bluff*

*Michelle Leise, Live Healthy Red Wing*

## SUMMARY

### **Introductions**

Review why the city is conducting a park master plan and where we are at in the beginning of the process. Purpose of the meeting is to gain input about context, knowledge, activities and partnerships related to park use and planning for the future.

### **Discussion Items**

#### Priorities:

- Reopen the North Trail (Friends of the Bluffs)
- Keep the bluff wild- as natural as possible (but safe)
  - Immersiveness is key to the Barn Bluff experience
- Keep the bluff maintained over time (good condition)
- Ice climbing (could be an attraction)- Environmental Learning Center
- Would like to promote bluff use by locals not typically involved
  - Need conversations with the east side neighborhoods
  - Entryway improvements are important
  - Verbal promotion and marketing via social media

- Accessibility improvements, at least partially (like along Kiln Trail) would help attract others
- Loop trail opportunity needs to be pursued (ideal for group hikes)
- Improve trail network and access as a whole
- A picnic/orientation area at the bottom of the bluff
  - Could this also happen in the space left by bridge removal at the bottom of the bluff's west face?
- Improved entry experience
  - Need water/bathrooms
  - Xcel is using reservoir for untreated process water
    - Could the space be retrofitted and shared?
    - Educational/promotional opportunity for Xcel
    - Reuse of building is desired versus building new
    - Has water hookup but not sanitary sewer
  - Need bike parking
  - Need Parking; expansion possible in area to the northeast of the bluff – could lease land under power lines from Xcel
  - Signs are present, but the residential feel dissuades people from knowing they're on the right track
- Keep the bluff available to unstructured uses- accessible, open to all , and free
- Could there be a path from Colville Park to Barn Bluff? Or to Baypoint?

### **What They Do:**

- Friends of the Bluffs
  - Works with the City, US Fish + Wildlife Service, and DNR to restore the bluff
  - Coordinate volunteer efforts and have the potential to lead fundraising
  - Maintain trails (sumac clearing & mgmt. of wild parsnip)
  - Helped to build the new overlook
  - Have an active social media network- could be used to get the word out/ educate
- Noontime Kiwanis/ Dawnbreakers Kiwanis/ Golden K Kiwanis
  - Organized fundraising to move the Kiwanis stairways.
  - Pay for occasional stair maintenance
  - Have a focus on youth- could get grants for youth-focused programming
- Environmental Learning Center
  - Has been teaching climbing for over 40 years
  - Do geocaching sometimes
  - Built water bars along the quarry trail
  - Organize service projects (mostly trail maintenance related)
  - Lead some hikes
  - Geology education

### **Concerns:**

- Safety on the bluff – even on the south side...
  - You assume the risk

- Well-signed trails are important
- Not many people want railings
- Balance of safety and natural landscape
- Barn Bluff's "Billboard" (graffiti)
  - Gets a mixed response
    - Some see it as a tradition; part of the culture (good or bad)
    - Others see it as disrespectful
- Miss the past ease of access from downtown
  - Visitors have to know about the bluff, figure out how to get there, find parking, and be familiar with the trail network
  - "It's not that it's not clear- it's just not *easy*."
- Blocking trails has not been successful in the past.
  - Need trail signage that shows actual trails and tells you reasons why you need to stay on them
    - Need to promote learned respectful behaviors that will become culturally enforced over time
  - Need volunteer trails blocked immediately after someone re-opens them (a notification/reporting system would help)
- Increase accessibility for more people
  - Incorporate east neighborhood
  - Bluff feels separate from community compared to Memorial Park

**Potential Programming:**

- Themed hikes like the "Walk with Thoreau" at the Anderson Center
  - History especially
  - Environmental Learning Center says they would do more
- Self-guided tours via app, mobile site, or QR code
  - Stopping points like plaques on limestone aren't always used
  - Should include the dynamite storage spot
- Camping? Maybe in partnership with Izaak Walton League
- Art classes on the bluff/ Displayed/featured local art/ Places to post photography

**Other groups that can get involved:**

- Live Healthy Red Wing
- The YMCA (sometimes leads hikes); 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders with mixed success
- Izaak Walton League – Red Wing Chapter
- Goodhue County Historical Society
- Audubon
- Anderson Center ("Walk with Thoreau")