

TO: Mike Van Milligen, City Manager

FROM: Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer 

SUBJECT: Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, Bench and Trash Receptacle Design

DATE: October 27, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek authorization to establish the design of the benches and trash receptacles to be placed along the Bee Branch Creek.

BACKGROUND

The Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project (Project), Phase 4 & Phase 7 of the Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, involves the day-lighting and restoration of approximately one-mile of the buried Bee Branch Creek. The Project will allow stormwater from flash floods to safely move through Dubuque's North End and Washington Street neighborhoods. The restored creek and floodplain will also result in the creation of a linear park where residents can gather at the water's edge, exercise along the trails, or simply sit on a bench overlooking the creek.

DISCUSSION

The style of the benches along the restored Bee Branch Creek will include both stone slab benches and metal benches. The backs of the metal benches will feature a custom laser-cut design. Ken Saiki Design, Inc. and Bee Branch Project communications specialist Kristin Hill developed six different design options representing different types of activities and wildlife that will be enjoyed along the creek. The six concepts shown in Attachment A were as follows:

- The Great Blue Heron
- Watershed Words
- Biking Along the Bee Branch
- Eagle Fishing in the Creek
- Among the Flowers
- Fishing at the Water's Edge

The public was invited to vote for a favorite bench design. Voting was open from September 28 to October 6, 2015.

A press release was sent out on September 28, 2015, to invite residents to view the six design concepts and vote online at www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranchbench or vote at one of the following locations:

- Dubuque City Hall – 50 W 13th St, utility billing desk
- Carnegie-Stout Public Library – 360 W. 11th St., 2nd floor circulation desk
- Multicultural Family Center Dubuque – 1157 Central Ave., front desk
- Historic Federal Building – 350 W 6th St., main lobby
- Eagles Country Market – 1800 Elm St., customer service desk

The option to call communications specialist Kristin Hill to submit votes was also available.

To encourage resident participation, information was shared throughout the voting period on Facebook (214 likes), Twitter (128 followers), Nextdoor.com (2,361 residents), and emailed to 1,064 Notify Me subscribers. Information about voting was also emailed to area business leaders along with a link to the latest construction update video. Eagles Country Market handed out ballots at their registers and Kristin did a radio interview with Ed Anderson from Radio Dubuque. The information also appeared in the Telegraph Herald on both September 28, 2015 and October 6, 2015.

Four votes were received over the phone, 450 votes were submitted via the website, and 95 paper ballots were filled out for a total of 549 votes. The top design choice with 185 votes was The Great Blue Heron and the second favorite with 134 votes was Biking Along the Bee Branch. The results of the voting were as follows:

- The Great Blue Heron – 185 votes
- Biking Along the Bee Branch – 134 votes
- Eagle Fishing in the Creek – 83 votes
- Fishing at the Water's Edge – 60 votes
- Among the Flowers – 47 votes
- Watershed Words – 40 votes

Based on the voting results, I recommend that the benches be fabricated to reflect the two designs that received the most votes, the Great Blue Heron and the Biking Along the Bee Branch designs. I further recommend that the trash receptacle designs are such that they compliment the bench designs.

ACTION REQUESTED

I respectfully request approval to proceed with the fabrication of benches for the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project using the Great Blue Heron design and the Biking Along the Bee Branch design.

Prepared by Deron Muehring and Kristin Hill
Cc: Randy Gehl, Public Information Officer
Deron Muehring, Civil Engineer
Steve Brown, Project Manager
Kristin Hill, Communications Specialist