



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Thursday, December 14th, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.
Franklin Lodge of Elks

or view only via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88956525790>
or by phone: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID# 889 5652 5790

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Agenda Item I.

Council to consider renewal of Memorandum of Agreement with Mill City Park.

Agenda Item II.

Meet & Greet with the Franklin Opera House board.

Agenda Item III.

Other Business

Adjournment

The City Council of the City of Franklin reserves the right to enter into non-public session when necessary, according to the provisions of RSA 91-A.

This location is accessible to the disabled. Those wishing to attend who are hearing or vision impaired may make their needs known by calling 934-3900 (voice), or through "Relay New Hampshire" 1-800-735-2964 (T.D./TRY)



Commitment for Continued Collaboration

This Collaboration Agreement sets the terms & understanding between the City of Franklin, New Hampshire, the 501(c)3 nonprofit Franklin Business and Industrial Corporation (FBIDC) & the nonprofit Mill City Park at Franklin Falls.

Background

In September of 2015, Marty Parichand presented and provided a report to the Franklin City Manager, Elizabeth Dragon, the Director of Planning & Zoning, Richard Lewis, and the Executive Director of FBIDC. The report estimated the local economic impacts possible with the development of a free community whitewater park and associated amenities. This study, which was generated with input from the New Hampshire (NH) Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) estimated a possible \$6.8 million increase in annual direct spending and \$4.6 million



UPPER WAVE TRESTLE VIEW PARK - FRANKLIN FALLS NEW HAMPSHIRE



increase in annual indirect and induced spending as a result of the facility. For a detailed progression of this project please see Appendix 1 - Traction.

Mill City Park became a NH state registered non-profit in 2017 with the mission of increasing the quality of life in Franklin and the surrounding communities by:

- Promoting healthy, active, & outdoor lifestyles
- Development of an iconic outdoor community park
- Encourage outdoor recreation opportunities
- Balancing preservation of the land's history, & environmental restoration of the land & water to a natural state

This whitewater park has the potential to reimagine and revitalize Franklin. It will promote development and redevelop, attract existing businesses, enable entrepreneurs to start businesses, increase the attractiveness to prospective residents all of which support the City.

Purpose

This agreement is to serve as the foundation that outlines the understanding between the City of Franklin and Mill City Park (MCP).

A collaborative and extensive project of this nature can only be accomplished through the work of multiple organizations, hereafter, the "team" will represent the City Manager of Franklin, the City Council of Franklin, FBIDC and MCP.

The goal of this partnership is to fund, build and sustain New England's first whitewater park, so that, the City of Franklin can build a new identity centered around an iconic outdoor destination.

The above goals will be accomplished through the following activities:

1. MCP must maintain proper NH state nonprofit status
2. MCP must obtain 501(c)3 nonprofit standing & status
3. MCP will assign a board member at large position to the current Executive Director of FBIDC
4. MCP will assign a board member at large position to the current City Manager
5. The team will work together to procure funding, engineer, design & build New England's first whitewater park
6. The team will work together to procure funding, engineer, design & build adjacent outdoor community park facility
7. The team will work together to procure funding, engineer, design & build accommodations similar to a campground, hostel or eco-village to provide a revenue stream
8. The team will work together to find funding, & secure access or ownership to privately owned parcels adjacent to the city owned land
9. The City of Franklin will implement a 30 year (with a 30 year renewal clause) conditional lease of the city owned land to MCP for use & maintenance
10. The team will work together to procure funding, restore & repurpose the downtown Trestle Bridge & the Sulphite Bridge (also known as the Upside Down Covered Bridge)
11. MCP will act as the point of contact and/or project/program manager of all engineering programs, construction projects, capital campaigns, community outreach events, etc.
12. MCP will manage, maintain & promote Mill City Park & all outdoor and whitewater activities on the Winnepesaukee River

Funding

This document is not a commitment of funds, but rather a commitment to implement a long term lease in the future of the city owned property needed for this project and to ensure a commitment of continued collaboration for at least the next 5 years.

Duration

This agreement is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from Franklin's City Manager, Franklin's Mayor, Executive Director of FBIDC and Executive Director of MCP.

This commitment between the organizations will become formalized upon signature by the authorized officials and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. The City may, upon a finding that the interests of the City are no longer provided, protected, or otherwise insured, terminate the lease. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials this agreement shall end on 5 years from the date of the last signature.

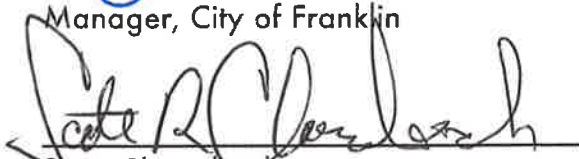
Authorized Officials & Partners



Elizabeth Dragon
Manager, City of Franklin

9-6-17

date



Scott Clarenbach
Deputy Mayor, City of Franklin

09/06/2017

date



Jim Aberg
Executive Director, FBIDC

9-13-17

date



Marty Parichand
Executive Director, MCP

9/13/2017

date

Appendix 1

TRACTION

In September of 2015, Marty Parichand presented and provided a report to the Franklin City Manager, Elizabeth Dragon, the Director of Planning & Zoning, Richard Lewis, and the Executive Director of the 501c(3) non-profit, FBIDC. The report estimated the local economic impacts possible with the development of a free community whitewater park and associated amenities. This study, which was generated with input from the NH DRED estimated a possible \$6.8 million increase in annual direct spending and \$4.6 million increase in annual indirect and induced spending as a result of the facility.

Since fall of 2015, a significant amount has been accomplished. In the summer of 2016, a grass root movement led by Jenisha Shrestha of PCL and Parichand raised over \$35,000 to hire McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group, a whitewater engineering firm which specializes in this industry. McLaughlin produced multiple work products after visiting Franklin, all of which would confirm the findings documented in Parichand's study. Additionally, the above conceptual renderings were produced.

Shortly thereafter, the Franklin City Manager produced a study entitled "Review of Economic Development Impact Proposed "Mill City Park" and associated recreation activities." This document's development coincided with Shrestha and Parichand working with over 180 Colby Sawyer College (CSC) students on the whitewater park and related deliverables. The following departments had coursework centered on the park; Graphic Design, Sports Marketing, Sustainable Food Systems, Environmental Science. This trend continued during the 2016 school year with the Tilton School, Proctor Academy and St. Anselm College.

Momentum continued further after the City of Franklin, PCL and MCP began meeting every 2 weeks for downtown coordination meetings. With the increase of communication, work products, solutions and accomplishments could be expedited. During the summer of 2017, the National Recreation and Park Association selected the project for it's Safe Routes to Parks program. In July, a verbal commitment from Franklin Savings Bank was received for a \$125,000 donation. In August, the project was awarded and Economic Development Association (EDA) Technical Assistance grant of \$180,000 to perform all engineering associated with the first phase of the project.