

January 13, 2011

On January 13, 2011, Design Plus was invited by the City of Lowell to conduct a design charette for the upgrade of the amphitheater and the riverwalk. The session was held at the Main Street Inn and was scheduled from Noon to 8:00PM. The charette was well attended with approximately 70-80 visitors participating, sharing their thoughts and ideas.

One of the goals of the open house was to document all of the comments, particularly those with recurring themes. A summary of those topics and design elements as well as a partial list of the attendees are outlined as follows:

- ◆ A kayak portage across Main Street near the riverwalk entry, adjacent to the Flat River Grill.
- ◆ Redevelopment of the vacant Lowell Power and Light Building. Suggested uses were canoe/kayak livery, bait shop, banquet hall and public bathrooms.
- ◆ A desire to have uniform design materials for both sides of the Flat River banks.
- ◆ Research the possibility of developing community restrooms, concessions, boat storage (crew) or training facility for crew team.
- ◆ Renovated space or new space for the Lowell Arts Council along the Flat River.
  - Complete the pedestrian loop across the Flat River linking the east and west bank. Utilize a floating dock system.
- ◆ Is there a way to utilize the open space along the river and the river itself for hosting a classic boat show or R.V. show?
- ◆ Could the DDA, merchants or citizens start an adopt-a-planter program in the downtown or riverfront area?
- ◆ Is it possible to create a connection across the river linking two important sections of the regional trail system? Connection from King Street to Foreman Street.
- ◆ Restoration of the islands in the Flat River with indigenous vegetation promoting bird and wildlife habitats.
- ◆ Continue promoting new business along Main Street for retail and hospitality uses.
- ◆ Locate an area along the river for the relocation of a historic mill from Saranac.

230 East Fulton Street

Grand Rapids, Michigan

49503-3211

p 616.458.0875

f 616.458.2806

Architecture +

Landscape Architecture & Land Planning +

Interior Design +

Mechanical & Electrical Engineering +

Construction Administration +

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- ◆ Add a dock along the existing boat launch for fishing, boat tie-ups and as an aid to launching.
- ◆ A boardwalk system with a gazebo connecting Main Street to Riverside Drive.
- ◆ Tent or tensile structure to cover proposed amphitheater and stage area.
- ◆ Ground-base jumping fountain for children at the base of the amphitheater stage.
- ◆ Clear the brush along the bank in the area north of the existing amphitheater.
- ◆ Begin to develop the DNR scorecard for funding submittal. Work closely with Williams & Works on specific details of the plan.
- ◆ A movie wall was suggested for weekly summertime shows along the riverfront.