Notes from Eaton Rapids River Development meeting

June 15 2018

- City owns livery
- “Having things happen that change people’s lives”
- Riverwalk and extensive development plan – adopted into P&R plan (expires this year)
- Some easements in place
- Previous engineering efforts on river have had community pushback
- Could imagine reuse of mill being combined with hydrological design (it floods anyway; can we make use of that?)
- Easier to get easements from businesses than from residents
- Access points and portage opportunities not accessible now
- Could connect with other Grand River trails?
  - Programmed as an “A” stop on the Grand River water trails
  - Certain requirements to develop
  - Folks will be passing by between Jackson and Grand Rapids
  - Pull out parts of this plan and make into PRT deliverables?
- Has been some unhappiness with last removal of dam; left “mud flats” that the DNR thinks will revegetate but not happening in the manner that supporters would like to see and thought they would see; could be addressed as a project here. DNR has habitat grants and programs
- Issue of maintaining the water level – citizens are used to one level; the natural settling level is different; how to bridge the gap?
- Housing deficiencies in the community – is that an opportunity for riverfront development?
  Some plans were stalled during the recession
- Getting services off of Main Street may be a strategy for livelier street
- No “friends of the river” group; people don’t really know where to put in or what the river routes are
- No wayfinding; ID portage sites and consider reinforcing them
- Looking for “ways to get from here to there and engage with local businesses” – amazing race concept?