

# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE STEWARDSHIP & VOLUNTEERS MEETING 2

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

3:30 – 4:30 PM

9TH FLOOR, ROOM 905

CHICAGO CITY HALL

121 N. LA SALLE STREET

## MEETING NOTES

### Clearinghouse of Volunteer Opportunities

- Friends of the Chicago River surveyed 13 community organizations to gauge their interest in including their river volunteer opportunities on a common platform; 7 responded and while most were interested, they also expressed that they do not have the capacity to help maintain a dynamic resource.
- The group discussed DPD hosting a webpage with short descriptions and links to the organizations that have volunteer opportunities to act as a central repository or “clearinghouse” for these opportunities, but leave each organization to maintain its own website and outreach efforts.
- It may be appropriate to organize resources and volunteer opportunities by geography or topic area to make it easier for interested parties to navigate the information and engage.

### Technical / Mapping Subcommittee

- The group discussed that several organizations – Friends of the Chicago River, the Nature Conservancy, Metropolitan Planning Council, and DPD, among others, are all doing mapping work along the river. Specifically where the identification of community and organizations working along the river and corresponding volunteer opportunities are concerned, the group decided that it will convene a “technical subcommittee” in the future to discuss these various mapping efforts.
- There may be opportunities to combine or coordinate efforts in a way that prevents organizations from “reinventing the wheel” on some of this work.

### Aligning with Community Connections

- The group discussed the importance of engaging with the Community Connections working group going forward to help and align efforts around engaging communities and residents along the river in stewardship and volunteer opportunities.
- We may convene a joint working group session between Community Connections and Stewardship & Volunteers in the near future.

### OSIF Application Process

- Meg Gustafson from the City’s Sustainability Division walked through the process for organizations or community groups to access Open Space Impact Fee (OSIF) funds.
- OSIF funds can be somewhat challenging to access for smaller community organizations, and organizations may benefit from partnering with an entity like NeighborSpace that can help with up-front costs associated with acquiring OSIF funds.
- It was suggested that the other working groups receive a similar primer on OSIF and that DPD make the information available on the River Ecology & Governance Task Force web page.