

Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (GTUAG)
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, September 12, 2012 - 7:00 PM
GF Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND

Molly Soeby
Nikki Seabloom
Bob Seabloom
Richard O'Connor

Teri Kouba, MPO
Matt Yavarow, City of GF Engineering
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Special guest presenter: Molly Soeby, Welcor Health LLC. Topic: Achieve Healthy Communities/Taking Action program.

II. Old Business

a. Project request update

- i. Disc golf course at Riverside Park:** The disc golf association was asked to stake out the course for approval from greenway staff. Kim met with the association representative, Travis Hagen, at the site to discuss the layout. Some of the holes are outside the approved site area.

The staff of the Greenway Technical Committee discussed the expanded course at their August meeting. The committee felt that expanding the course would require routing the revised course through the same channels that were used in the original approval process. It was determined that the committee would require the disc golf association to reconfigure the course to stay within the previously approved site area. This information has been shared with Travis. Kim has not received any information about changes to the course.

- ii. Request for change to course in lower Lincoln Drive Park:** The disc golf association representative has submitted a map of the proposed changes to the second course to the Greenway Technical Committee. This map included the addition of a few holes and rerouted the course closer to the dog park and through the bottom of the sledding hill. This request was declined by the staff of the Greenway Technical Committee at their August meeting. That decision has been conveyed to the representative.

III. New Business

- a. Greenway trail use visual survey:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and University of Minnesota is conducting a project to support and expand the counting of bicyclists and pedestrians in communities across Minnesota. The Grand Forks – East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization has asked the Greenway and Trail Users Advisory Group to conduct an observational survey of trail use in the Greenway to gather data for this project. Survey dates are September 11 – 13 and September 15.

This is an expanded version of the original Greenway Trail Survey. Information from this survey will be used to measure non-motorized traffic volumes, provide the evidence needed for efficient investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and inform programs to insure bicycle and pedestrian safety. A key goal of the count is to develop and test a standardized approach to manual counts of bicyclists and pedestrians for communities in Minnesota. Four locations in East Grand Forks and two locations in Grand Forks will be counted.

These locations are:

- . 7th Avenue North, GF
- . Floodwall at River Road, EGF
- . Eagles Point, EGF
- . Central Avenue & Highway 2, EGF
- . Bygland Road & 13th street SE, EGF
- . South pedestrian, GF

IV. Other

- a. **Bike path construction update:** The 2012 completed projects include a sidewalk connection was added along Belmont Road from 47th avenue to 52nd avenue. A path was added east of the levee on Adams Drive. This path is being built over the levee about 350ft to clear levee/city property. The last piece that connects to Belmont Road might happen this year but will probably happen next year. The existing path from S 34th st to Gardenview Drive is currently being extended (road is under construction).

Construction plans for 2013 include the reconstruction of the existing bike path along S 20th St from 40th to 47th Ave S (no extension, federally funded)

- b. **Bike racks:** The fish shaped rack has been delivered and the concrete will be installed soon. This rack will be placed just east of Town Square.
- c. **Vandalism and homeless population:** Staff has noticed an increase in homeless people setting up camp on both sides of the river in the Greenway this year. This seems to be the result of warm weather and a lack of space at Northland Mission. Staff has been working with Lt. Schiller and Public Works staff to remove the campsites and to increase the law enforcement presence in the Greenway. Vegetation has been removed in areas that have provided good cover for the campsites.

There have been some incidents of vandalism in the Sunbeam area, Kids built forts in several wooded areas along the lower trail. In one area they used an ax to cut down trees for their fort. City crews have removed furniture several times this season from another area further south. Staff continues to work with police to monitor these areas.

V. **Next meeting date: 7:00 pm, Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at the Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South**