

**Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (GTUAG)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2011 - 7:00 PM**  
**Grand Forks Park District Office - 1210-7<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Grand Forks, ND**

Matt Yavarow, City of GF engineering  
Teri Kouba, MPO  
Richard O'Connor  
Dave Sears  
Wes Rogers

Jane Croeker  
Scott Jenson  
Roxanne Achman, City of GF planning  
Rick Blair  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

**I. Previous discussion items and updates:**

- a. Cross country ski and snowmobile update:** Overall, the group felt that there were more skiers using the trails, especially the trails going north and south, than in years past.

The Ski & Bike Shop is offering classes through the Continuing Education programs in GF & EGF. The goal of these classes is to teach proper technique and choice of equipment.

Access to the ski trail is still difficult to find from the dry side. Could bright poles be installed at the access points to mark trail entrance? Something that is visible from the roadway and leads to the trail would be helpful, as well as a plowed or packed track to connect with the trail.

For grooming consideration for next season, there are a few tricky spots that might need to be redesigned. Behind Reeves Drive the trail goes down a steep hill that is difficult to descend because of a sharp turn at the bottom and difficult to climb because of the steep incline. It might be better to stay on the higher ground alongside the paved trail and just do a single ski track. The same is true for the hill south of the Elmwood access. An alternative route that provides a gentler slope will be cut through an area south of that hill.

GF police patrolled the Greenway for snowmobiles every day during the holidays. Snowmobile traffic seems to have diminished which could be the result of the vegetation barriers and increased patrol.

Snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles continue to use the pedestrian bridges as a link. The Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) is looking at options for bollards or a gate to prohibit equipment sign up at Lincoln Drive Park. Although the goal is to prevent unauthorized vehicle traffic on the bridge, it also needs to allow maintenance and emergency vehicles to pass through.

**II. New discussion items**

**a. Project request update:**

- i. Bluebird nesting boxes:** The GTC staff approved an application from the UND Nature Club to install about a dozen bluebird nesting boxes. Kim will be working with the group to determine locations for the boxes.
- ii. Electric assist bicycles:** According to Howard Swanson, City Attorney for GF, the current Greenway ordinance restricts the use of electrically assisted bicycles in the Greenway. Kim has asked him to draft a revision to the ordinance to allow for this technology but has not heard back from him on the progress of the ordinance.
- iii. Solar lights:** The GTC received a request to consider installing solar lights at the entrance to the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue north access. Staff has been researching the lights and the feasibility in our climate. The City of EGF installed solar lights along the Red Lake River and has experienced problems with the batteries freezing in this cold climate. Research on this idea will continue.

**III. Other**

- a. Turtle River State Park:** The Park hosted several outdoor events during Christmas break and will be hosting another later this month. The groomed ski trails have been expanded.
- b. Flood 2011 preparation:** The National Weather Service has announced that there will be spring flooding in the valley but has not stated an estimated crest height. City crews have been doing routine maintenance in preparation for spring.

**IV. Next meeting date: 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at the Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks