

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff

Meeting Notes - Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Grand Forks Park District Office

1210 7th Ave. S. Grand Forks, ND

10:30 am- Noon

Ann Sande, Friends of the Greenway

Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of GF

Steve Mullally, GF Park District

Gladwin Lynne, MN DNR

Kim Greendahl, City of GF

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- I. **Motorized vehicle definition:** The final draft of the proposed changes will be going to the Public Safety & Service Committee of the Grand Forks City Council on November 4. Kim has forwarded this information to the Ron Galstad, EGF City Attorney, for their records.
- II. **User group:** Ten people attended the meeting held on October 7 in the community room of Lincoln Drive Park. (Notes from that meeting were distributed to the GTC staff) Topics of were promotions, unpaved and seasonal trails, rentals and pedicabs.

The user group suggested the idea of offering equipment rentals along the trail because most travelers don't want to have to pick up their equipment then haul it to the trail. Another idea was the possibility of having pedicabs available for rides. Kim has forwarded this idea to the GF Park District and the Greater Grand Forks Convention and Visitors Bureau for help in finding someone who might be interested in offering this service.

- III. **Snowmobile routes:** Gladwin would like the snowmobile club to wait to cut their trail until after September 1 because the trail is hard to monitor and it attracted unwelcome activity along the riverbank. There were some campers from the mission and possibly some other groups setting up illegal campsites and the MNDNR does not want that type of behavior near its campground. Gladwin converted these areas into hike-in campsites for paying campers, but will continue to discourage illegal activities near the campground. There is a misconception that snowmobiles are allowed any

Discussion on how to change the resistance by some GF City Council members about an extended snowmobile route in the Greenway. Suggestions were to consider inviting a councilperson to participate on the GTC hosting a ride for council people. Two distinct trails might be the solution because it would keep everyone in their lane. More signage is needed.

- IV. **Winter Carnival:** The group is meeting again on November 13 to begin finalizing plans for the event.

V. November GTC meeting: The November meeting was rescheduled to November 4 because of the Veterans Day holiday.

VI. Greenway Agency Updates:

1. **MN DNR:** The campground had 60,000 campers this year, up 20,000 from 2007. Of those coming to the campground, 72% were Canadian and most were here for multiple night stays. Of all vehicles that entered the campground 72% purchased the annual sticker.

Gladwin is working on an interpretive kiosk focusing on the former Sherlock Park neighborhood, to be located within the campground and will be funded as part of the campsite expansion next year. He would like to do a trail walk in the spring and plans a fundraiser to help fund some of the costs of the panel. A Boy Scout working toward his Eagle Scout award is working on some signage for the boat launch areas. The signs will focus on invasive species.

It looks like the partnership between the MN DNR and the City of EGF will remain the same for at least this next season. A ten-year agreement is being considered.

Gladwin has some left over Plateau that he will donate to either the GF Public Health or GF Park District before the campground closes for the season.

2. **GF Park District:** No report.
3. **City of EGF:** No report.
4. **City of GF:** Kristen Abner, a local runner, has contacted Kim about the possibility of donating something in memorial to some local children stricken with leukemia. Kim is working with Kristen on the possibility of donating benches along the trail.

Work has begun on designing a winter trail map to show the snowmobile and ski routes in the Greenway. The maps will be a tear off format and available at local sporting goods stores, convention and visitors bureau, city hall and other outlets.

VII. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 9 at 10:30 am at the Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South.

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

Greenway User Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 – Lincoln Drive Park Community Room

Rick Alstol
Tim Driscoll
Dean Schieve
Pat Wilber
Jane Croeker
Bob Seabloom

Dave Lambeth
Ann Sande
Todd Hanson
Brenda Hanson
Kim Greendahl

- I. **Promotion:** Podcasts about recreation in the Greenway on the GGF CVB website would be a great way to highlight all the amenities of the Greenway. They could be done for each season or activity. Kim will look into this possibility.

- II. **Ski and snowmobile trails:** Signs are needed to show the route and distance for each trail. The group would also like to see more routes that go north and south with loops near greenway access points so the trails can be accessed from areas other than just the parks. Another option to consider is including the levees as part of the course to provide some challenges for the more experienced skiers. The group thought the back and forth trail done in Lincoln Drive Park was good for beginners but more experienced skiers need more of a challenge.

Snowmobile trails should stay further away from the ski trails with signs showing which trail is for each sport. It probably won't solve the entire problem but it would be a start. Kim will bring a map with possible ski and snowmobile routes to the next meeting for input from the group. These suggestions will be brought back to the appropriate staff members for consideration for this year.

- III. **Pedicabs:** Pedicabs are a tri-wheel bike and cart designed to drive paying customers along a trail. Basic pedicabs cost around \$3,700 but maybe a service group would be interested in buying them for a college group to drive and manage. This could be a big draw as a unique service at events like Art Fest and the 4th of July festivities. The carts could utilize regular routes and go on the entire trail system with a pick up service for assisted living facilities.

This service would fit in well with having other kinds of equipment rentals available along the trail system. That way people wouldn't have to travel away from the trails to get a bike or skis.

- IV. **Grand Forks Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee:** The Grand Forks City Council is looking at reviving the GF Bike Committee in a new format to also include pedestrians and other types of trail users. The council is looking at incorporate that committee into the Greenway User Group. This would provide an established structure for bicyclists, pedestrians and other trail users to bring for ideas and comments on the trail system. The Greenway User Group in

attendance was in support of adding this responsibility to the mission of the group.

- V. **Weeds:** There is concern that noxious weeds within the Greenway be dealt with quickly when growth is found, which is required by the State of North Dakota. Staff works with the county weed control board to address the issue. Although some people may consider all weeds noxious, there are only a few varieties that truly meet that criterion; most weeds are not pleasurable to view but are not classified as noxious.

VI. **Other:**

- A. **Graffiti:** There have been several instances of graffiti on the buildings and trail this summer. City crews try to get the material removed as soon as possible to show that it is not worth the effort to continue vandalizing the property. The anti-graffiti coating on the floodwalls has made it easier to remove the paint quickly. Spray paint on the trails poses bigger problems.
- B. **EGF downtown trail:** The lower trail from the railroad bridge to the Louis Murray Bridge is in rough shape and sometimes users have to get off the trail because of vehicles on the trail. Kim will forward this concern to the EGF Parks & Recreation department.
- C. **Birding:** The Grand Cities Birding website has not been updating for a long time. They would like to show some of the birding hotspots in the Greenway.
- D. **Atvs:** These are still a problem south of the south end pedestrian bridge south in EGF. Kim will forward this concern to authorities in EGF.
- E. **Wildflower garden:** There were concerns that the wildflower garden installed by the former neighbors of the Lincoln Drive area was not being maintained appropriately. Some of the signs haven't been installed yet and it is becoming overgrown with weeds. Is it possible to find a volunteer group to do the weeding? The neighborhood group has disbanded and wouldn't be able to assist but maybe the Horticulture Society could take over. The former neighbor group gave \$3,000 to the GF Park District for maintenance and it is looking unsightly.
- F. **Trail maintenance:** Are the trails cleaned on a regular basis? There were concerns about leaves, gravel and grass on trails throughout the summer. Answer: Trails are not cleaned on a routine basis but crews do clean them before special events like races. Clean up is also sparked after calls of debris on the trails in specific areas.

VII. **Adjournment**

- VIII. **Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South. **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE****

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