

**Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) STAFF**  
**10AM – Tuesday, October 16, 2018**  
**Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Park District**

**Meeting Notes**

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|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Bill Palmiscino, Chair</b>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Kim Greendahl, city of GF</b>    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Catherine Johnson, MN DNR</b>          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Jason Boulanger, UND Biology</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Sgt. Duane Simon, GF Police</b>        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Jim Job, ND Game &amp; Fish</b>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Reid Huttunen, EGF Parks &amp; Rec</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Theresa Flitter, city of GF</b>  |

**I. Old Business**

- 1. Nissan bench approval update:** Kim has contacted Howard Swanson for assistance on declining the plaque. He is reviewing the materials she sent to him.
- 2. Wildlife population control:** Jason Boulanger is a professor at UND specializing in the conflicts between human and wildlife. He has previously worked with Cornell University to establish a bow hunt to reduce the deer population in an urban setting. In one year they were able to reduce the deer population by half.
  - It is important to establish the reasonable need for a hunt. This can be done by keeping track of deer calls through police records for one year, by doing a visual count, and monitoring the effects on the environment by having too many deer. Jason will look into having UND students help with a count.
  - The largest population of deer on the GF side of the river is located mainly in south end, south of Elks Drive. There were about two dozen deer seen on a recent trip through that area. It is their rutting season right now.
  - EGF adopted a no feeding ordinance last year and wants to try this before looking at an urban hunt.
  - A GF resident has contacted the mayor's office because of concern with damage the deer being done to his commercial tree farm. The USDA might be able to help him with the trees because it is considered an agricultural crop. Kim will send the owner contact information for the USDA.
  - Bismarck, Fargo, and Minot all have controlled urban bow hunts in place. The ND Game & Fish Department helped set the hunts up but the local police department manages the program.
  - Programs usually require that hunters take an education course and/or a skills test. Owner identification is required on the arrow and hunting is usually done from an elevated spot.
  - An over population of deer can be a problem for many reasons.
    - Damage to the living forest: Are the saplings being allowed to grow or are they being eaten or trampled by the deer?

- Disease: Deer can bring Lyme disease. Finding Lyme disease in the area would be a tipping point for public opinion.
- Physical harm to animal: The deer will look for food in the neighborhoods when the food supply in the Greenway is gone. This increases the chances of deer being hit by a car.
- Catherine recently received two calls about hunting deer in the Greenway. The first wanted to know why they couldn't hunt in the Greenway because it is public property. The second was reporting a rumor about deer being poached in the Greenway. The caller did not have any details to back the story up.

## II. New Business

1. **Vehicle requests from races:** Several events have been using motorcycles and cars as their pace car. This is against ordinance. The motor vehicle permit issued for the races is for the use of a golf cart or atv but not trucks, motorcycles, or cars. The committee would like to invite the planners of the major races to the December meeting to discuss needs and options.

## III. Agency Updates

### 1. City of EGF:

- Reid is going to do a site visit with the MN DNR to look at some property along the Red River south of EGF. The owners are considering offering their land for sale to the MN DNR for use as a kayak launch.
- Reid was contacted by National Fitness Campaign (NFC). They would like EGF to consider installing an outdoor fitness center somewhere along the trail system or in a park. NFC donates \$30,000 to the project and EGF would have to raise the rest of the money for installing the system. Fargo has some of this equipment but the staff does not believe it is used very much. Reid declined the offer to participate.
- The trailheads are closed for the season.
- Nick Jensen contacted Reid via voice mail about moving the Freezeway to EGF. Reid has not responded. Reid would like any effort to build a skating trail be a collaborative venture involving the Greenway Technical Committee.

### 2. GF Park District:

- Hockey boards are in place for season and staff is getting everything ready for fall and winter activities.
- Lincoln golf will be closing on Sunday.
- There are cross-country meets scheduled in Lincoln Drive Park for last weekend and the upcoming weekend. The park will be closed to vehicles because of the large crowds.

**3. City of GF:**

- Kim is looking into signs telling people to call 911 to report vandalism and other illegal activities in the Greenway. Reid would like some of these signs too.
- The cross-country ski signs will be going in soon. The website is being updated with a new look.

**4. Minnesota DNR:**

- The water to campground has been turned off for the season.
- Seasonal workers for the sugar beet campaign have started to arrive.
- The campground will officially close November 12.

**5. ND Game & Fish:**

- Earlier today someone called into a morning radio show that Jim was participating in. The caller's questions were about the possibility for a city bow hunt.

**6. GF Police:**

- Now that the weather is getting colder, people should call dispatch when they see homeless campsites so police can look into them.

**IV. Other**

- 1. Annual report:** Please send all information to Kim by early January.
- 2. Homeless population:** Earlier this year GF adopted an ordinance for hours of operation and alcohol consumption in the downtown pocket parks. This has helped address some of the problems previously seen with the homeless population.

**V. Next meeting: Greenway Technical Committee:** 10AM on Tuesday, November 20, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Room

Minutes submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks

Supporting documents: Wildlife Management meeting notes 9-11-2018

**Wildlife Management Discussion**  
**1PM Tuesday, September 11, 2018**  
**GF Public Works Building, 724 North 47<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Meeting Notes**

Catherine Johnson, MN DNR  
Emily Hutchins, MN DNR  
James Job, ND Game & Fish  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

Mike Hedlund, EGF Police  
Dr. Jason Boulanger, UND Biology  
Reid Huttunen, EGF Parks & Rec

**Summary**

Every year staff has finds or gets reports of animals that have been tortured, abandoned, or injured in the Greenway. Not sure who to contact in most situations.

This year a snapping turtle was found with a leg and tail tied together with rope and secured to a stick. In years past stringers of catfish whose bellies were slit and left to die were found. Dead deer have also been found in the Greenway, usually because someone dragged them to the site. Citizens sometimes report dead or wounded squirrels, birds, and other wildlife. Staff usually does not pick up the smaller animals but leaves them for other animals to eat.

**Reporting**

The game warden handles reports of injured, sick, or abandoned animals (deer). Birds with compound fractures are put down because rehabilitation isn't feasible. There are rehabilitation facilities in Devils Lake and the Twin Cities area but this is usually for protected species and certain birds (raptors, hawks, eagles, etc.). Volunteers must handle the transportation because of a lack of resources. Local birding groups may be able to assist with transportation.

Instead of calling individual agencies or game wardens citizens should call 911 to report an injured, sick, or abandoned animal. Dispatch will determine who to contact based on the situation.

Some of these situations could fall under the definition of Wanton Waste. That is a Class B misdemeanor in ND. Harassing wildlife is also a crime.

**Public education**

Public outreach about why it's important to not to feed wildlife and to report problems with wildlife is an important piece. Emily shared examples of other city websites that address wildlife in urban areas. Kim will work to get something similar on the Greenway website.

Postcards will be sent to an area in the southern part of the GF Greenway where there have been signs of feeding to remind residents not to feed the deer. Information has also been sent out via email, Facebook and Twitter.

**Deer population in urban areas**

Jason is an assistant professor in Wildlife Ecology and Management, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, Human-Wildlife Conflicts at UND. He has experience with wildlife management and policy decisions. He

recommends starting with a GIS map of deer populations in the city limits. He also recommends doing a citizen wildlife survey to get a benchmark on public opinion for a bow hunt within city limits.

Minot & Fargo have recently started archery hunts within the city limits to manage their deer population. The cities manage the program with assistance from the ND Game & Fish Department.

The tipping point for turning public opinion will be a deer doing harm to a human or discovering Lyme disease within city limits. That will change their feelings about a hunt to cut down the deer population.

Jason would be interested in doing a citizen wildlife survey but probably can't fit it in this year. Kim will work with him to determine timing and costs. The survey would include both cities.

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist.