

**Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (GTUAG)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2013 - 7:00 PM**  
**GF Park District, 1210 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND**

Jane Williams  
Jane Crocker  
Richard O'Connor  
Stephanie Erickson, MPO  
Wes Rogers  
Nikki Seabloom  
Bob Seabloom

Dave Lambeth  
Art Young  
David Kuharenko, engineering  
Dan Splichal  
Karen Salwey, City of GF  
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

**I. Introductions**

**II. Old Business**

**A. Bike Project Update**

- i. **Consistent visual identity for bike lanes and routes:** There will be a Green Lanes Recap Meeting Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM. This will be a recap of 2013 and a look at future things that might be done in 2014.
  - ii. **Collect public input for changes and additions to the GGF bikeway system:** Comments keep coming in. Most comments say they are very thankful for the existing trail system and they want to see future expansion. We have received 35+ online survey responses so far. Most responses have been positive.
  - iii. **Submit an application for status as a Bicycle Friendly Community through the League of American Bicyclists:** We need to do a lot of foundation work before we can apply. We are on a good track, but need to work on policy enforcement, and education. The application is reviewed by local viewers, so the application should be a true representation of the system. We will work toward the September 2014 application deadline.
- B. Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update:** The update is still going through the approval process. The open house at Dakota Harvest Bakers and EGF Library went very well. Final approval is needed from Planning Committee and City Council from both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.

**III. New Business**

- A. Winter Recreation** – Most of the ski trail signs have been installed and the lower trails have been mowed. The contractor mowed the trails a little wider than in the past. There is a new trail near the detention pond just south of Lincoln Park that goes through the woods, near the river, through the trees, under the bridge and comes out just south of the kids putting green at Lincoln Golf course. There is a steep hill at one end so we may groom an alternate route that isn't as steep. Wooden 4 x 4 posts have been installed on the unpaved trail. These can be left in year round and signs can be interchanged seasonally. Warning signs near the pond have been added. The Ice Bike Race, Frozen Feat, and Greenway Ski Day are all planned for February.

EGF Parks and Recreation and EGF Campground are trying to make a winter park at the EGF Campground. There are no warming houses at the site so temporary shelters will have to be available in the future. This year they will do it on a trial basis at Stauss Park. This will be a test for 2013/2014 winter to see if there is interest and it gets used. Staff will plow a trail through the snow and ice it down, making it a skate-able trail. They will be looking for feedback from residents.

- B. Vegetation Management Report** – After the great comments last month, Kim will be posting information online regarding the Vegetation Management in the Greenway. We

are trying to re-establish natural areas. We are currently working on the Elmwood access off of 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. When construction was done, we “borrowed” clay from this area and was left in bad condition. Limited mowing and spraying has been done in that area since then. The saplings and natural grasses are started to establish more fully in the far areas of this site. Vegetation management in the Sunbeam trailhead area has also been successful.

Dave Lambeth commented that he is very disappointed with the number of trees that have been taken out of the Lincoln Drive Park, minimizing the nesting places for Great Horned Owls. Dead limbs and fallen trees provide homes for owls, woodpeckers, and many other species of birds. These are very old trees and he would like to see more of them preserved in their natural state. Kim commented that if the trees posed a danger in an area used by the public, they do have to be removed.

- C. 2014 trail projects for Grand Forks** – David Kuharenko, Engineering, reported that a shared use path on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street from 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S to 24<sup>th</sup> Ave S has been approved and construction will begin in 2014. They have been approved to apply for grants and will find out those results in March-July of next year.

Engineering is also looking at shared use paths on Columbia Rd from 36<sup>th</sup> Ave S to 40<sup>th</sup> Ave S; and on 55<sup>th</sup> Street from University to Demers; and additional sidewalks along 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S near 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Some projects will be completed in 2015.

**IV. Greenway updates** – Turkey Trot – Thursday Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, morning (Thanksgiving)

- V. Other** – Observation: Richard has observed more dogs on leashes since it was publicized in the news. There has been an improvement. Riverside area still has some issues, and we might want to revisit this over the winter/spring months.

Ski trail grooming will begin when there is a snow base of at least 6 inches. Tuesday and Friday are normal scheduled days for the trails running the length of the Greenway. The Park District grooming schedule isn't known at this time. The entire trail system is groomed within 2 days of a major snowfall. We need to educate the public on piling snow at corners & crosswalks and businesses piling snow on bike trails and sidewalks.

Suggestion for different snow piling practices at Lincoln Clubhouse so that residents can still have access from the parking lot.

Suggestion was made to promote the Greenway using YouTube videos – webcams, videographer, etc.

The Christmas bird count will be Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. This event has been going on for 50 years. This bird count covers a 15-mile diameter around the City. Dave will come back to explain more at our December meeting.

**VI. Next meeting date: 7:00 pm, Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7<sup>th</sup> Ave South**

**VII. Adjournment**

Submitted by: Karen Salwey, Public Works Sr. Administrative Specialist, City of Grand Forks