

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC)
10 AM - Tuesday, December 19, 2018
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND

Meeting Notes

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Palmiscino, chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reid Huttunen, EGF Parks & Rec |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Johnson, MN DNR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Boulanger, UND Biology |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Mike Hedlund, EGF Police | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Greendahl, city of GF |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sgt. Duane Simon, GF Police | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theresa Flitter, city of GF |

Guests:

- Amy Enget, Rollin' on the River**
- Torre Enget, Rollin' on the River**
- Rachel Hellyer, Wild Hog Marathon**

I. Old Business

A. Nissen bench update

- Howard is still reviewing the matter.

B. Wildlife management webpage

- Reviewed the draft webpage information.
- Comments can be sent to Kim by the end of the week. After that, she will publish the page online.
- Catherine would like to add a link to a page with information on how to help and handle injured raptures. She will send that information to Kim.

II. New Business

A. Special project request

• **Fitness equipment along trail or in playgrounds**

1. This was part of the Main Street Initiative Project. Residents were asked to submit ideas to enhance life in Greater Grand Forks and ten projects were selected to proceed with building support for the project.
2. This project idea was submitted by a UND student. It was for installing fitness equipment along a trail or near playground in the Greenway.
3. Kim met with the student a few times over the summer and fall to discuss how to build support and bring it to this committee for approval.
4. The student contacted Kim earlier this month and said that she would need to drop out of the program and would not be pursuing the project.

B. Vehicle requests from races

- **Guests Amy and/or Tori Enget & Rachel Hellyer**
- Over the years golf carts and atv's have been approved on a case-by-case basis for use during setup and take down for races and events.
- There is no question on the GF or EGF special events forms asking about the need for a pace car so staff did not know this was a need or was being done. It has just started coming to light the past few years.
- The Wild Hog Marathon has used Harley Davidson "hogs" as pace vehicles in previous races. They weren't needed for speed but were a good marketing tie for the "Wild Hog". Cycles used to do the entire route, including about eight (8) miles on the Greenway but they had stopped doing it about two (2) years ago at this committee's request.

- The number of cycles participating has varied anywhere from two (2) to twelve (12).
- Rollin' on the Red has also been using a pace vehicle for their race. They need to have something fast enough to stay ahead of the professional skaters because they were passing the pace bicycles. Lead skaters are at risk for collision with other trail users because they skate so fast that other trails users don't see them. The pace vehicle makes them more visible.
- There are currently three events that would like to use motor vehicles larger than a golf cart or atv for pace vehicles during their event: Wild Hog, Rollin' on the River, and the memorial motorcycle ride.
- This matter was brought to the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group at their December 12 meeting. The consensus was that they understood the need but maintain that it is not always easy to discern when a vehicle was authorized for use on the trail. A bright colored permit for the side of the vehicles would help that issue. Kim will look into options for this idea.
- The GF Police receives a low volume of calls about potential unauthorized vehicles on the trails.
- Kim will work with the public information center to add "Is a pace car needed?" to the special events form.
- Kim will add a statement requiring flashing lights on pace vehicles and that signs be posted at entrances and along trail to notify users of the race motor vehicles.

C. Chair election – February 2019

- Bill will fill the position for the next term.

III. Agency Updates

A. City of EGF:

- The outdoor rinks are now open.
- Deer are moving into town and have been seen at city hall and high schools. A deer bow hunt has been discussed previously but nothing official. Stands have been found within the city limits on the Porta Mix side. There were also signs of baiting at the site. A suspect has been taken in for questioning and charges will be contingent on the investigation.

B. GF Park District:

- The outdoor rinks are now open.
- Chick-fil-a will be filming a crew working outdoors and giving chicken tortilla soup for workers inside the warming house. It is part of their campaign to show that public service workers work outdoors even in cold temperatures.
- The snow cover is too minimal for grooming the ski trails. Snow depth of 4 - 6" of snow is ideal.
- Over 10,000 people attended Santa Village.

C. City of GF:

- A request was posted on Facebook asking to post information about a public meeting being hosted by the MPO regarding the bridge study and potential bridge locations. Kim declined the request and told the requestor that the Greenway Technical Committee has taken a neutral stance on the issue.

D. Minnesota DNR:

- Site rentals increased again this year.
- Planning to plant some cottonwood trees near the Kennedy Bridge this spring. This will help create a buffer by the Kennedy Bridge.

IV. Other agencies

A. MPO: Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan executive summary distributed.

- Any comments or questions about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should be sent to Jairo.

B. GF Police: Two men were arrested for spraying graffiti in the Greenway. This could be tied to the vandalism that was done at the skate park recently.

V. Next meeting: Greenway Technical Committee: 10AM on Tuesday, January 16, 2019, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Room

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, city of GF

Supporting documents:

- Draft Wildlife Management webpage
- Motor vehicle ordinances for GF & EGF
- Comments for motor vehicles on trails from Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway Advisory Group 12/12/2018
- Motor vehicle special use permit
- Race times and mph results 2018
- Example of Cube car

The Greenway is a great place to see a variety of wildlife in an urban setting. Early morning trail users are often treated to the sight of white-tail deer within the park. And how who hasn't been humbled by the beauty of seeing bald eagles soaring into the bright blue skies? The location next to the Red and Red Lake Rivers provides the perfect opportunity to view many different species of birds in their natural habitat. These sightings can be an exciting experience but not every encounter increases the potential for injury or death to wildlife.

Many of these animals leave the Greenway in search of food and that's when the problems begin. This increases the chances for collisions with vehicles and property damage to homes and gardens.

Please help us protect these beautiful animals by not providing extra feeding opportunities. Feeding deer and other wildlife in the Greenway is prohibited by law on both sides of the river. This ban is designed for the protection of the deer humans, and personal property. Providing extra food discourages natural foraging instincts and can be unhealthy for the deer. It also lures deer from their natural habitat into areas with high concentrations of people and motor vehicles, which increases the chances for a collision between the deer and a motor vehicle.

How can you help?

- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Be alert to animal activity on and near roads adjacent to the river. Each fall increased sightings of deer leaving the woods and mingling in the neighborhood.
- **Keep pet food indoors.** Opportunistic wildlife are always on the lookout for easy food options.
- **Don't leave food in the Greenway.**

Sick, Injured or Ophaned Animals

Each year greenway staff receives reports of animals that have been sick, injured, or orphaned in

the Greenway. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or resources to respond to every injured or distressed wildlife report. The public is encouraged to contact local law enforcement at 911 and dispatch will determine who to contact based on the situation. Sometimes letting nature take its course is the best option. From our friends at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Dead or dying animals provide an important food source for many species of wildlife. While it is sometimes difficult to witness life and death in nature, a good phrase to keep in mind is, "*If you care, leave it there.*"

NOTE: If you see multiple dead, dying, or sick wildlife found in close proximity contact local law enforcement at 911 as this might be related to larger-scale disease outbreaks or poisoning.

Some helpful resources from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources:

- Find more information about what to do if you find a **sick or injured wild animal**.
- Find more information about what to do if you find an **orphaned wild animal**.
- Find more information about the **facts of wildlife rehabilitation and release**.
- Find more information on becoming a **permitted wildlife rehabilitator**.

For on-line resources on living with wildlife, go to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/index.html

Motor Vehicle Ordinance on Trails

City of Grand Forks

14-0413. - Motor vehicles.

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (A) Operate a motor vehicle except in designated areas.
- (B) Park or leave a vehicle standing except in a designated area and then only in a manner not to restrict normal traffic flow.
- (C) Leave a motor vehicle parked in the greenway for more than twenty-four (24) hours.
- (D) Wash, polish, grease, or perform any other maintenance on a vehicle in the greenway. This provision shall not, however, apply to necessary repairs to remove a vehicle from the greenway.
- (E) The provisions of this section shall not apply to law enforcement or emergency response personnel and vehicles, maintenance vehicles or any other personnel or vehicles specifically authorized by the city.

(Ord. No. 4157, § I, 11-20-06; Ord. No. 4259, § II, 1-5-09)

City of East Grand Forks

§ 71.04 RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS.

(A) Definition of recreational motor vehicle. A RECREATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE is any self-propelled vehicle and any vehicle drawn, pushed or otherwise propelled by a self-propelled vehicle and designed for use for recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, motorcycles, motor scooters, trail bikes, other all terrain vehicles, 4-wheel drive motor vehicles, or any other motor vehicle licensed or unlicensed and used for recreational purposes. Snowmobiles being the subject of regulation pursuant to Ch. 73 are specifically excluded from the provisions of this section.

(B) Use of recreational motor vehicles. It is a misdemeanor for any person to operate a recreational motor vehicle as follows:

- (1) On the private property of another without lawful authority or consent of the owner or occupant, express or implied;
- (2) On public sidewalks, walkways or trails provided or used for pedestrian travel;
- (3) On or across any publicly-owned lands, including but not limited to dikes, levees, parks, ice skating rinks, school grounds, recreation areas and playgrounds, unless a permit has been obtained from the proper public authorities, or unless such areas have been specially designated for such use, nor shall the vehicles park on the areas unless a permit has been obtained from the proper public authorities;

(4) At any place while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or habit forming drugs;

(5) In such a manner as to create or cause unnecessary engine noise or tire squeal or causes the tires to spin or slide upon the acceleration or stopping of the vehicle or that causes the vehicle to unnecessarily turn abruptly or sway from side to side, or to operate the vehicle in such a careless, reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage thereto;

(6) In any cemetery;

(7) In any golf course;

(8) In any planting or tree nursery in a manner which damages or destroys growing stock;

(9) Unless equipped with a standard muffler or mufflers which are properly attached and which reduce the noise of operation of the vehicle to a noise level which shall not be a disturbance to residences of the area of operation, and no person shall use a muffler cut out, by pass or similar device on the vehicle.

(C) Definition of other motor vehicles. OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES are any self-propelled vehicles not included in the definition in division (A) of this section, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(D) Use of other motor vehicles. It is a misdemeanor for any person to operate any other motor vehicle in violation of the provisions of subsections (B)(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), or (8).

(1981 Code, § 7.10) (Ord. 127, 2nd Series, eff. 7-17-1976) Penalty, see § 70.99

Comments from Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Greenway Advisory Group regarding motor vehicles on trails for special events

From the December 12, 2018 meeting

Regarding motor vehicles used as pace cars

1. Main goal is to retain the purpose of the trails.
2. Setting precedence for other requests.
3. Do the racers really go fast enough to need a car or motorcycle for a pace vehicle or would a golf cart or atv be sufficient?
4. The motor vehicle permit should be more specific about the type of vehicle allowed and define any grey areas.

Motor vehicles for setup and takedown for special events

1. Clear marking on outside of golf cart or atv to show that the vehicle is authorized.

Post-meeting findings:

- Top speed for a golf cart: 20 – 25 mph
- Top speed for most atv's: up to 70 mph or more
- Top speed for electric assist bike: 20 mph +/-



City of Grand Forks

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tricia Lunski, Greenway Takeover Festival event director

CC: Sharyl Simeone, City of Grand Forks Public Information Office
Sgt. Duane Simon, Grand Forks Police Department

FROM: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

DATE: September 16, 2011

RE: All-Terrain Vehicle Use in Greenway

This memo shall serve as notice that you are authorized by this office to utilize an all-terrain vehicle or golf cart on the Greenway trail system for the purpose of the set up and take down of the equipment necessary to host the **Tour de Forks on Sunday, September 21. This permit is valid between 5:00AM and 7:00PM on the day of the event only.**

A copy of this authorization has been shared with the Grand Forks Police Department but I recommend that you keep a copy of this memo in each vehicle for verification.

Please remember to use caution while riding along the trails. The trail is popular with walkers, joggers and bicyclists and traffic can be heavy at times. When approached by trail users please pull off to the side of the trail and allow others to pass. The speed limit on the trail is 15 miles per hour. It is advisable to post race assistants along the route to assist participants and notify other trail users of the activity.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this matter.

Winning race times & mph for Wild Hog & Rollin' on the River

| Running | 2018 winning time | MPH |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 5k | 16:21 | 11.37 |
| ½ Marathon | 1:17:09 | 10.11 |
| Marathon | 2:47:47 | 9.58 |
| | | |
| Inline | 2018 winning time | MPH |
| Family 4.2 mile | 30:53 | 8.15 |
| ½ Marathon | 46:31 | 17.08 |
| Marathon - rec | 1:17:11 | 20.38 |
| Marathon – pro | 1:04:09 | 24.27 |

