

Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (GTUAG)
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 - 7:00 PM
GF Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND

Art Young
Bob Seabloom
Nikki Seabloom
David Sears
Richard O'Connor
Jane Croeker

Dave Lambeth
David Kuharenko, GF City engineering
Bruce Keifenheim
Stephanie Erickson, MPO
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

Guest speaker David Lambeth: The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) began on Christmas Day 1900. Prior to 1900 people would form teams for a shooting contest on Christmas Day. The team with the most birds was declared the winner. A bird count was proposed as an alternative to this activity. The first CBC in Grand Forks was held in 1973. The study is not scientific but does offer a snapshot of bird migration patterns.

The number of species identified in Grand Forks during the count has grown over the years from thirty to sixty. This could be the result of birds migrating later in the year or possibly staying here for the winter. Open water, feeders, more cornfields, and changes in pesticides could also be factors in this increase.

Volunteers can meet at the Northside Café on Gateway Drive at 7AM on Sunday, December 15. Area assignments will be given at that time. Data from feeders is also needed. Visit www.grandcitiesbirdclub.weebly.com/christmas-bird-count for more information.

I. Old Business

A. Bike project update

- i. **Green Lanes review meeting update:** The meeting scheduled for December 4 was cancelled because of bad weather. The meeting is rescheduled for December 12.
- ii. **League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community application:** Stephanie and Kim met with David from the engineering department to discuss a strategy for submitting an application. They decided to complete as much of the statistical data as possible before the end of the year. They will bring in staff from other departments and representatives from the GTUAG to assist with the other pieces of the application. There are a few weak spots in the application that will require considerable work. The biggest gap is in the policy and design categories. Jane, Dave, and Art volunteered to participate in the subgroup.

II. New Business

- A. **Winter recreation:** There are a lot of dirt clumps on the new ski trail under the south pedestrian bridge. The grooming staff did not have time to fix these before the ground froze so they will have to work around them for the season. The new trail provides a more natural setting for skiing and helps with cutting down the wind. The number of skiers using the trails south of Lincoln Drive Park is growing as people discover the trail. Winter biking in the Greenway and on city streets seems to be increasing. Some people are training for the upcoming winter endurance races.
- B. **Supplemental security services:** The Greenway Technical Committee staff heard a proposal from Pro Dog Security to provide additional security on the Greenway. Discussion with GF Police Department confirmed that the overall activity and calls for Greenway are not any higher than other facilities in Grand Forks. Police will work with

the dispatch center to make changes in recording entries pertaining to the Greenway. This should provide more consistency in entry of calls (better for pulling statistics). Police has a regular presence in the parks and other Greenway areas. Committee has decided to table supplemental security services at this time.

There was some discussion for a full-time park enforcement position during the early development of the Greenway but both cities decided to use existing law enforcement staff.

III. Other

- A.** User etiquette: There seems to be a lot of people that still don't know about staying off the groomed cross-county ski trails. Would it help to groom one track for skiers and a smooth track for snowshoes and dogs? The smooth track could run parallel to current trail for people who walk their dogs or want to walk through the woods. Kim will ask the grooming staff to groom a smooth track as a test. Dogs and snowmobiles are not the only things that ruin the track, deer and other wildlife can be just as destructive.
- B.** Ski UND will begin in January.

IV. Next meeting date: 7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at the Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South

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