

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff
10:30AM – Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave S, Park District Conference Room

Meeting Notes

I. Present:

- Bill Palmiscno, Chair
- Catherine Johnson, MN DNR
- Sgt. Doug Wright, GF Police
- Jairo Viafara, MPO
- Corey Birkholz, Options
- Chad Cutshaw, GF Fire
- Reid Huttunen, EGF Parks & Rec
- Mike Pokrzywinski, City of EGF
- Kim Greendahl, City of GF Greenway

II. Old Business

A. River Access Master Plan - Update:

- The River Access Master Plan is available on-line at www.greenwayggf.com.
- The committee would like both City Councils to adopt the river plan. This will give validation to the plan and help when applying for funding to build river access sites.
 - EGF City Council is holding a work session next week on February 28th. Reid will schedule the plan on the agenda.
 - Kim will do the same for Grand Forks.
- The Greenway map needs to be corrected to show correct property ownership in EGF.
 - The Greenway goes beyond the floodwall in the River Heights area.
 - Kim will work on correcting the map and uploading a revised map on the website.
- This document is important to have as it is required to obtain some funding sources.

B. Deer Population in EGF Greenway:

- Deer appear to be mainly in the south end of town, especially by the coulee.
- Deer population is probably worse because of the snowfall we have seen this winter season. The deep snow makes it difficult for feeding.
- Kim has heard a rumor that a resident is feeding the deer via a trough full of corn.
- Staff receives more calls regarding unleashed dogs than deer.
- The number one solution to curb the deer population in town is to stop the feeding of deer by resident. GF has an ordinance banning the feeding of deer. It is uncertain if EGF has a similar ban. The MN DNR has a ban on feeding.
- Some deer are raiding bird feeders when available.

III. New Business

A. **Adopt-a-Trail:**

- History:
 - ▶ Program was started in 2006 (approximately).
 - ▶ Program guidelines need to be updated.
 - ▶ All trail segments have been booked and we have a waiting list.
 - ▶ Groups do not pay a fee to participate. A sign along the trail designates their area and their contribution.
 - ▶ There is no deadline for when participants must leave the program. The committee believes that participants can stay as long as they want to do the work.
- Reid and Kim will check on the status of the groups that are currently in the program. Groups on the waiting list will be given a trail segment if something opens up.
- Add guideline to program that would require a 2-year commitment.
- Check to make sure current participants are cleaning up the Trails.
- Unpaved Trail Pilot Program:
 - ▶ Last year the Off-Trail Bike Group adopted an unpaved trail from Elks Drive to Elmwood access in GF.
- If no trails are available for adoption, a memorial bench could be another option.
 - ▶ Benches would have to be purchased through either city and must match current benches in the Greenway.
 - ▶ The memorial could be etched into the boards on the back of the bench or a small plaque can be glued to the bench.

IV. Greenway, Bicycle & Pedestrian Group Update:

- No updates at this time.

V. Other

A. **Facebook:**

- “Whitaskin Sally” was unfollowed on the Greenway Facebook page. This “follower’s” page has inappropriate posts that include photos of firearms and illegal drugs.
- The Greenway does not have current guidelines set up for blocking a follower.

B. **Spring Flooding:**

- The river is currently at 18.5 ft. now and is expected to rise to 30 ft. by Sunday. This level will only impact the lower part of the Greenway.
- Boathouse may need to be moved if the river gets close to 40 ft.
- Both cities have a list of what is done in the city at certain river levels.

Agency Updates

- A. City of GF/Greenway:** The Greenway will be installing and testing out a solar light near the Public Works Facility. Finding batteries that will last through a ND winter has been a huge issue. HB Sound & Light has indicated that they have a solar battery pack that has been working in the cold climates. Kim will visit with them to talk about costs and feasibility.

The 20th Anniversary of the 1997 flood is this year. No word on what, if anything, the City is planned to do to mark the anniversary.

There has been talk from some residents about building an amphitheater on the wet side of the dike. Many have asked about moving Town Square to the wet side. Any construction would have to be done with little or no impact on the natural habitat in that area. Bill and Kim have been working with the Downtown Parks & Open Spaces Committee to talk about ideas for the Greenway, Town Square and the downtown parks. They will update the group when more information is available.

- B. GF Park District:** The Park District is keeping an eye on the Outdoor Heritage Fund currently in the Legislative Session. It is possible that the funds available may be cut again.
- C. City of EGF:** Ice rinks are now closed. Reid has been attending the Red Lake Corridor (RLC) meetings. Tim Williamson also that meeting. He reviewed the River Access Plan with the RLC group and recommended they use it as an example for gathering input and developing community river plans. Tim also offered his help with the environmental portion of the plan.
- D. GF Police Department:** There are no reports at this time regarding homeless in the Greenway or downtown.
- E. Minnesota DNR:** A new brochure was revised by the DNR to include maps of the campground, picnic spots, etc. The EGF Campground was listed in the top 10 for attendance in the state of Minnesota. (out of 65 parks/campgrounds). Some of the campgrounds on the list are open all year round but EGF is a seasonal campground.
- F. MPO:** Jairo handed out an invite for a free workshop on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The workshop is on February 22nd from 4:00pm – 8:00pm in the GF City Hall Chambers.

Minutes Submitted by: Theresa Flitter, Administrative Specialist

Minutes Approved by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist