

Greenway Technical Committee AGENDA

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 - 10:30 am- Noon
Grand Forks Park District Office, 1210-7th Ave. S. Grand Forks, ND

Roxanne Achman, GF City planning
Dr. Laura Munski, Dakota Science Center
Melanie Parvey, City of GF
Marty Egeland, ND Game & Fish
Sgt Dwight Love, GF Police

Dave Manthei, GF Fire
Tom Reiten
Teri Kouba, MPO
Dave Aker, City of EGF
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Old Business

a. Special project request updates

- i. **Solar lights request:** Kim has been discussing the issue of the batteries freezing in cold weather with the NDSU mechanical engineering program. NDSU has applied for a grant to study the issue but if the funds are awarded, the results are at least a year away. Until then, the GF city electrician has proposed a potential solution that Kim is looking into for feasibility.

Tom raised the concern that adding lighting along the trail would deter from the natural feeling of the Greenway. At this time there is no funding or formal plan for adding solar lighting along the trail but there have been requests from user groups for lighting specific areas of the Greenway. Staff of the GTC decided to look into the option of solar lighting as a possible option for these types of requests. As recreation changes and grows those request will likely increase. The GF Park District noticed increased use as University and Optimist Parks after adding lights.

- ii. **UND Environmental Law group tree planting:** The UND Environmental Law student group received a grant for \$3,700 to plant trees in the GF portion of the Greenway. They have a spring deadline for planting the trees so it may not work out because of flooding but we will continue to work with them to try making the project happen.

- b. **Wildflower garden in Lincoln Drive Park:** The GF Park District has struggled with the maintenance of the garden because of a shortage of staff to do the work. Melissa will be contacting Vince Ames to discuss how to maintain the garden and work toward scheduling staff to work in the garden on a more regular basis.

II. New Business

- a. **Flood preparations 2011:** Flood preparation meetings are happening every week to plan for the coming flood. The expected crest is 50 – 51' by mid-April.

- b. **Changes to ADA compliance statutes:** The Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued new regulations regarding trail accessibility for people with disabilities who choose other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD), like Segways, all terrain vehicles (ATV), and golf carts instead of wheelchairs that will go into effect March 15 of this year. This will not affect any policies for wheelchairs, which are allowed wherever foot traffic is allowed.

This change affects what power-driven devices are allowed on the trails and requires that the agency managing the trail review the situation and develop a policy regarding the use of other power-driven mobility devices on the trail. The Greenway managing agencies and representatives from related agencies and groups will meet soon to discuss the change and review how this affects the Greenway trails. The group will evaluate

segments of the Greenway and determine what, if any, power-driven mobility devices should be excluded from areas.

The criteria that the DOJ has recommended for developing a policy for the use of OPDMD include:

- Type, size, weight, dimension and speed of the device
- Volume of pedestrian traffic
- Legitimate safety requirements and concerns
- Substantial or serious risks to the immediate environment
- Noise levels

- c. **Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group update:** The group will be discussing new bike racks in the community, flood preparation and the new ADA ruling and how it will affect trail use.

III. Greenway Agency Updates

- a. **City of EGF:** Playground equipment will be installed in the southern edge of the campground this spring. The City has been working to establish this area as a gathering area for campers with some picnic tables and a kiosk. The tentative date for opening the campground is May 6 but the electrical supply and benches need to be installed before than so the date may be delayed because of the high water.
- b. **City of GF:**
- i. **Boat ramp:** The City has worked out an agreement with the ND Game & Fish Department to exchange the current 5' wide dock for a 4' wide dock. The hope is that the narrower dock will provide some better options for installation and maneuverability. The dock will be installed at the north boat ramp because of the riverbank issues at the Lincoln Drive Park boat ramp that require a better system for anchoring the dock to the shore.
 - ii. **Website updating:** The website will be getting a new look soon. Watch for details.
- c. **GF Park District:** Staff has been prepping the facilities located on the wet side of the levee. The pool at Riverside Park has been stripped and work will begin on stripping the warming house in the park soon. Equipment at the Lincoln Golf Course will be moved to higher ground.
- d. **MN DNR: No report**
- e. **Dakota Science Center:** The Learning Fair is scheduled for April 14 & 15. Work on the waypoint project has slowed down because the student has not been working on the narrative piece of the project. Laura and Kim will follow up with this piece.
- f. **MPO:** The 2011 bikeway maps will be available soon.

IV. Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 – 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South

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