

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) meeting
9 AM - Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND

Meeting Notes

Reid Huttunen, Chair

George Hellyer, GF Park District

Catherine Johnson, MN DNR

Stephanie Halford, GF Planning

Larry Hagen, Turtle River State Park

Chief Jeff Boushee, EGF Fire

Guest: Blue Weber, Downtown Development Association (DDA)

I. Old Business

- A. Unpaved bike trail maps:** No work has been done on this item because of snow cover. Reid and Kim will continue to pursue this item.
- B. Winter recreation and maintenance:** Ski grooming is done for the season. Staff tried to groom yesterday but could only pack a track because there was not enough snow. The majority of the online comments have been favorable, with only one or two that wanted a change in the route. Blue thought the ski trails were great this year.

II. New Business

- A. UND wood duck project update:** The UND Nature Society has again asked for permission to install wood duck boxes in the Greenway. Catherine and Kim are working with the group's advisor and the requestor to establish a sustainable program. Previous attempts have fallen flat because of student turnover. We have requested that the group document the location of the current houses on a map for our records. They also need to develop a sustainable maintenance plan for approval. All boxes would also have to be labeled so staff can tell the difference between approved boxes and anything installed by the public. The committee has no interest in adding more boxes because we do not have staff to maintain them. If the UND Nature Society can't maintain them, they will be removed.
- B. Request for skating on river:** Blue is interested in pursuing a skating trail or rink on the Red Lake River. The idea would be to do something small as a pilot project before opening to the public. He was thinking of something like using a 4-wheeler to open small trail for a pilot to see if this is something that they want to keep doing.

This request would need to be routed through the River Advisory Group for approval. Kim will work with Blue to advance the idea through the proper channels.

- C. 25-year anniversary of Flood of 1997:** Kim is working on a webpage to commemorate the anniversary. It will focus on the before and after photos to demonstrate what river access was like prior to 1997. Our audience is changing and a lot of people don't realize the history of the Greenway and its purpose.

III. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway, Advisory Group update:

- A. Madison Eklund is planning a kayaking trip from the Twin Cities to Canada this spring and will be passing through GGF in June. She would like to coordinate a river project and is working with the Downtown Development Association to host some type of event.

IV. Other

- A. **Spring flood preparation:** Crews on both sides of the river are pulling out signs and other benches in areas of potential debris paths.
- B. **Disc and foot golf equipment:** Mid-skill level baskets were not available, so Kim ordered the pro baskets instead. A set of baskets will be moved from Lincoln Drive Park to Riverside and the pro baskets will be installed in Lincoln. The goal is to open the course in mid-June, weather permitting.
- C. **EGF trail patrol:** The EGF police department is getting a utv to help with patrolling the greenway.

V. Agency updates:

- A. **City of EGF:** All skate rinks and warming houses are closed for the season. The deer population is high this year. The deep snow and extended cold probably pushed them into the city for protection and food in neighborhoods. There has been no word about the second funding application for LaFave Park.
- B. **GF Park District:** Rinks have closed for the season. The check for purchasing skis, skates, and sleds for Riverside Park has been received from the Community Foundation. Rivers and staff will purchase equipment for next season. Riverside Pool will be painted before opening for the summer. There is still a shortage of lifeguards, which will affect pool hours.
- C. **City of GF:** A Request for Qualifications is being written to find a consultant to direct work for redesigning the floodwall entrance feature on DeMers Avenue. It has been 25 years since the structure was built and it is showing its wear. The project focusing on aesthetics and will not be changing the floodwall structure itself.
- D. **Minnesota DNR:** The MN DNR rules now require that all volunteers be vaccinated. Catherine is opening to offer archery lessons again this season after two years of no public programming because of the pandemic. The Dakota Science Center is planning to plant a pollinator garden in the campground this summer.
- E. **Other agencies**
 - i. **EGF fire:** GF and EGF are working to coordinate the weather sirens. Jeff is also working with the MN DNR to sync the sirens and weather warnings with the local system to make sure that campers have adequate time to seek shelter during a storm.
 - ii. **Turtle River State Park:** Larry is still looking for summer help. Currently have about half of the openings filled. The warming house will be closing next week, and grooming will stop after this week.

- VI. **Next meeting date:** Greenway Technical Committee 9 AM Tuesday, April 19, Icon Sport Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club meeting room.

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

Support documents: None