

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC)
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - 10:30 am- Noon
Grand Forks Park District Office, 1210-7th Ave. S. Grand Forks, ND

Catherine Johnson, RRSRA
Dave Aker, EGF Parks & Rec
Marty Egeland, ND Game & Fish
Sgt Dwight Love, GF Police
Tom Reiten, Concerned Citizen

Roxanne Achman, City of GF Planning
Bill Palmiscno, GF Park District
Melanie Parvey, City of GF
Kim Greendahl, City of GF
Lonnie Winrich, Chairman
Molly Soeby, GF Park District

I. Old Business

a. Project request update

- i. Disc golf course at Riverside Park:** The area designated for the course was mowed this week. This was done to remove weeds, tall grass, woody flood debris, and a few stumps, in preparation for the course. No live trees were removed from the site. The removal of the burdock will also help with the cross country skiing routes through this area.

Two local bird watchers contacted Kim to ask why it was necessary to mow that area. One bird watcher was concerned that migratory and environmental impact studies were not done before the mowing. The environmental impact study was not done because the site was being restored to pre-flood conditions. The migratory bird act is for the protection of sales and export of migratory birds. Kim will meet with Dave Lambeth, representative for the local birding group, and discuss how bird habitat can fit into the continuing development of the Greenway. We have done this with other user groups and need to connect with the birding group.

b. Supplement to the Greenway Plan

- **Status of plan:** The final plan is ready for distribution. Kim will get copies to the staff for their records. It will be available on the Greenway website soon.

II. New Business

- a. Bike Rental Survey:** The survey results were shared with the committee. Having bike rentals in or near the Greenway have been discussed for many years but no one has followed up on the idea. The Ski & Bike Shop offers bike rentals but they are not located along the trail or Greenway. UND Wellness Center contacted Kim about a year and a half ago and expressed interest in bike rental racks on campus. The GGF Convention and Visitors Bureau is also interested in having bike rental racks around the community. The group decided to conduct an online public survey to measure interest in this type of service. The survey generated three hundred and fourteen responses from the community. The majority (63%) of the comments were either positive or were interested in how the program could work.

UND tried a green bike program on campus a few year ago but the project was not successful. The users had no financial ties to the bike so there were problems with damaged or lost bikes. The project was eventually abandoned. A bike rental rack program makes users financially responsible for damages or loss of a bike. The racks work similar to renting a stroller at the shopping mall; a person swipes their credit or prepaid membership card and removes the bike from the rack. The bike can be returned to the same rack or left at another rack. A software chip in the bike tracks when the bike is put into use and returned to the rack.

Kim will be contacting private businesses about their interest in providing bike rentals along the Greenway. This could be a staffed facility or a rental rack system. The City could be involved in the project by pursuing outside funding to purchase the racks. Most private enterprises are not eligible for the federal funds available through transportation grants. The program would be administered through a private company. The Dial-a-Ride program is an example of a federally funded program that is administered by a private vendor. The city would also be involved through the placement of the racks on city owned property. There are sponsorship opportunities through the Livability Grant, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or other transportation or health related industries.

- b. **Weeds:** Weed control in the south end of the Grand Forks side of the Greenway will be done through spraying instead of mowing. This will help the small trees at the bottom of the hill that are beginning to establish in the area between the Sunbeam trail head and 47th avenue south. J&G Landscaping will use their best judgment in dealing with weedy growth in this area.

III. **Greenway & Trails Users Advisory Group meeting:** The group will be discussing the logistics of conducting a trail user visual survey.

IV. **Greenway Agency Updates:**

- a. **Dakota Science Center:** Sacred Heart School is trying to establish an Environmental Science Group. They hope to work on things like the removal of invasive species.
- b. **City of Grand Forks Greenway:** City and Park District staff are working on maintenance issues with the boilers for the Riverside Pool. They hope to have this resolved soon so the pool can open on June 6. Steven Halvorson was hired to be a groundskeeper for the Greenway for the summer. He is scheduled to begin this week/ Any suggestions for groundskeeping projects should be routed through Kim or Melanie. Community Service Workers have been helping with weeding and cleanup projects in the Greenway. This has been a big help in preparing for the summer season.
- c. **City of Grand Forks Planning:** No report.
- d. **City of EGF:** Start Walking through the American Heart Association will be highlighting designated routes throughout the community, including the Greenway. They are hosting a kickoff event on June 14 at the Crestwood Trailhead, in partnership with the Red River Runners Club.
- e. **GF Park District:** The District has purchased a used concession trailer from Coca Cola. The trailer is available for use by partner agencies.
- f. **MN DNR:** Get Outdoors Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 9. This is an open house for the campground and other MN state parks. There will be ice cream available for purchase and organized games from 1 – 4 PM. Watch for more information coming soon. The Grand Forks Park District has additional games to share for the event.
- g. **ND Game & Fish: No report.**

V. **Other:**

- a. **Road vs trails for races:** The increase in events like the half marathon requires a lot of traffic control. Providing that service has become a staffing problem for the police department. Discussion about requiring that all races be held on the Greenway. This hasn't been a requirement for races yet and it is unclear if that would solve the staffing problem. There was some debate on whether or not these types of events add value to the community or were more of a disruption for other greenway users.

Some of the races are getting too large for the trail system to hold. The events need to have plenty of space for staging the runners. There are very few places along the Greenway to accommodate that need. The Greenway trails are reserved for races and events when a special event form is filled out but they are not closed to other users.

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- b. Laura Munski was highlighted in the Grand Forks Herald for her work in the science field.
- c. There will be a 3-D Lidar scanning demonstration by UND Geology Dept. tomorrow by the obelisk from 11 AM – 1 PM.
- d. The 2012 Arbor Day celebration will be at 10 AM on Thursday May 10 at Riverside Dam. Fifth graders from Wilder Elementary will be planting trees at the dam.

VI. Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 – 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South

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

Supplemental materials: Survey results with comments – bike rentals