

Greenway Technical Committee (GTC) Staff meeting
10 AM – Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Icon Sports Center, 1060 47th Ave South, Blue Line Club Meeting room
Grand Forks, ND
Meeting Notes

Reid Huttunen, Committee Chair
Catherine Johnson, MN DNR
Steve Hell, GF Park District
Sgt. Kris Brown, GF Police Department

George Hellyer, GF Park District
Deputy Chief Chad Cutshaw, GF Fire
Kim Greendahl, City of GF
Lori Martinez, City of GF

I. Old Business

A. Desiree Drive Fishing Area Project Update:

1. The consultant will generate a drawing that will be presented to the neighborhood.
2. Kim stated that there needs to be a paved trail through the area for emergency vehicles.
3. The plan includes adding a parking lot at the pump station on the dry side of the levee for access.
4. Kim is the facilitator for this project; Todd Feland and Councilman Kvamme are the leads on the project.
5. Garbage cans will need to be locked down to prevent theft. Having a paved trail will provide easy access for Sanitation staff to empty the cans.
6. George asked how long the proposed trail would be; Kim will do the research and follow-up with the committee.

II. New Business

A. Updating the Greenway Vision Statement:

1. The discussion of the vision statement started in early 2022 but was tabled because of the snowmobile discussion.
2. Dana Sande has voiced that he prefers a shorter vision statement.
3. George likes the shorter statement with cleaner verbiage. Do we need to include a Community Asset under the Key elements and words?
4. Steve suggested taking out the backslashes and putting in an “and”.
5. George suggested “Greenway of Greater Grand Forks/East Grand Forks is a community asset that protects...” Is this vision statement appropriate for this statement?
6. Reid raised the question of how is the vision statement used.
7. Kim stated that a vision statement is what guides staff in the decision making process.
8. Catherine suggested the Greenway of Greater Grand Forks/East Grand Forks.
9. Reid stated the logo is Grand Forks/East Grand Forks so the vision statement should reflect that title. The committee agreed.

10. Kim will prepare both vision statements, with and without the East Grand Forks, and forward it to the Committee for review.
11. Todd's office has a better idea when to finalize the Vision Statement and present it to the public. Kim will contact Todd for guidance on how to proceed with rolling out the statement.

IV. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenway – Advisory Group

A. No Meeting in July:

1. Kim is hoping to have the Bicycle Friendly Community Application report card by the next meeting. This will help the group and staff understand what would be needed to move up to Silver status.
2. The Wayfinding sign project will be included in the agenda when the Committee resumes in August.

V. Other:

A. Wayfinding signs

1. The public has been requesting wayfinding signs for years. Looking for consultants to design and the group to make the final decision.
2. Jill Nelson with the GFPD is on board for the sign plan design. Is a consultant necessary when Jill and the Park District are on board?
3. The committee agrees that a consultant isn't necessary for this project. Kim is willing to work on this project over the summer.
4. Kim is also working on getting Memorandums of Understanding for shared-use paths located on property that isn't owned by the City. She has not been able to find some of the MOUs and some of the older ones have hand drawn maps that are not very clear.

B. Dam signs on bridges

1. Kim is working with the MN DOT to install a permanent "Dam Ahead" sign for all four bridges. This would be helpful for warning river users during all four seasons.
2. Kim is also looking into information on buoys to order and will forward that information to the Committee.

VI. Agency Updates:

A. City of EGF

1. The City rejected the bids for the LaFave Park project. The City received \$1.2 million in funding and the consultants estimates came in at \$1.3 million. Reid had heard that all project bids are coming in higher than budget. There is \$16 million allotted to grant program this year, which will present an opportunity to request additional funding.
2. The parking lot at the Crestwood Trail will be updated next week. This will not impact trail use.

B. GF Park District:

1. George indicated that he saw where scooters are being staged all over the parks and around the city. There is no ordinance that specifically states where the scooters can be placed.

2. Kim stated that if you pay for a bike and try to move it that the bike will beep until you pay. Is this something to look into for the scooters?
3. The group would like a local point of contact for the company. Kim will send that to George and Steve.
4. Riverside pool opened on June 12th. Is there a plan for repairs to the pool? Kim will discuss with Todd and Melanie.
5. They are removing 6 of the 9 horseshoe pits in Lincoln Drive Park and replacing them with 3 horseshoe pits and other games. Steve is looking into starting a league or tournament by the first part of August. Additional games will be foosball, ping pong, a table for Checkers/backgammon, and cornhole game with bags provided to the public.
6. Kim asked if there could be lockers provided, preferably something with a code to open/close for the public. George will have Janelle/Steve do some research on the lockers.
7. It was Springfling for GF Park District staff last week and George commended the Police Department on their drug presentation.

C. City of GF: No report.

D. Greenway:

1. There is a disc and foot golf course at Riverside Park. The signs will be ready next week.
2. A new map will be placed on a board near the parking lot. There will also be instructions on how to play foot golf.
3. There is a 7-week wait for the permanent map and instruction signs and holder after a final design has been approved. Steve will assist with installing signage until the permanent is completed.
4. The tee signs should be here in early July.

E. Minnesota DNR:

1. This has been the second busiest season so far for the campground.
2. There is a problem with speeders through the campground.
3. If the office is closed people are unable to obtain firewood and not everyone is comfortable with the app. That has been a problem for some campers.
4. There was someone trespassing at the campground but he has been served with a citation to stay away.
5. A request for an Eagle Scout project has been made and Catherine will work on that request.

F. MPO: No report

G. Police Department:

1. The Police Department is working on the e-mails regarding homeless camps throughout the City.
2. There is a new intern that will be working on the Greenway.

H. Fire Department:

1. Swift water training was recently done with 10 Grand Forks and 2 East Grand Forks firefighters participating.
2. Currently there are 3 pilots on the drone team with the Police Department and Grand Forks County Sheriff's Department.

Support materials: Original vision statement from 2001 & DRAFT vision statement update
Draft meeting materials – Desiree Drive upgrades

Minutes Submitted by: Lori Martinez, Senior Administrative Specialist

Minutes Approved by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

Greenway Vision Statement overview

Vision statement 2001:

The Red and Red Lake Rivers Greenway will protect residents of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks from flooding, provide opportunities for economic growth, improve and restore ecological stability of the river corridor, link residents and tourists to four seasons of recreation and transportation facilities, provide linkage between the cities, preserve and promote the history and culture of the region through education, and improve the quality of life for future generations.

•Written by workshop participants (residents of Grand Forks, ND and East Grand Forks, MN) and prepared by Greenways, Inc. and the US Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Greenway Plan of September 2001.

Draft revised statement 2022:

The Greenway of Greater Grand Forks protects residents from flooding while promoting/preserving the ecological stability of the river corridor, year-round recreation, and an **active lifestyle**. It connects/unites the two cities and celebrates/honors our river history.

Key elements and words

Flood protection

Restore ecological stability. Has this been accomplished?

Year-round recreation. Indoor or outdoor?

Provide

Is economic growth still a driver? How is that defined? How does it impact the system?
“Good” growth vs “Bad” growth.

Preserve and promote history and culture of region.

Quality of life is a given

Active voice



