

Greenway & Trail Users Advisory Group (G&TUAU)
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 – 7:00 PM
GF Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND

MEETING NOTES

David Kuharenko, GF engineering
Art Young
Dan Splichal
Dick O'Connor
Nikki Seabloom

Stephanie Erickson, MPO
Dave Sears
Jane Croeker
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

I. Old Business

- A. Greenway brochure:** The brochures are at the printer and expected to be delivered by September 16.
- B. Boathouse & river access update:** Kim is working with the staff of Ground Up Adventures to provide better access to the river. The current access point is not suitable for average person. City staff is working with an engineering firm to design a better site just north of the boathouse location. This site would be easier for people to access safely. It could also be developed into a public space for gatherings and river viewings. The location is approximately 100 yards from the boathouse.
- Some wondered if this distance was too inconvenient for carrying canoes and kayaks. The access may be difficult for first time users but having canoe and kayak carts available at the boathouse would alleviate that burden. Seasoned users should be accustomed to portages on their journey. This access will also make the river more accessible to people with physical challenges. The riverbank near the boathouse is too steep for getting up and down the bank with a canoe or kayak. The riverbank is also steep at the edge of the water, which presents many problems with embarking and disembarking a dock. The new site will also be more accessible for river rescue crews.
- C. Bicycle Friendly Community application:** Notification should be coming sometime in October.

II. New Business

- A. 2016 Transportation Alternatives Plan (TAP):** The GF City engineering department is looking for suggestions for possible trail construction projects. The ND Department of Transportation will be taking applications Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grants for 2016 construction later this year. The former Transportation Enhancement (TE) and the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs have been consolidated into the TAP program. Last year the City of GF submitted applications for school beacons and speed-minder radar signs. These applications did not rank high enough to receive funding. The target cost range for proposed projects is anything between \$150,000 and 300,000. The cost of the recent trail extension project on South 42nd Street was \$330,000. Suggestions should be forwarded to David within the next few weeks so applications can be routed through the proper channels.

Columbia Road will be rebuilt in 2015. There are no sidewalks and narrow shoulders along that road. This makes it difficult for cyclist. The location of Development Homes in that area was a plus in getting funding for a trail along the road. These costs will be

included in the road construction budget. Projects that benefit transportation and disadvantaged populations usually fare well in the application process.

There is a demand for a connection along DeMers Avenue from 42nd to the Industrial Park. Staff is working to secure a right-of-way easement on the north side of DeMers. The north side is favorable over the south side because it avoids having to cross the interstate on and off ramps. The south side of Gateway is being replatted at the corner of DeMers and South 42nd Street (Dusterhoff Service Station). This is an opportunity to obtain easement along that property.

Motion to support the shared-use path at DeMers Avenue from South 42nd Street to the Industrial Park. Support is based on providing a safe connection to the Industrial Park and beyond.

- B. GF bike path maintenance projects:** David is working on developing a maintenance plan for the bike path system. Anyone who notices a maintenance concern can submit the details directly to David or use the online and mobile 311 application.
 - i. There is a pothole in the bike trail between Simonsons Gas Station and Wilder School.
 - ii. There is a pothole in the trail near the disc golf entrance in EGF.
- C. Possible changes to the Planned Bikeway System for EGF portion:** The quotes for a bicycle lane on Bygland Road were higher than expected. Another application may be submitted for additional TAP dollars to cover this funding gap. Engineering and right-of-way costs are not covered through TAP funds. This would be a project for 2016.

The rehabilitation project for the Kennedy Bridge will not include a trail connection to Greenway. The City of EGF may apply for TAP dollars to provide a connection. This would be a possible project for 2017 or 2018. Another possibility is to continue the trail system along the Red Lake River.

- D. New meeting site & committee structuring:** Kim has been discussing the role of the G&TUSAG with city administration and members of City Council. The goal is to ensure that this group is included in the decision making process for the bikeway system. The process used for determining the installation of sharrows on University Avenue and a bicycle lane on 47th Avenue South demonstrated that the group is not viewed for its advisory status.

The first step for recognition from City Council and others would be to appoint a member of Council to the group. If that requirement is not already in place in the original plan approved by Council in 2008, a request could be submitted to Council to enact that requirement.

Moving the meetings to GF City Hall would also give the group more recognition. The timing is good for this because the meeting room at the GF Park District will no longer be available after December 1. Moving the location to GF City Hall might give the appearance that the group is only for residents of GF.

III. Greenway Updates

- A. Pump bike track:** A possible site has been located on private property. This track may not be open to the public but would provide an opportunity to gauge volunteer interest and commitment. A request to the GF Park District is still a possibility.

IV. Other

- A. Uff Da mud run concern:** Raised a concern that the rescue staff at this event did not have personal flotation devices on while in the water. Kim is working with police, fire, sheriff, and other emergency responders to address proper water safety procedures for public events held on the river.
 - B. Bicycle & Traffic counts:** The MPO will be conducting traffic counts along University Avenue later this month. The focus is recording vehicle traffic patterns but bicycle use will also be tracked. The bicycle data will be compared to the count done this spring to determine if the sharrows increased bicycle use. If anyone has a comment on the sharrows, they can share them with David. He will include this in an upcoming report on the sharrows.
- V. Next meeting date: 7PM, Tuesday, October 14, 2014, GF Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South**

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