

**Greenway Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
Grand Forks Park District Conference Room
10:30 AM Tuesday, April 13, 2004**

Participants:

Steve Mullally, GF Park District	Lane Magnuson, MPO
Keith Schroeder, GF Police Department	Helen Cozzetto, MN DNR
Lonny Winrich	Corey Birkholtz, Options
Foster Hudson, MN DNR	Traie Dockter, DLG
Melanie Parvey Biby, City of GF	Kim Greendahl, City of GF
Marty Egeland, ND Game and Fish Dept	

Guests: Trish Clayburgh and Gretchen Schatz

OLD BUSINESS (Information to be distributed prior to meeting)

Approval of meeting minutes: Correction to Friends of the Greenway report as follows: Helen Cozzetto is Secretary, Jo Martin is Treasurer.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Steve gave a brief history of the clubhouse and its post flood remodel. Built in 1963, the clubhouse originally featured 4 pods. Two of those pods were torn down because of soil slippage. The basement is made to withstand flooding and is available to other groups for use during the golf off-season, trail will route on the perimeter of the course. The GF Park District is planning to open the course in June with seven holes with two additional holes later in the summer. The MPO Tech Advisory Committee will review the plan this fall.

- I. Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Bikeway Network: The plan will be ready by 2004. The Metropolitan Planning Office (MPO) Bikeway Network Plan was presented. This plan is updated every five years. MPO does the planning for Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. How does the Greenway fit in? The MPO would like to utilize the Greenway Technical Committee as a steering committee for the draft development because the overall bikeway network includes the greenway. The next step in adopting this plan is to host a public open house, a daylong workshop from FHA, and draft the plan, possibly by June.

Seven basic goals are outlined in the plan and the MPO is looking for suggestions and comments. The committee comments were:

- Better explanation of the types of terms in the legend: route, path, lane
- Define usable path of bicycles in business district prohibited from using sidewalk in residential encouraged to use sidewalks.
- Goal #3 last statement does not address that all bike and pedestrian facilities meet ADA requirements at it only addresses curb cuts. All bike facilities should meet ADA standards.

Discussion about appeal of state law regarding using the path, not roadway. Why allow more skilled on bike paths? Why allow bikes on the road? (preferred) The group did not want this option pursued. Lane stated that this may be a federal issue based on new course. Does this meet the objective of preventing auto/bike crashes? Lane will research and bring back to the group; may need to identify the different types of paths.

Sgt Schroeder doesn't think there is anything on the books that force bicycles off the roads. Sgt Schroeder will look into this on the local level. Lonnie will call North Dakota Department of Transportation on agreements regarding federal funds.

The MN DNR Trails and Waterway Committee would need to review this plan.

II. Non-paved Trail Plan: The plan has been in development for some time. Trails are divided into snowmobile, cross country, and non-paved. The intent was to offer another opportunity to get people closer to the river, meet birders needs, and accommodate the needs of a variety of trail users. There is no funding for these trails at this time. Location of trails may intersect with paved trails, because the plan was developed in 2000, before the Greenway was so developed.

The MN DNR Area Team will review this plan and how it ties into their fishing access points at their June meeting.

What if some fishing accesses are ADA accessible? If you are developing an amenity at the end of a non-paved trail it needs to be ADA accessible. If it's set up for pedestrian with gravel or grass, it is not ADA accessible.

Other unpaved trails comments:

- Are snowmobile and non-paved trails the same? Not necessarily.
- Does the group want/favor a contiguous trail throughout the Greenway?
- Another option is the dirt roads that were built in Grand Forks Greenway for contractors during construction. Those could be converted to a non paved trail.

A. Equestrian Trails in Greenway: Trish and Gretchen introduced an idea to include equestrian trails in the plan. These trails are used exclusively for equestrians to keep them separate from walkers and bikers. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does have some equestrian trails in their parks, when practical. The equestrian campsites are under used in MN DNR and are expensive. The demand for the trail needs to warrant the extra expense. How do we determine the public's interest?

Other questions:

- Where do you keep the horse when you want to shop downtown?
- Could the snowmobile trail be used for horses since it is already signed for users?
- Can you ride in Grand Forks city limits? Yes, if you follow the rules of the road. Trish was told she needed a permit. Sgt. Schroeder will check on this.
- How do the pedestrian bridges fit in?
- Signage is important as to who should use it.
- Bottlenecks issues in narrow areas of the Greenway should be addressed.
- Does this open up opportunities for ATV users that would also like to use the Greenway?

It is late in the MN DNR planning process for this request. Would this fit better into the Red Lake River corridor project?

Signage would be an important component to low maintenance. Consider equestrian trails while developing non-paved trail plan; horse patrol is one of the most expensive forms of patrol.

How to proceed with equestrian trail request: meet as a group first, try for a story in the Grand Forks Herald. Trisha will contact equestrian groups to try organize a request.

- II. Grand Forks Restoration Plan: The City of Grand Forks is developing a plan for six areas in 2004.
- III. Birding Guide/List for Greenway: The committee is half way through the checklist and is developing a list focusing on the Greenway.
- IV. Greenway Dedication Ceremonies: MN DNR is designing the programs, invitations and posters. If anyone has someone they feel should be invited, please forward the names to Diane Blair at the East Grand Forks Chamber.
- V. Adopt a trail program: Working to develop, awaiting input from MN DNR. Some of the volunteer requirements are different for workers in Minnesota. They would like to merge with the Grand Forks program for streamlining.
- VI. Pedestrian Bridge Update: The Corps is finalizing the plans. Current plan is to bid in May with a two year construction plan. Bridges will be built concurrently but the trails won't connect for awhile.
- VII. Friends of the Greenway: Helen reported that the Friends will be participating in the Celebrating Non-Profits event April 17 in the Grand Cities Mall. The Greenway Expo held March 25 was a success that allowed for communication among groups; wished more public had attended.

Other:

- Upcoming Events:
- Celebrate Non-profits booth April 17

- Grand Cities Art Fest June 12 – 13
- Restoration on the Xcel Energy site May 1.

Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting date: June 15, 2004 10:30 am Grand Forks Park District **NOTE CHANGE IN DATE**

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- **Technical Subcommittee Managing Agencies Meeting- May 11, 2004 10:30 am Grand Forks Park District Office**
- **Friends of the Greenway Meeting- June 2, 2004, location and time TBA**

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