

**Greenway Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
Grand Forks Park District Conference Room
10:30 AM Tuesday, May 13, 2003**

Steve Mullally
John Winter
Corey Birkholz
Ann Sande

Melanie Parvey-Biby
Dale Skyberg
Randy Sorenson
Sgt. Keith Schroeder

Kim Greendahl
Laura Driscoll
Marty Egeland

Dog Parks: Laura Driscoll, representing the citizens group "Roaming Paws", gave a presentation on a proposed dog park. She presented many benefits and facts regarding hosting a community dog park, including:

- Dog parks promote dog exercise, owner responsibility, public health and safety, and socializing for owner and dog.
- Enables elderly and disabled to find legal/adequate opportunities to exercise their dogs.
- A strong friends group is essential to the ongoing support of the project.
- Usually the areas are fenced otherwise they have natural boundaries.
- Most parks are two acres in size.
- There are over 600 dog parks throughout the United States. Fargo has one.
- There are no records of any case of municipal lawsuits involving the parks.
- Some parks limit the number of dogs to be in there at one time to address noise issues.
- Main concern most people have is who will be picking up "mess" from dogs. The owners are very good at doing this.

Funding is an important issue. Extensive fund raising will need to be done because of all the cuts in the East Grand Forks city budget.

Location: At this time the proposed site is located in East Grand Forks, north of the Kennedy Bridge underpass. There are many benefits to this site, including: no bike paths run through it, not too close to residential areas, located close to the campground, and highly visible. The relatively small size may limit the uses.

The next public meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2003 at 5:15 pm in the Grand Forks Park District conference room.

Discussion:

Can chain link fence be located in the Greenway? Proper elevation would be key, as a higher elevation would help alleviate some concerns. The location proposed is good, as it is higher in elevation and further from the riverbank. Grand Forks is looking at all options in city for a location, not just the Greenway.

Are there any dog parks located in Minnesota state parks? No. A dog park does not fit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) mission. MN state parks focus on a different type of recreational park. East Grand Forks would have to take over responsibility for the park, as it is difficult to change the laws governing the MN DNR. The MN DNR would work with the city of East Grand Forks to work out the land transfers

needed to keep the property with the city of East Grand Forks. Not all the lands have been transferred yet to the proper entities in East Grand Forks.

Does the grass turn to dirt/mud? Plenty of ground cover would be at the entrance to try preventing this.

How high is a fence around the park? Usually 6 feet to accommodate for snow build up in the winter.

Parking: There is some parking located near the site.

Logo & Name: A review was given of the progress to date on this issue. A letter from the Friends of the Greenway letter regarding the trade marking of the logo was distributed. DNR would like more info on the licensing agreement, as they would like to use it on permits and in the stores without restrictions. They are requesting a Memorandum of Agreement or Joint Powers of Agreement with the Friends of the Greenway (FOGW) for the clear understanding of the use of the logo. Once this is done, it will have to be run through the Grand Forks City Council for council approval for use in Grand Forks.

The more the logo and name is used, the more benefit it is for the overall project. Consider a user agreement with clarification on how the state and city can use the logo. FOGW would like to copyright the logo to prevent other entities like Walmart, etc. to use the logo for profit.

In accordance with MN DNR policy, the FOGW will not be allowed to sell merchandise in any MN DNR store, nor do they pay royalties to other groups. Revenues from sales at DNR managed stores go to the DNR. Independent vendors do sell other services (concessions, etc.) but not merchandise.

Discussion:

Can licensing fees for the FOGW be added to the printing costs and worked into the final costs? No.

Right now the MN DNR and city of Grand Forks needs a logo to incorporate in maps and interpretative pieces in the Greenway. Once the investment in promotions and signage is made, no one wants to have to re-do. The trademark is the issue for MN DNR. If they use it, they do not want a hassle.

Representative of the Friends of the Greenway, City of East Grand Forks, MN DNR, and City of Grand Forks will meet Thursday, May 15 to develop the language of a Joint Powers of Agreement.

User Rules and Regulations: A meeting is set for May 20th at 10:30 AM in the Grand Forks Park District conference room regarding User Rules and Regulations. NOTE: The meeting date was changed to May 28.

New Park Hours: The MN DNR has changed their park hours to 9 AM – 9PM, 7 days a week. The city of East Grand Forks Park System hours are 7 AM – 9 PM and the Grand Forks Park District hours are 6 AM to 11 PM.

Special Events: The MN DNR requires 90 days for special events permits.

Will information for special events include ADA requirements? This information may be included in anything that is developed by the city of Grand Forks.

Interpretive plan: Distributed copies of the plan. . An example of the Lincoln Drive Park plaque was displayed.

Discussion:

Will the contrast of the colors be adequate for visually impaired people? Kim will visit with Bryce regarding this concern.

Is there a plan to provide alternatives to the signs for the visually impaired? There is nothing in the USACE plan, but things could be added by groups who wish to work for this type of project.

Consider adding additional items to kiosks in the future for visually impaired such as radio tuning to information or head set available at the site.

Grand Clean Up: Flyers were distributed regarding the event. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from 9 AM to noon. Event sponsors Clear Channel, WDAZ, and Midcontinent Communications have placed advertising on their stations. Areas for clean up will be south of Kennedy Bridge, Riverside Dam, both sides of DeMers in Grand Forks, and along the river in EGF.

National Trails Day: This is scheduled for Saturday, June 7. Because there are not many completed trails on the Grand Forks side, this will be focusing on an educational campaign. Kim has been working with the Ski & Bike Shop to revise and print the bike path map. That map will be distributed through several outlets in the communities.

Boat Ramp Update: There are not many options for the north end in Grand Forks. Melanie is still working with the MN DNR on what the plans are for East Grand Forks development. The working committee is meeting again at 5:30 PM May 15 in Room A101 of Grand Forks City Hall.

Ceremonies and Dedications: Kim will be working with other interested agencies to develop a plan for the upcoming dedications of completed projects in the Greenway. A meeting is set for May 22 at 10:00 AM in room A102 of Grand Forks City Hall.

Next meeting August 12 10:30 AM at the Grand Forks Park District.

Notes respectfully submitted by Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist

Attachments: "Roaming Paws" dog park presentation
Letter from Friends of the Greenway on trade marking of logo
Greenway Interpretive Signage Plan
Grand Clean Up flyer