

**Greenway Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
Grand Forks Park District Conference Room
10:30 AM Wednesday, August 11, 2004**

Participants:

Steve Mullally, GF Park District
John Winter, MN DNR
Keith Schroeder, GF Police Dept.
Earl Haugen, MPO
Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of GF
Helen Cozzetto, MN DNR

Ann Sande, Friends of the Greenway
Marty Egeland, ND Game & Fish
Gladwin Lynne, MN DNR
Lane Magnuson, MPO
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

Old Business

- I. Introductions were done.
- II. Approval of June 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes: Approved as submitted.
- III. **Trailblazing Study:** Earl, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Director, explained the history of the trailblazing study conducted by the MPO. The request for signage on Interstate 29 by the Greenway Technical Committee has been made, but no official decision has been received. This is separate request than the trailblazing study plan. The trailblazing plan for the signs inside the urban area has not been installed due to a lack of funds. The plan calls for six signs in Grand Forks and three in East Grand Forks. A funding request to the Knight Foundation to implement a plan to install banners in the downtown area did not receive funding. The trailblazing study has been approved by both City Councils and on a technical level at the Department of Transportation for both states. Cost for the inner city signs can be borne by current departments, as directed by councils or funds may come from other sources.

Questions:

- Has EGF requested the signs with MN DOT? Unknown.
- Who is the contact the MN DNR should be working with on the inner city signs? John Thompson of the Street Department.
- Would Earl also be the contact? He can advise.
- Logo directs visitors to downtown, why not Greenway? Downtown signage would then lead visitors to Greenway, Town Square, campground
- What is the process to get a greenway sign plan on the MPO work plan? A request must be forwarded by the city councils.
- The standard signs with no logo can be done by each city.

Funding for this project may also be available through enhancement dollars. Each city applies for the funds separately.

It was suggested that the rental of billboards be considered as an alternative to the interstate sign. Sponsors could be sought to help pay for that project. The Cabela sign is paid for by the City of East Grand Forks, would they be willing to include information about the campground? Alerus Center message board may be another advertising opportunity.

It is intent of the Greenway Technical Committee to work with the MPO trailblazing study to direct people downtown and then to the attractions located in that area. The committee would like to send a letter to both cities to pursue this funding. Melanie will draft a letter requesting that the cities look into any and all funding opportunities. Steve will sign the letter on behalf of the committee.

Each community agreed it would work individually on placing appropriate standard recreational signs in the community to direct traffic to the greenway and to new greenway features such as the campground.

- IV. **Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Bikeway Network:** Copies of Section 5.1 of the Bikeway Plan were distributed. One change to the plan is Page 5.2.9 Goal #6, Objective 3-East Grand Forks would favor this change in policy. In Grand Forks developers are required to dedicate 8% of the land or fees. The Park District receives 8% of the land being developed for their own development. They have no problem with the change in wording for this objective.

Lane will send the Bikeway Plan to the committee via email for review. Committee members should forward any comments, either written or oral, to him for consideration before September 14, 2004.

V. **Other:**

- Pedestrian Bridge Status: The bids came in higher than expected. After cost adjustments were made to the original bid estimate to allow for recent increases in steel and concrete costs, one bid was within the 25% of the bid estimate. If that bid contains no errors, the project will be awarded.
- Dog Park: A location has not been determined. In Grand Forks, proposed sites are near Columbia Mall and in Central Park. There was a complaint about dogs being off leash in the greenway, there is a leash law in both communities.
- Rules and Regulations: For the City of Grand Forks, the mayor's office is still reviewing because of the new ordinances being proposed.
- Upcoming Bike Event: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota will be hosting a bike tour August 25 – 31. Details are available by calling 701-773-4950.

Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting date: October 12, 2004

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

Attached:

Metropolitan Planning Organization Trailblazing Study
Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Transportation Plan – Bikeway Plan Section 5.1
Red River State Recreation Area Bike Tour flyer