

Greenway Technical Committee
August 13, 2002

In attendance: Melanie Parvey-Biby (GF Greenway), Steven Renslow (Red River Snowmobile Club), Ryan Brooks (MPO), Lane Magnuson (MPO), Stephen Mullally (GF Park District), Dale Skyberg (EGF Parks), Ann Sande (Friends of the Greenway), Marty Egeland (ND Game and Fish), David Manthei (Grand Forks Fire Department), Bob Frohlich (North Dakota Game and Fish Department), Brad Durick (local fisherman), Lonny Winrich (Legislative Representative), Lynn Schlueter (North Dakota Game and Fish), Corey Birkholz (Options), Genevieve Thompson (Audubon Society), Scott McNamee (local fisherman), Wayne Lembke (Grand Forks Engineering Department)

I. Introduction-Steve Mullally Grand Forks Park District

II. Mapping Update-Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of Grand Forks

Melanie showed a copy of the draft map being produced by the Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. Dale Skyberg felt that EGF was missing an access at 12th. Need to label the dam in EGF as well.

III. S. End River Access/Boat Ramp locations (Grand Forks)- Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of Grand Forks

City of Grand Forks representatives and ND Game and Fish looked at a couple of possible sites in the southend of Grand Forks. Sites are limited because of access through the Flood Protection Project. The two possible sites (Lincoln and Elks Dr.) were reviewed by staff from the water on the evening of August 12th and then again by land right before this meeting. The preferred location is the site at Lincoln because it has a steeper slope. The area at Elks Drive is not steep enough; there are also some concerns with land stability in this area. Water Depth is good at both sites. When evaluating sites looking for 12.5% grade. The site at Lincoln is approximately 300 feet from the parking lot to the river, there are restrooms and parking close to this proposed site at Lincoln Dr. Park. A comment was made that the parking lot may not be big enough. Should also consider a tie-back on the Lincoln concept, something similar to what is shown on the Elks Drive concept. Bob Frohlich has aerial photos of all their sites and can supply these to the City of Grand Forks to consider for the design. Discussed the possibility of adding a canoe access or shore bank fishing access at Elks Drive site.

There are existing ramps in Ft. Abercrombie, Pembina, Drayton, and two in Fargo. Pembina constructed their ramp when the river was low, and have added on to it over the years - everything is concrete. The Game and Fish Department helped Pembina pursue a pumper sprayer to clean off the ramp.

Grand Forks Fire Dept has two boats (16 ft. Whaler and 18 ft. Rivercraft). The boats are kept at Fire Station 1 which is located at the intersection of DeMers Avenue and Washington. The best access for water rescue is at a water inlet.

There is a misconception that ramps need to be dug out so that you can back in the boats without worrying about current. The ramp in EGF is dug out and last night it was full of silt. Feel this is a misconception of fisherman.

Cost estimate for the ramps that the Game and Fish Dept have implemented (push-pour method) cost an average \$7-\$10 square foot - this is just the cost of the ramp. Need to be built so that they are very durable. Grant application deadline is Feb 1, 2003, it is 75-25% split. The 25% would be the local cost and this can be in-kind such as using volunteers or using City equipment. North Dakota Game and Fish will help fund parking, fish cleaning station, etc. Need to include a scope of work, site plan, and budget estimate in the grant application. May want to do the construction work in the fall when the water level is

down, may need a 404 permit although Melanie will check to see if area is already approved in the existing documents with the Flood Protection Project.

Grand Forks is considering a fish cleaning station at the Riverside Dam. Bismarck has a fish cleaning station in close proximity to the boat ramps. If the station smells bad, fisherman will just walk away. They need to be cleaned daily. There is a lot of recreational fishing on the Red River and not consumption. A lot of sites will either have a fish cleaning station or garbage cans. Game and Fish representatives would suggest not having garbage cans because of the problems with smell. Consensus of this committee was to consider adding fish cleaning stations in the future. Melanie mentioned that the concern with this area is that it may not be possible to do this in the future. If it was possible, it may be very expensive to connect to the water and sewer system. If it were put in now, it would be done in conjunction with the construction of the Flood Protection Project.

IV. Overview Phase III Design (Grand Forks) and Public Input Meetings- Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of Grand Forks

Melanie reviewed the Phase III concept plans for Grand Forks. Question was asked about keeping frisbee golf in Central Park. At this point it is planned to keep frisbee golf down there. There will also be frisbee golf at Riverside Park. Question was asked if the parking lot near Elks Drive will remain in the plans if the boat ramp is not included there. Yes, it is to access the other recreational features in this area. Question was asked about whether or not there will be a Nature Center near Central Park. The Dakota Science Center already uses this area for interpretative programs, not sure whether or not the City of Grand Forks will pursue a Nature Center at this point, will need to work this out in the future.

There was a public input meeting last week for the Riverside area and then tonight (13th) for the other three areas: Central Park, Elks Drive, and Rivers Edge. All are welcome to attend.

V. Non-paved Trail Plan- Ryan Brooks, MPO and Lane Magnuson, Planning Dept.

Distributed copies of the Greenway Trail Map; look at holding a public hearing for both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks although the dates have not been determined there will be a 10 day notice for a public hearing. There was discussion on the concern of having a snowmobile trail on the plan. Suggestion to consider a few areas along the whole system that could be designated non-motorized. The river is not a trail - it is not safe. Consensus is that the trail needs to be on the plan and that if an area is provided for the snowmobilers they will use it. If an area is not provided then the existing problem can become much worse. Comments on the maps will be accepted all the way up to the public hearing and should be sent to Ryan Brooks,

MPO- Metropolitan Planning Organization, 600 DeMers Ave, East Grand Forks, MN 56721.

Next meeting: September 10, 2002, 10:30 am at the Grand Forks Park District Office

Agenda Items: none have been determined at this time

Minutes submitted by Melanie Parvey-Biby, Greenway Coordinator
August 19, 2002