

**Greenway Technical Committee
Meeting Notes
Grand Forks Park District
10:30 AM September 13, 2005**

Steve Mullally, GF Park District
Sgt. Keith Schroeder, GF Police Dept.
Foster Hudson, MN DNR
Lonnie Winrich
Dale Skyberg, EGF Parks & Rec
Julie Romig, Metropolitan Planning Org

Melanie Parvey-Biby, City of GF
Gladwin Lynne, MN DNR
Randy Sorenson, Options
Marty Egeland, ND Game and Fish
Dave Manthei, GF Fire Dept
Kim Greendahl, City of Grand Forks

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- I. **MN DNR Status Update:** The campground will be converting from full time to seasonal staffing beginning in October. The final day of camping is September 18. Plans are to open the facility before Memorial Day 2006. Gladwin will retire in October but possibly return as a seasonal employee. He would like to return in the spring as a mentor for newer MN DNR employees coming into the system. Currently the MN DNR owns the campground and River Heights Trail Head. Some ties will remain in place through the winter and communication can continue through emails.

Construction on the Red Lake River boat ramp began yesterday with the moving of dirt. The shower building is still in the future plan and funding has been earmarked for this project.

Gladwin will report at the October Greenway Technical Committee on trail usage data collected on the trail near the Blue Moose.

- II. **East Grand Forks Status Update:** A picnic shelter permit system was implemented this year and 41 permits were issued. This number does not include smaller groups that chose not to obtain a permit. There was no charge for the permit, but that might change next year.

A neighborhood meeting regarding the north end pedestrian bridge meeting was held, as some of the neighbors are unhappy with the location of the bridge. East Grand Forks plans to install solar powered lighting with removable posts near the entrance area. There are no plans to tie in the trail at the south end pedestrian bridge this year. Lighting is also planned for the Red Lake River boat ramp.

- III. **Grand Forks Status Update:** High water has delayed the completion of the north end boat ramp. Paving and the final piece still remain to be finished. The contract for the south end ramp has been awarded to Strata.

Work continues on the interpretive plan. Several panels will be designed with the

assistance of the Energy and Environmental Research Center. The Corps has completed their plaques and installation may happen this fall. Note: the campground receives lots of comments about where to find information on the flood. Can something be added to the downtown kiosk on how to find the flood display at Memorial Park?

Melanie is working on doing a controlled burn in the Koininia area this fall.

IV. **Grand Forks Park District Status Update:** All nine holes are open at Lincoln Golf Course and work continues on the entrance (flood protection closure structure). Central Park is still under construction.

V. **Friends of the Greenway Status Update:** A representative was unable to attend. Tabled.

VI. **Other:**

- **Bike Rentals:** The Ski & Bike Shop is now offering bike rentals through its store. Information is also available on the Greenway website at www.grandforksgov.com/greenway.
- **Trail route markers:** Dale received a quote of \$40 each for engraved 4 x 4" granite markers. He would like to install them next spring. A starting point would need to be determined. The group would like to consider markers in something like planets or tree species as an educational tool as well as trail marker. This item will be on the October Greenway Technical Committee Staff meeting.
- **Fishing benches along the river:** Volunteers are being sought to assist with a project to provide fishing access along the Red and Red Lake Rivers. This project is a joint partnership of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Red River Valley Catfish Club and Options Interstate Resource Center for Independent Living. Crews will be placing benches along the two rivers in East Grand Forks to provide a place to sit in some prime fishing areas. Installation of the benches is expected to begin in October. If you are able to help with this project, please contact Options at 218-773-6100.
- **Weeds along the riverbank:** Who is responsible for weed control in Grand Forks depends on where the problem is. The area in question is south from the Point Bridge to the old Lincoln bike path, which is done by the City. The ND Game and Fish Department reminded the group that they also struggle with this issue because flooding causes reseeding. The MN DNR sprayed their leafy spurge this year.
- **Bike patrol:** Keith suggested that maintenance budgets be reviewed with Police Department and Greenway for overtime needs. Estimated costs for 2005 are \$22,000, that could increase to \$30,000 for 2006-'07. Could the Greenway Technical Committee be an advocate for this? Melanie will check with Mark Walker and Todd Feland about reimbursing

costs for Police Department for patrols on bikes and how will this be handled in the future.

- **Wood duck boxes:** Grand Forks County Wildlife Federation donated wood duck boxes to MN DNR to place in RRSRA.

Upcoming Greenway Events:

Tour the Trails

- This event will be held in Grand Forks on Sunday, September 18 from 1 pm to 4 pm at Lion's Park near Century School on 17th Avenue South. Tours are scheduled to begin at 1:30 pm and kiddie races will begin at 3 pm.

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