



Committee Meeting ~ Construction Advancement Foundation
January 28, 2016
Minutes

Members & Guests – Bob Huffman, Shannon Eason, Don Parker, Mark Schreiber, Craig Zandstra, Steve Antonetti, Phil Gralik, Will Farrellbegg, Robert Boklund, Jerry Rosko, Tom Banaszak, Chris Moore, Jill Murr, Jan Orlich, Sedrick Green, John Novacich, Gina Darnell, Mark Gordish, Mark O'Dell, K-Todd Behling

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Stephen Sostaric, Mary Thorne

Vice-Chair John Novacich called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update

Don Parker reported they are in the process of planning their program.

B. G + B – 2016 Edition Update

The map consultant has been hired and is Active Transportation Alliance. They will begin shortly with the same type of process that was used for the 2012 edition. The schedule for completion is May 2016. Several listening sessions will be held as it is important to have public scrutiny to ensure the best map possible. The map is being funded by a number of sources. There will not be an app at this time. There will be a printing of about 50,000 to start, with printing every year as needed with possible updates.

Pedal

A. Feature Presentation: Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan Goals Workshop

Over 800 public surveys and municipal surveys have been received. Don Parker and Bob Huffman were thanked for their parts in getting the intercept surveys completed. Establishing the goals for the Plan and synthesizing of survey information are currently in process. NWIPA has handled the water trail planning update for the blueways section of the Plan. Since this is an in-house project and not being developed by a consultant there is not a definitive completion deadline. An April 2016 draft Plan release is anticipated with a final release in July.

The existing five goals carried over from the 2005 and 2010 Ped & Pedal Plans Goals and Objectives for bicycle and pedestrian access were reviewed and updated by the Committee. Blueway goals are being handled by NWIPA. Stephen Sostaric logged the recommendations and updates as they were provided.

The customary adoption process will take place for the Plan. When the draft has been prepared, the updated goals, objectives and performance measures will be included. Mitch noted he would like to bring the performance measures before the Committee in March ahead of the draft Plan release and public listening sessions.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association – Update

Gina Darnell updated the Committee on upcoming NWIPA events. The Kankakee River National Water Trail paperwork is in and the Interior Department is seriously reviewing it. Letters of support were received by Dick Durbin and others. An announcement will most likely be made on National Trails Day in June. The ADA access site in Michigan City is currently the first and only in the State. Hobart has funded an ADA access point which is under construction. There is also a proposal for an ADA launch at Marquette Park. The Little Calumet East Branch in Chesterton recently received a Chi-Cal grant to put in two access points that will also be ADA accessible. Work is being done with Valparaiso University's

Team River Runner on adaptive paddling training sessions and work opportunities for veterans and individuals with handicaps.

Upcoming events for the year were announced with Gina noting that other events may pop in. Shannon Eason thanked NWIPA for their nomination of the Hansen Park kayak launch for an Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project. The endorsement was received about a month ago. Gina mentioned that a portion of Trail Creek is being looked at to be try to obtain a National Recreational Trail designation.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- The final design and engineering plans have been completed for the Oak Savannah and Erie Lackawanna Trail connection. Hopefully a tax sale property on Veterans Memorial Trail will be picked up in Phase II.
- The connection between Highland and Munster is still tied up with the NIPSCO pipeline project.
- The kayak launch in Hobart, although on hold for the winter, is under construction with completion slated for spring. Three sites are being looked at for the second launch.
- Chesterton is pushing for pavement designs on Liberty Trail and need to do the environmental. Looking at a letting date of March of 2017.
- Merrillville just received the plans for C & O Phase III which will incorporate a bridge across Taft Street. The Erie Lackawanna and the C & O have been plowed. The tunnel has had vandal proof lighting installed and the ice in the tunnel has been salted.
- The Marquette Greenway Phase III pre-construction meeting was held in Hammond. The Marquette Greenway Trail between Illinois and the marina is going through land acquisition.
- Phil Galik announced that he believed that Dan Repay was authorized at the last meeting of the Little Calumet River Commission to obtain bids for paving on the Calumet Trail.
- Another 2,000 feet has been completed in Valparaiso and goes under 49 and is the first step east of 49 for the system which will connect with large subdivisions and other industries from Valparaiso to Chesterton. On the west side, land has been secured for the Vale Park extension which will connect the main arteries with the west side of town and should be completed in 2016. There is a new trailhead kiosk for the pathways system located in downtown Central Park by the new pavilion.
- Singing Sands Phase I in Michigan City is still held up with South Shore freight. If a resolution is not reached within the next couple of weeks it could jeopardize the entire project. The City if being forced to take out a \$10m insurance policy for the segment that goes through their railyard even though it is against state law. It would cost \$50k - \$70k a year. Phase II is fully funded and the contract with BFS has been signed. The filing for the INDOT PO for PE will occur shortly.
- A meeting was held with Amtrak a couple of weeks ago regarding the trail up into New Buffalo. The trail was proposed to run between the Amtrak line and US 12. The desire was to place it on as much INDOT right-of-way as possible, but since it is so narrow it will have to get into the Amtrak right-of-way. Some telephone poles would have to be removed so Amtrak suggested moving to the north side and is now how it will run. Michigan has a ½ mile to do so they will begin engineering and if that goes forward the precedent will be set and will run down to Michigan City.
- Schererville is in the process of getting problem analysis on the properties on the Pennsy. INDOT wants geotechnical work completed for the entire trail, but Schererville would like more clarification on that. Both phases have been pushed back to FY2018 for letting. The town is still working on the Pennsy-Erie connection and plans are still moving along to make a connection along Route 30 and 75th.

B. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.) - None

C. The Next Meeting is Thursday, February 25, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.