

Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
January 7, 2021
Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-04 and 20-09, extended by Executive Order 20-52. All persons were meeting remotely on a Google Meet platform that allowed for real time interaction and supported the public's ability to observe and record the proceedings. When the agenda item was provided for public comment, this was supported as well. A roll call was taken to motion and approve the agenda items.

George Topoll called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. In attendance were Dean Button (Hammond), Esperanza Ramirez Ceja (East Chicago Compliance Manager), Mark Schreiber (La Porte Parks and Recreation), Donna Catalano (Legacy Foundation), Zully Alvarado (Causes for Change), Kathryn Vallis (IDNR), Dennis Cobb (First Group Engineering), Shannon Eason (Michigan City Parks and Recreation), Joe Rebber, Terri Saltzman (Purdue University Northwest), Don Oliphant (Christopher Burke Engineering), Theresa Mince (Purdue University Extension - NEP), Craig Zandstra (Lake County), Dalia Zygas, Don Parker (Town of Lowell), Cole Black, Beth Shrader (Valparaiso), Kelly Goodpaster (Hobart), and Sarah Coulter (Calumet Collaborative).

NIRPC staff present were Meredith Stilwell, Kevin Polette, Candice Eklund, Mitch Barloga, and Flor Baum.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting were approved on motion by Dean Button and second by George Topoll.

NIRPC Business

Mitch Barloga presented on the final review of applications submitted under the current *Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)*. Michigan City's Singing Sands Phase III, segment A&C was reviewed. Less than 50% of the project is an Environmental Justice area. Therefore, one point was deducted. The self-score of 77 was adjusted by NIRPC staff to 76. The Ped, Pedal, and Paddle Committee (3PC) score was also 76. Michigan City's Singing Sands Phase III, segment D was reviewed. The self-score, NIRPC score, and 3PC score were 70. On motion by Sarah Coulter and second by Dean Button, the committee unanimously approved to recommend the final scores to the Technical Planning Committee in February.

Ped

Mitch updated the committee on map and mobile app. The paper map will go into printing early next week. NIRPC is partnering with Calumet Collaborative for the mobile app of a digital trail map. Calumet Collaborative is funding the mobile app to cover the entire Calumet Region all the way through LaPorte County. There is discussion of the application being called The Calumet Greenways and Blueways. The mobile app will include some extensions to Downtown Chicago. NIRPC has contracted My City Bike for the digital map. NIRPC staff is looking into available funds for the trail counter replacements. The current trail counter sensors detect motion from moving objects as well as people and may not give an accurate number of trail users. However, the new trail counters will sensor heat, thus giving a more accurate count. 96 "mobile" trail counters replacements have been requested throughout The Region. There will be five "fixed" trail counters that will be placed in high traffic areas of the trails throughout The Region. NIRPC staff will also be using a data bike to collect information on the condition of the trails.

Pedal

Don Parker presented on South Shore Trails (SST). Due to the pandemic SST has been revising how they can better assist The NWI community. Digital services like the mobile app will be essential. SST will reach out to Mitch Barloga to offer additional assistance.

Paddle

Zuly Alvarado stated she is no longer with The Northwest Indiana Paddle Association (NWIPA). There is nothing further to report.

Announcements

There were no announcements made.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.