



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC October 27, 2016 Minutes

Members & Guests – Bob Huffman, Shannon Eason, Aaron Boingraber, Chris Moore, Mark Gordish, Mark Schreiber, Marino Solorio, Terri Saltzman, Erin Sherrow-Hayse, Michael Downey, Walter Lenckos, Mark O'Dell, Zully Alvarado, Robert Boklund, Craig Zandstra, Don Parker, George Topoll, Don Oliphant, John Ruble, Joe Stahura, Julie Mandon, Kelly Goodpaster, Steve Antonetti

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Chairman Joe Stahura called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update –

SST is currently planning 2017 activities and accepting nominations for Connection and Connector of the year awards.

B. Feature Presentation: Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan – DRAFT RELEASE

The G+B 2020 Plan expands beyond the 2040 Plan and is divided into conservation, recreation and transportation chapters, looking at open space, water and surface trails, and complete streets. Data was gathered from individual and municipal surveys as well as trail count information. The current public comment phase will end November 21 and then be reviewed by the 3PC and EMPC on December 1 with hopefully a recommendation by the TPC and the NIRPC Commission at their December meetings.

Pedal

A. Trail Counts Data- Update

NIRPC purchased 12 trail counters, which were funded through CMAQ and Greenways Foundation, in spring 2016. They have been installed on the Erie-Lackawanna, Oak-Savannah, Prairie-Duneland, Monon and Pennsy. There has been an issue with the counter on the Prairie-Duneland so with the data from that counter discounted, from May 20 to October 8, 2016 the most used trail appears to be the Erie-Lackawanna with a daily average of 423.9 users. Daily averages for number of users, days of the week totals as well as hourly averages were reviewed. Counters are \$400 each and NIRPC is willing to work with locals and can collect the data and share with the municipalities.

B. Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan – Update

A draft of the plan will hopefully be available for review in August. Mitch indicated 12 new trail counters have been installed throughout the region and are being monitored. The results will be incorporated into the Plan.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association – Zully Alvarado, NWIPA

The city of Gary installed their 3rd ADA kayak launch and has hosted sunset paddles every week at Marquette Park Lagoon. 120 paddlers attended the last paddle on the Kankakee River for the year. 900 students were educated during the Wilderness Inquiry canoemobiles recent visit to the area.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

Mark O'Dell requested at the Technical Planning Committee meeting held November 11th that the city of the proposal for Hobart's Plan B funding request be presented to the 3PC for their blessing since it involves a regional corridor. After discussion, a motion in support of the proposed route for the funding request was made by Mark O'Dell with a second from Mark Gordish. With no opposition the motion passed in support of the route request.

- East Chicago: Redoing the marina with a reduction and reduction of slips. All slips will be located on one side with the other side open for public access. The goal is to eventually connect the marina, casino and lakefront. Preliminary soil borings and analyticals have been started for the Marquette Greenway Roxanna Marsh trail.
- Lake County Parks: The connection project for the Oak Savannah/Erie Lackawanna connection was awarded to Reith Riley. Construction should wrap up in spring 2017.
- Hammond: The Little Calumet River Basin Commission, along with Hammond, Highland and Munster have been working to get the top of the levy paved. The next phase in the city of Hammond is progressing with plans being drawn.
- Whiting: Wahala Beach Trail has been extended and improved with safety lighting added.
- Purdue Extension is starting a biking and walking promotion program in the city of Gary and asked for resources to help.
- Michigan City: Amtrak has signed off on Singing Sands I and letting has moved up to 2018. Phase II is fully funded and in the design and engineering process. There is money to begin Phase III engineering. All three could possibly be built within a two-year span.
- LaPorte: Chessie is in land acquisition and engineering is good with construction to begin in fall 2017 or spring 2018. The extension into Newport Land development is completed.

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

C. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, December 1, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 2:38.