



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC July 28, 2016 Minutes

Members & Guests – Jan Dick, Kathy Kniola, Jeff Sheridan, Julia Surber, Sanjay Patel, Tonya Garland, Eric Ehn, Robert Boklund, Ryan Lisek, George Topoll, Walter Lenckos, mark Schreiber, John Novacich, Denarie Kane, Don Oliphant, Jake Cammarell, Dalia Zygas, Steve Antonetti, Mark Gordish, Chris Moore, Don Parker, Lori Latham, Will Green

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Kathy Luther, Meredith Stilwell

Vice Chair Kathy Kniola called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update –

There will be supervised bicycle parking again this year at Pierogi Fest. SST manned an information booth at the La Porte night ride and handed out bike maps. There will be similar set ups at the Valparaiso and Hammond night rides. There is also an attempt to stay on top of trail links that have been cut due to construction so up to date information can be provided to trail riders.

B. Postcards from Europe (aka Bicycle Utopia)

Mitch presented on his recent trip to Europe. There is an amazing amount of bicycle infrastructure which makes biking popular and makes it easy to get around. While biking is a challenge on roadways in London and France, London does have many bicycle superhighways. Copenhagen is ranked first for bicycling and every street has cycling ability in some capacity. Bike share programs are popular.

Pedal

A. Greenways Identification

A Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan is currently being worked on. Results from trail and online surveys is being analyzed and integrated. Kathy Luther recently presented to the Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC) on the desire to identify where the green corridors exist and how to connect them and create a map similar to the priority trails map which is used to aid in prioritizing and scoring project funding applications. The green infrastructure in the 2040 Plan was refined further in the 2015 update to the plan but without goals or prioritization. Key pad polling was conducted at the EMPC meeting regarding prioritization themes and those results were presented to the 3PC. Kathy developed a scoring matrix based on the prioritization criteria from the EMPC meeting and conducted a rough scoring comparison of four conservation corridors to test how they would score using. Next steps include more sample scoring, refining the scoring matrix and presenting it to the EMPC.

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 – None

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

Hammond: Mark Gordish reported the Marquette Greenway phase III 1.7 mile trail north to East Chicago opened in June. The contract has been signed and a DES number received for the trail from Grand Cal from downtown to East Chicago. The State Line connection from the marina to Calumet Park is currently in the public comment period.

Gary: Lori Latham reported that a portion of the Gary Green Link has been started from Jackson Park and markings are done. An ADA canoe launch was installed at Marquette Park and NWIPA will be hosting a paddle from there.

B. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.)

- The Pierogi Stumble using the trails through Hammond and Whiting is July 28.
- The WHAM night ride is August 13.
- The Valparaiso night ride is August 27 and starts at 11:00 pm.
- The City of Gary Steel City Triathlon at Marquette Park Sunday, July 31.
- The City of La Porte YMCA Triathlon is August 6.

C. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, August 25, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 2:38.