



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC January 26, 2017 Minutes

Members & Guests – Shannon Eason, Aaron Borngaber, Mark Schreiber, Zully Alvarado, Robert Boklund, Don Parker, Jeff Sheridan, John Novacich, Justin Kiel, Will Farrellbegg, Kathy Kniola, Tonya Garland, Richard Morrisroe, Jake Ballah, K-Todd Behling, Sarah Coulter, Steve Antonetti, George Topoll, Phil Gralik

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Vice-Chair Kniola called the meeting to order.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update –

Currently planning 2017 activities. Involved with changes and updates to the NICTD Bikes on Trains set up, with advocacy on Westlake Corridor project and public policy issues.

B. Feature Presentation: Town of LaCrosse Complete Streets

The desire to incorporate sidewalks during the repaving of US421 by INDOT; abandoned railroad corridors which would make for a good trail system; long-term plans for trails through LaCrosse; and the desire to improve the local quality of life, all led to the need for a local plan to prepare and excite residents for bringing trails to the Town. Goals of the Complete Streets Plan were to build new sidewalks on US 421, improve exercise opportunities for local residents, develop safe connectivity to the school in downtown, plan trails that would give the high school cross country program a place to hold meets and practices, improve quality of life, encourage investment in alternative transportation by local residents and businesses, and draft the plan with zero expense to the taxpayer. The Town's complete street ordinance was approved in August 2016. The Plan was developed in about three months with community input and feedback and was adopted by the Town Council in December 2016.

Pedal

A. Presentation: 2016 in Review

2016 successes highlighted were the opening of four new trails extensions (Marquette Greenway in Hammond, Dunes Kankakee in Porter, C & O Greenway in Merrillville and the Vale Park Road Trail in Valparaiso); the repaving of the Little Calumet Levee Trail; installation of a new trailhead with parking on the Erie-Lackawanna; a gateway feature on the Pennsy Greenway; the National Water Trail designation of the Kankakee River; the revised Greenways and Blueways map and the creation of a new wayfinding guide. In addition the NICTD Bikes on Trains weekend program began in 2016 and will extend to weekdays beginning in April 2017.

B. Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan – Update

The Plan has been delayed due to updates prompted by feedback received during the public comment period. Hopes are to have a public comment period beginning mid-February or March and approval of the Plan by April.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association – Zully Alvarado, NWIPA

Plans for 2017 events are being worked on with the schedule ready in the near future. The opening of the Little Cal East Branch Water Trail will continue. Save the dates announced included the 2017 Spring Rendezvous which will be March 18th at Hawthorne Park and the Access 4 All Outdoors Escapade Festival on July 15th.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- Chessie I: Still on track for construction in spring 2018
- Singing Sands Phase III: City Council approved just shy of \$280k to complete engineering
- Pennsy: Meetings held with Canadian National, INDOT and Federal Highway at the 213 crossing to see what needs to be done regarding a separate gate at the crossing over the tracks and what is required from Schererville.
- Valparaiso: Continue to tie up connectors within and connections outside of the city
- Hobart: Another segment of paving to add bike lines along Wisconsin Street connecting 61st Avenue to the Oak-Savannah Trail. Working with two developers to build portions of trails on the C&O and on Colorado Street and would be within a mile of connecting the US 30 shopping area and downtown Hobart.

B. Emerging Trends Video

A video was shown of an intersection in Ethiopia which has no traffic signals of any kind.

C. General Announcements

- Don Parker announced that DNR is providing all libraries with a park pass that will be available for check out

D. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, February 23, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 2:37.