



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC December 1, 2016 Minutes

Members & Guests – Shannon Eason, Aaron Borngaber, Chris Moore, Mark Schreiber, Mark O'Dell, Zully Alvarado, Robert Boklund, Don Parker, Rory Robinson, Jeff Sheridan, John Novacich, Al Walus, Leslie Phemister, Kate Lewis-Lakin

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Mitch called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update –

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

Pedal

A. Feature Presentation: Greenways + Blueways 2020 Plan Update

The public comment period ended and the final Plan is delayed due to comments received which were deemed significant enough to modify the Plan. NIRPC's Public Participation Plan stipulates a new comment period must be held after modifications are made. The target for the start of the new comment period is January 2017 with possibly one additional open house held, and hopefully approval by the TPC and NIRPC Commission at their February meetings.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association – Zully Alvarado, NWIPA

The 2016 paddling season included 14 weekend paddling events, summer and fall weekly sunset paddles at Marquette Park Lagoon, the Indiana Bicentennial Torch relay, 6 kayak classes and one canoe class, and two ADA canoe/kayak launch dedications. In addition 5 miles of new water trail were developed on the East Branch of the Little Calumet and the dedication of the new 150 mile Kankakee River National Water Trail was held.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

Rory Robinson from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program updated the Committee on the current status of the trail maintenance fund. Money is currently not available, but the Greenways Foundation will be putting forward an appropriation request from the state budget. Also, the International Trails Symposium will be held in Dayton in May. Proposals may still be submitted at the American Trails website. The National Recreation Parks Association, along with the American Planning Association,

has taken the lead on rolling out a safe routes to parks initiative. A guidebook is available that gives ways to analyze access to parks and ways to enhance the access. A short video was shown. Discussion regarding ADA compliance for parks took place.

A video was shown about the top best cycling cities in the USA.

- Westchester Liberty Trail: Waiting on final review of tracings from INDOT. March 2017 letting.
- Chessie I: Moving into acquisition in 2017.
- Illinois projects: The Cal Sag will be completed to the Burnham Greenway June 2017. Looking for Phase I money to extend the I&M canal from Willow Springs to the City of Chicago
- Singing Sands Phase I: One week left for final sign-off on design from Amtrak. January 2018 letting
- Singing Sands Phase II: Currently under engineering
- Singing Sands Phase III: Signing contract for PE December 19th
- Lowell: First trail application for grant funding was not successful
- Pennsy: Appraisal work in process. Hopefully done beginning of 2017 and move forward with property purchases. FY 2018 letting
- Trail on 75th-Schererville: Engineering done
- Marquette Greenway-Hammond: Appraisal process started. Getting ready to submit stage III plans to INDOT. FY 2018 letting

The Super Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be the conglomeration of all federal programs in one solicitation and will take place in about one and one half years. The current amount for a five year call will be \$45m. Dialogue concerning the application process, etc. will occur before the solicitation. The 3PC attendance bonus for trail projects will be counted as with previous solicitations.

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

- Upcoming events were announced to the Committee

C. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, January 26, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 2:46.