



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC February 23, 2017 Minutes

Members & Guests – Shannon Eason, Aaron Borngraber, Mark Schreiber, Robert Boklund, Jeff Sheridan, John Novacich, Tonya Garland, K-Todd Behling, Steve Antonetti, George Topoll, Chris Moore, Eric Ehn, Jessie Renslow, Craig Zandstra, Leslie Phemister, Lynda Lancaster, Al Walus, Sedrick Green, David Wright, Lauren Orchard

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Mitch called the meeting to order.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update – None

B. Feature Presentation: Valpo Bicycle Share

The City of Valparaiso is set to launch Valpo Velocity, an app-based bike share program in partnership with Zagster, in April. A history of bike shares was given. Community benefits of bike shares include serving a variety of citizens, enhancing quality of life, alternative transportation, spurring tourism and providing community links. The bikes for the Valparaiso program were purchased for \$1,800.00 per bike. While the Redevelopment Commission is funding the upfront cost the first year, since Valparaiso University wanted bike racks on campus they are providing enough money to fund five bikes. Sponsorship opportunities are available and range from a logo on a bike basket to a whole system sponsor. Zagster recommended installing bike stations mainly in the downtown area to establish ridership and then the outskirts as the program takes hold. The first hour after checkout will be free, with time resetting when the bike is returned to any station. During checkout bikes are able to be locked and unlocked at non-station bike racks using the app and features on the bike itself. The local process involves finding funding, including relevant community departments early on, deciding number of bikes, identifying best areas for rack locations, taking pictures, considering accessibility, community information sessions, establishing a name and logo and setting an installation date.

Pedal

A. 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 in April or May and approval of the Plan in June.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association –

Plans for 2017 events are being finalized. The 2017 Spring Rendezvous which will be March 19th at Hawthorne Park. A river-long plan is being worked on for where put-ins and take-outs are going to be along the Little Calumet east branch. Michigan City will be hosting a maintenance session on ADA kayak

launches in April. Michigan City has received a Lake Michigan Coastal Program Grant to install a second kayak launch on Trail Creek. While not ADA accessible, it will have some ADA components. It was cited that NWIPA is an amazing group to partner with. They were very helpful with the launch in the City of Gary.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- Chessie I: In acquisition phase, still on track for construction in spring 2018. Money if lined up for Phase II.
- Singing Sands: Issues have arisen with Amtrak regarding the US12 crossing for which they are now requiring an annual license fee, as well as a \$100k licensing agreement and a \$100k security deposit against a license agreement and although having already approved the design want to now do it themselves.
- Pennsy: Getting appraisals.
- Burns Harbor: Starting work on the Marquette.
- Lake County: Reith Riley will be completing the Oak-Savannah Trail extension at Oak Ridge Prairie with completion by Memorial Day. Griffith should be completing their section within a year of the trail extension.
- As a result of complaints regarding accident issues at 45th and Broadway, the Mayor's office and INDOT have decided to put portions of Broadway on a road diet. There would be an opportunity in the near future to accommodate a bike lane in certain sections of Broadway once paving is complete.

B. **Emerging Trends Video** - A video was shown highlighting the new Navy Pier flyover project.

C. General Announcements

- Maple Sugar Time will be held March 4th and 5th and 11th and 12th at Chellberg Farm.
- The Zagster bike share program will be introduced to the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission on February 27.
- Transit Day was held in Indianapolis on February 21. Most people seemed to be in favor of promoting transportation, especially universal design.
- Two bills dealing with Indiana trail maintenance are currently in committee. SB 31 is \$2m/year directly from the general fund and HB 1607 allows for 10% of the State sales tax revenue collected on National Trails Day to go to trails, which while also around a \$2m average allows for individuals to promote purchases on that day. Mitch encouraged contacting legislators to get the bills out of committee and to the floor for hearing. There is also concern regarding Bill 1002 which involves swapping monies from federal to state. While state monies are easier to spend, it might end up not being an equal swap and could result in a loss of money for trails.
- Super NOFA for \$45m will be spring 2018. Start thinking about trail projects now.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:35.