



**Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC Auditorium**  
**September 25, 2014**  
**Minutes**

**Members & Guests** –Shannon Eason, Mark O'Dell, John Novacich, Phil Gralik, Bruce Spires, Craig Zandstra, Jan Dick, Mark Schreiber, Leslie Phemister, Don Parker, Sedrick Green, Alison Zoll

**Staff** – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Chairman Jan Dick called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. with self-introductions.

**Ped**

**South Shore Trails - Update**

With the year winding down, the annual awards for connector and connection of the year are been looked into. The annual meeting will occur in late November or Early December and planning is beginning for 2015.

**Pedal**

**A. PRESENTATION: What I Learned at...pro walk, pro bike, pro place**

The Pro Walk, Pro Bike, Pro Place conference was held in Pittsburg on September 8 – 11 and was well attended. Some of the sessions which were offered and attended by Mitch were, Measuring Demand; Performance Measures; Getting People Walking; Beyond Map-21; Regional No-Moto Plans; US DOT Safety Policy and Partnering with Health. Mitch and Gregg Calpino from SEH gave a presentation on the region with Mitch focusing on planning and Gregg focusing on projects. Some of the highlights of the conference relayed by Mitch included tools for measuring demand; measures to gauge success; FHWA resources for safety; “Target Zero” campaign for zero pedestrian or bike deaths; Girl Trek; social media tips; benefit\$ of complete streets and an announcement by US Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx announcing a major Walking the Walk initiative. His office will be taking an 18 month period focusing on statistics such as crash and safety data of bike and pedestrian as well as design mechanisms. Girl Trek is a three year old non-profit aimed to get African-American women walking. Over 20,000 people from individuals to groups have joined and the National Park Service is one of their major national sponsors. A few of the different initiatives launched during the conference were Isabella’s World which is aimed at opening up children to the issues that are faced due to land use choices and Trail Towns which has been around for a while and is aimed at helping capture trail-based tourism. Some of the emerging trends discussed were the desire for real estate investment since the recession if for walkable areas which have a 74% higher premium per square foot over drivable areas; Google document *Walk-Up Wake-up Call*; the emergence of complete streets data, one example being Grandview, MO which has found that with the inclusion of a new complete streets corridor through the core of their community there is more walking, less driving and less crashes and injuries; and protected bike lanes have quadrupled since 2010. A short video was shown regarding protected bike lanes.

**B. The Rough Diamond Trail Project – Video Presentation**

A video was shown regarding the Rough Diamond Trail Project which would once completed be a trail system around the city of Pittsburgh, It would start in the city, cut through several eastern and north suburbs and then come down the Allegheny river, essentially creating a “rough diamond” shape around the Pittsburgh area.

## **Paddle –**

### **NWI Paddling Association – Update**

NWIPA will be in the mix of the upcoming Greenways/Blueways plan update beginning in November. The plan was last updated in 2007

## **Grab Bag**

### A. Project Updates:

- Hobart: The final walk with the contractor on the Oak Savannah Trail will take place Monday, September 29.
- Michigan City: In partnership with the Northwest Indiana Paddlers, construction will begin in mid-October on the kayak launch at Trail Creek. The paddlers assisted Michigan City with a LaPorte county beaches and blueways cleanup and removed 3,500 pounds of garbage out of the creek banks and pond in Hansen Park which is adjacent to Trail Creek. There will be one more cleanup date for the other end of the pond which will be used for paddling lessons for beginners.
- Merrillville: the portion of the C & O from Broadway to Mississippi Street will be let in Spring 2015.
- Schererville: The title work for phases 2 and 3 of the Pennsy from downtown to Main Street is close to being completed. The contracts have been returned from INDOT and hopefully a contract for design and survey work will be approved by the board next week.
- Lake County Parks: An agreement with Canadian National for a crossing in Oak Ridge Prairie is close to completion. Grant funds will be used for asphalt installation. Construction will probably start within the next year. The 1<sup>st</sup> mile of Veterans Trail has been purchased and INDOT approved the RFP to select a firm to help buy the next 3 miles from Broadway to Iowa Street. Money will need to be found in order to build it.
- Chesterton: The INDOT agreement for Westchester/Liberty has been signed and an agreement with American Structurepoint has been signed.
- News from Illinois: The Cal-Sag trail is 100% funded and being built. The current phase from Alsip to Lamont is 13 miles. The next phase will be Alsip to Blue Island. Thorncreek was just paved and will connect Lansing to Chicago Heights and will also connect to the Old Plank Trail. A culvert is being left at the Route 30 overpass in Linville so there will be a place to pave in case the Old Plank goes through to Indiana. There will also be a side path up and over the bridge.
- Mitch is doing well with New Buffalo and Harbor Country in Michigan on the trail that will run from New Buffalo to the state line. The route is being identified. There is talk of the American Discovery Trail running along the Kankakee River from English Lake over 231. The original route was to be along the old Pennsy, south of 8, but it was all chopped up. The trail connection from Calumet Park to the Hammond Marina has been fully funded. The city of Chicago is supposedly bringing the trail into Calumet Park on a repaved street with lines and a separated trail.
- Valparaiso: Work is being done on the ½ mile stretch from Roosevelt to Sturdy.

### B. Miscellaneous Issues, Concerns, Gripes: *None*

### C. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.):

- Active Transportation Alliance is looking to identify hazardous crossings in the Chicagoland area. If any are known in the area the information should be passed on to Leslie Phemister by October 9.
- The Medaryville Crane Cruise is Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Festival of Trails in Highland is October 11 from 11 am – 4 pm at the corner of Kennedy Ave. and Highway Ave.
- The LaPorte Chain of Lakes Paddle takes place September 26 at Stone Lake Beach.

### D. Next Meeting is Thursday, October 23, 2014

Meeting Adjourned at 2:43 p.m.