

Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee Meeting
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
March 5, 2020

Members and Guests - George Topoll, Brad Enslin, Mark Schreiber, Ed Morales, Mark O'Dell, Leslie Phemister, Shannon Easan, Chuck Gleason, Eric Oberg, Veronica Jalomo, Tess Conway, Glenn Goodwine, Kevin Nuppnau, Tim Cole, Deb Backhus, Kathryn Vallis, Craig Phillips, John Novacich, Craig Zandstra,

Staff - Mitch Barloga, Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, and Flor Baum.

George Topoll called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. with self-introductions.

The minutes from the October 3, 2019 were approved on a motion by Mark Schreiber and a second by Ed Morales.

NIRPC Business

Mitch Barloga presented on the Living Streets Resolution draft policy that is merging both Complete and Green Streets elements into one policy. The draft policy will be presented and reviewed by each topical committee before being recommended to the Commission meeting for final approval. All comments need to be submitted to Mitch Barloga at mbarloga@nirpc.org or 219-254-2518. If approved, the policy will be used at the next Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Scott Weber presented on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). NIRPC is federally required to administer a CMP for Northwest Indiana, since it is a region greater than 200,00 people. A CMP is a framework for managing congestion in a way that suits users' expectations. The final draft of the CMP will be presented to the Commission in May to officially adopt the document.

Scott also conducted an anonymous polling, with present members, with a focus on objectives and strategies of the CMP.

Pedal

Eric Orberg, the Midwest regional director from Rails and Trails Conservancy, presented on Next Level Trails. The Great American Rail Trail (US Bicycle Route 37) is a project to connect bicycle trails from the East Coast to the West Coast. It will be a myopic trail for pedestrians and cyclists, separated from vehicle traffic. The trail plan for the state of Indiana covers 225 miles of the trail and crosses through the Region. Eric informed the committee that funding for this project is membership based.

Mitch Barloga also presented on the Next Level Trail, and the Region's involvement. Veterans Trail, the route from Crown Point to Hebron, has been funded and Right of Way has been purchased. The Town of Hebron has received a Next Level grant to construct a one-mile segment. Construction will begin in 2020. Porter County is focusing on connecting the trail at the "elbow" between North Judson and La Crosse.

Kerry Irons of Adventure Cycling Association presented on the United States Bicycle Route 37 and USBR 36. The emphasis is on building a United States bicycle route system to promote tourism, of which traverses the state of Indiana, and Northwest Indiana. Kerry emphasized that the benefits of the bicycle route designation include improved routes for bike travelers, positive health and environmental impact, and economic development for smaller communities. Kerry has requested that communities within Northwest Indiana be in support of the route. Mitch can provide the language and the template for the letters of support. Contact Kerry Irons for more information, kirons@adventurecycling.org, or Laura Crawford, lcrawford@adventurecycling.org

Project updates

Updates were provided by Craig Zandstra (Lake County Parks), John Novacich (Schererville), Shannon Eason (Michigan City Parks and Recreation), person for Chessie Trl, Chris Salatas (Lowell), Brad Enslin (Burns Harbor), Chuck Gleason (Valparaiso), Leslie Phemister (Illinois), and Mitch Barloga (Sing 'em Up).

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC.

Hearing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.