

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenway Advisory Committee (BPGAC)

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 – 6:00PM

Grand Forks City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room A102

AGENDA

I. Bikeway & Pedestrian Items

A. Sidewalk and Shared-Use Path Planning Process

a. Discussion points:

- Any sidewalk over 5' wide is considered a shared-use path. But most shared-use paths are 8' and wider.
- In GF, city code requires that sidewalks are installed 1' off property line. There have been examples of deviation from this requirement in the past but moving forward staff is working to be more consistent enforcing the requirement.
- Sidewalks are required for all properties that are at least 50% developed. That code has not been enforced over the years so there are gaps in the system. The engineering staff is working to identify and finish those areas. Residents should report these gaps for staff consideration.

Homeowners can oppose sidewalks, except on properties grandfathered into the city code.

- Master list for gaps and potential additions. Who keeps a master list of the non-motorized transportation system? Both the engineering department and Metropolitan Planning Organization keep maps of the system, but there is no coordinated list of gaps that need to be addressed. The group would like to participate in identifying gaps in system for future connections. This could be done at a future meeting.
- Funding: Federal funding requires that the project is in the approved transportation plan. Projects funded with local (city) dollars do not have this requirement.
- Opportunities for public input: The bicycle and pedestrian piece of transportation plan is done every five years and residents can serve on that committee.
- Project support: The group would like to work on improving the notification process for shared-use path and sidewalk items are going to council so they can support the projects.
- Maintenance: Who manages the pavement repair? In GF, the Public Works Department patches the smaller cracks and holes in the pavement. Engineering manages the larger overlay projects. It is a similar situation in EGF. How is snow removal on sidewalks and shared-use paths handled? This will be agenda item for next month.
- Sidewalk closures: Sometimes construction projects close the sidewalk or shared-use path to users without giving an alternate route. What can be done about this problem? City code requires that contractors provide an alternative walking path. These types of concerns should be reported to the engineering department for investigation.
- Letter of support for funding application: The group approved a letter of support for funding the installation of paved trail to replace the gravel trail on 32nd Avenue South, west of the interstate. Stephanie will write the letter on behalf of the group.

II. Greenway Items

- A. GF Dock Project: The contractor started work installing cable block along the shore near the floating dock downtown. The cable block should make maintenance of the area and installation and removal of the dock easier.
- B. Vandalism: There have been a few incidents of vandalism this summer.
- C. Motor Vehicles: There is an increasing sentiment among ATV and golf cart riders that they can go where they want because it is public property. Turtle River State Park is starting to see a similar problem. It is legal to drive a golf cart on roads in ND state parks but not ATVs. The problem seems to have increased now that GGF and regional towns allow ATVs on the street. and now the parks are having problems. Increased law enforcement helps, but it's not always a priority for the department. Park rangers try education before issuing a citation.

III. Other

- a. Turtle River State Park: Use ATV's for spraying herbicide but it was so dry this year. Concerns over fires. Buckthorn is a problem. Poison ivy working on it but can't spray without harming other plants.
- b. Good visitation numbers again.
- c. No trout because the water levels were too low. That made the water too warm and slow to support the fish
- d. Budget took a hit.
- e. Lost one staff position in the budget cut.
- f. Season has been extended by three months because of COVID-19 and climate change.
- g. Deferred maintenance.
- h. Standardized signs are coming.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6PM at GF City Hall, 255 North 4th Street, room A102

Supporting Documents: Impact of unauthorized motor vehicles, Vandalism in the Greenway