



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC March 1, 2018

Members & Guests – Cary Kirkham, Jan Bapst, Brian Snedecor, Dave Shafer, Will Farrellbegg, George Topoll, Nicole Barker, Christine Livingston, Mark Schreiber, Craig Zandstra, Joshua Sutton, Caroline Arnett, Aaron Borngaber, Dan Plath, Charles Gleason, Chris Moore, Mark Gordish, Robert Boklund, Zully Alvarado and Mark O'Dell.

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Trey Wadsworth and Mary Thorne

Chairman Cary Kirkham called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Ped

- a. **South Shore Trails (SST) Update** – No update was provided.
- b. **Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan** – Mitch Barloga said the 30-day public comment period on the plan will end tomorrow, the report will be compiled. Upon recommendation from this committee, the Plan will go to the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) for its recommendation to the Executive Board for adoption. He noted that the Environmental Management Policy Committee voted in favor of the plan this morning. Mitch reviewed the comments received and a brief discussion was held regarding some of the comments. On a motion by Mark O'Dell and a second by Mark Schreiber, the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee voted to recommend the Plan to the TPC for its recommendation to the Board for adoption.

Pedal

Feature Presentation: Nicole Barker, NICTD, presented an update of the Bikes on Trains Program which began in 2016. Partners in the program include Indiana Dunes Tourism, NICTD, NIRPC, National Park Service, South Shore Trails, National Parks Conservation Association, LaPorte and South Bend Tourism Offices, among others. A new web landing page was created to share information, resources, and get people to the Indiana Dunes on the South Shore Line with their bikes. There are downloadable brochures for Dune Park train station and other bike-friendly stops along SSL from Chicago to South Bend and a list to partners' pages and related resources as well as user friendly instructions on how to take bikes on the South Shore. All West Lake Corridor stops will have bikes on trains.

Paddle

NWI Paddling Association – Zully Alvarado outlined coming events. NWIPA is a sponsor of the Wisconsin CanoeCopia will be from March 9-11 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. For more information go to canoeCopia.com. NWIPA Rendezvous 2018 will be held on Sunday, March 18 from noon until 3 pm for NWIPA volunteers and partners at Hawthorn Park Community Center, 500 Ackerman Drive in Parker. Work continues on the Little Calumet east branch including signage and launches. Lake Station submitted a proposal for an ADA ramp. While there are fewer events this year due to a shortage of volunteers, they promise to be exciting. A lot of work was done on the Little Calumet last year, but the recent flooding may have had an impact. There is an ADA-accessible launch at Howe Road.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- Hammond: The Marquette bike trail by north State Line Road was bid and work will start shortly. The Calumet Conkey bridge is set to be bid this July at a cost of approximately \$4.5 million with \$2 million for construction provided through NIRPC and the balance with local funds. The Wolf Lake beams were set with completion expected prior to the Festival of the Lakes.
- The Douglas Center boardwalks were set and another launch will be installed at Portage Lake Front and Riverwalk next year.

B. Emerging Trends Video – “Right to Walk”

C. General Announcements

- Zully Alvarado announced an Accessibility Guideline Workshop for Outdoor Recreation & Parks will be held on March 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch. Flyers were provided. An email will be sent out to the committee.

D. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.