



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC June 22, 2017

Members & Guests –Aaron Borngraber, Mark Schreiber, Robert Boklund, John Novacich, Will Farrellbegg, Bob Huffman, Leslie Phemister, Tonya Garland, Walter Lenckos, Mark O'Dell, Steve Antonetti, Don Parker, Jake Ballah, Nichole DeMario

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Vice-Chair Farrellbegg called the meeting to order at 1:36 with self-introductions.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails (SST) Update –

Continuing work with Valparaiso on complete streets and ordinance planning with NICTD on infrastructure changes needed along Monon trail because of the Westlake Corridor construction. Also preparing for bike parking at Pierogi Fest in Whiting.

Pedal

A. Feature Presentation I: A Complete Streets Primer – *Leslie Phemister, Active Transportation Alliance*

Active Transportation Alliance is Chicagoland's advocacy voice for better, biking, walking and transit and services the Chicago metro region, which includes Northwest Indiana. Complete Streets is a commitment of safe roadways for all users and changes the way roadways are designed so they can be crossed, traveled alongside and upon; and can be used by all users safely. Benefits include increased safety for everyone on the road; helps youths stay active; allows older adults to age in place; and improves land use. In addition it better serves people with disabilities and makes economic sense. Every community is different and complete streets policies can be developed by using parts of already developed policies and adapting them to fit each community.

Mitch emphasized the importance of complete streets noting that there is a large pot of money that will be available next year and NIRPC is considering complete streets policies having to be approved to be eligible for the funds. It might just be bike and ped money, but could be all money. If NIRPC staff wants to pursue this, it will be brought before the committees since that's where policies are set. If this does become a mandate, NIRPC will be available to help communities to put policies together. He hopes to have several workshops on various topics before next year's funding solicitation.

B. Feature Presentation II: Outdoor Adaptive Escapade – *Miller Spotlight*

Active Transportation and Accessibility Alliance will be presenting Outdoor Adaptive Escapade at Marquette Park July 15 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. This involves the four spotlight communities, Hobart, Griffith, Miller and Emerson. Vendors involved in recreational activities will be present with equipment that can be tested for use on the beach and in the parks. The focus will be on active transportation and tourism, and will allow for highlighting the new bike share program.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association –

Upcoming events include sunset paddles Thursday evenings through September 8 at 6:00 pm at Marquette Park and the City of Gary Clean Water Celebration. Illinois and Indiana are creating a paddling coalition through Wilderness Inquiry. Permits are still be waiting on for cleanup of the Little Cal.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- Westchester Liberty: Wash and Kelly started construction to be completed in 2 phases. I: 11th Street to 5th Street and II: Wetland area.
- Pennsy: Phase II letting is planned for March 2018.
- Bob Huffman reported the Oak Savannah Trail extension from Colfax to Oak Ridge Prairie County Park has been completed, the Little Calumet south levy has been paved from Chase Street to Martin Luther King and the contract has been let to pave the north levy.

B. Emerging Trends Video – Bicycle super highway in the Netherlands.

C. General Announcements

- Chi-Cal grant opportunity available for improving public access to waterways in the Chicagoland area, including the northwest Indiana area. \$100k-\$300k grant available. Habitat enhancement and green stormwater improvements are also eligible.
- LaPorte Night Ride – July 21
- City of Gary Bike Share Program ribbon cutting – June 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- 2020 G+B Plan still under staff review. Aiming for July public comment period with 3PC approval in August and NIRPC board approval in September.

D. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, July 27, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 2:54.