



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC July 27, 2017

Members & Guests –Aaron Borngaber, Zully Alvarado, Jan Dick, Mardi Renslow, Jeff Sheridan, Bob Huffman, Kathy Kniola, Will Farrellbegg, Mark Gordish, Nichole DeMario, Craig Zandstra, Mark Schreiber, Sarah Coulter, Robert Boklund, Jake Ballah, Kashontia Gildon, Steve Antonetti, Don Parker, Jake Dammarell

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Rachel Veronesi, Mary Thorne

Chair Kathy Kniola called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails (SST) Update –

Don Parker said Whiting is providing free bike parking at Pierogi Fest this weekend at the west end by Peoples Bank on the southwest corner of 119th and Indianapolis. They are working with local communities on listing advocacy groups and complete streets. ADA parking is on a similar lot on the southeast corner of 119th and Indianapolis.

Pedal

A. Feature Presentation I: The Calumet Collaborative – Nichole DeMario and Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative

The Collaborative is reaching out to stakeholders from both sides of the state line within the Calumet Region in Southeast Chicago, South Cook County and Northwest Indiana for equal and inclusive involvement. Boundaries are the Pullman National Monument on the west and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on the east. Focus areas include economic opportunity, livable communities, culture and heritage and environment. Current initiatives include brown field redevelopment strategies, bi-state wayfinding system and preservation of bi-state conservation strategies. For more information, contact Nichole at nicholle@calumetcollaborative.org or Sarah at sarah@calumetcollaborative.org.

B. Feature Presentation II: Outdoor Adaptive Escapade – Miller's Build-a-Bike Program – Mardi Renslow and Jessica Renslow

The Legacy Foundation has awarded the Miller Community a grant under its Neighborhood Spotlight program. They obtained a Zagster Bikeshare contract this year and secured the funding for June 2017-June 2018. The Take "Bike" the Streets is a community educational program to increase Miller residents biking by 500% by 2025. Goals are to create a safety village to educate locals and teach people of all ages/abilities to ride bikes. By training volunteers of varying ages in these workshops, we are providing a constructive activity that promotes biking and capitalizes on fostering local leadership. We meet 10am-noon every Saturday from June-October. Each build-a-bike crew member works on his/her bike. Once a bike is ready to ride, the build-a-bike crew member donates 4 hours of service with our Miller Garden Club volunteers to receive it. In its ninth week, the Ken Parr Build-a-Bike has had 7 graduates. So, far the popup shop has had 32 participants. In 2018 they plan to have the Ken Parr Build-a-Bike crew build aqua chairs to help locals use some of our water amenities and splash pads and are seeking community partners to help implement these projects.

Rachel Veronesi passed out some information and discussed grant opportunities provided through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Traffic Safety Division to reduce fatalities and injuries among pedestrians and pedacyclists. This is 100% funding. South Shore Clean Cities will help with grant writing.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association –

Zully Alvarado said the 1st Annual Outdoor Escapade held on Saturday July 15, 2017 was a great success. Roughly 500 people of all ages and abilities came to Gary to enjoy accessible ecotourism activities. Indiana Dunes National Park purchased the first Freedom Trax which allows accessibility to the beach. The Dunes Learning Center and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore purchased an access mat for use by individuals of all abilities (pedestrians and wheelchairs access), as well as strollers. The Dunes has asked for assistance in the outdoor learning adventures the first week in October. The NWIPA Blueways River Team opened up a stretch on the Little Calumet from 249 to Brummit Road, relieving 7 log jams, and they are seeking volunteers to provide ongoing maintenance on the Kankakee River at the Yellow River and Kankakee River. Contact nwipa.org about more volunteer opportunities. Sunset Paddle at Marquette continues every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A grant is being sought to transport the trailer to the park. There are monthly kayaking opportunities for the visually impaired. The next one is on August 17. There are Lake Michigan paddling training events in August for beginners. Visit www.nwipa.org for more information.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- Craig Zandstra said work is almost finished on the Oak Ridge Prairie extension of the Oak Savannah to Erie Lackawanna trail, with a ribbon cutting this fall.
- Steve Antonetti said work continues on the Calumet north pathway and the trail counters came in.

B. Emerging Trends Video – Transform Your City with Tactical Urbanism.

C. General Announcements

- The Valparaiso Night Ride is August 26
- The WHAM Ride is Augsut 6
- LaPorte's Night Ride is August 18
- Tour De La Porte is August 25 and 26
- The adoption goal for the Greenways + Blueways is October
- MATAG is May 13 - May 16 in Columbus, Ohio

D. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.