



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC August 24, 2017

Members & Guests –Aaron Borngraber, Zully Alvarado, Jan Dick, Jessie Renslow, Shannon Eason, Wendy Vachet, Leslie Phemister, Jeff Sheridan, Mark Schreiber, Will Farrellbegg, Brad Meeder, Robert Boklund, Dean Button, Craig Zandstra, Nichole DeMario, Chris Moore, Walter Lenckos, George Topoll, Steve Antonetti, Don Oliphant, Don Parker, David Wright, Mary Mulligan.

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Rachel Veronesi, Mary Thorne

Vice Chair Will Farrellbegg called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails (SST) Update – No update was given.

Pedal

A. Feature Presentation I: Adaptive Strategies for Disabled Access – *Zully Alvarado, Causes for Change and Jessie Renslow, Neighborhood Spotlight for Legacy Foundation*

Strategies were presented for communities to incorporate accessibility for everyone. They encouraged designers, planners, engineers and financiers to think about sidewalks, roads, projects and services with ADA in mind at the earliest onset of a project as retrofitting is much more costly. Design should include auditory signage where possible. In Indiana, 1 in 5 people has a disability and there are over 100,000 people with disabilities in Lake County alone. For more information, visit causesforchange.org.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association –

Zully Alvarado said Sunset Paddle at Marquette Park Lagoon will take place on August 31 and September 7 at 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are being sought for the September 9 Ride the Wave Regatta Go to ridethewaveregatta.com for registration and more information. Volunteers are also needed for the beach cleanup at Hansen Park. Work on the Little Calumet will be finished in September. Contact nwipa.org about more volunteer opportunities. Robert Boklund announced a paddle event on September 24 on LaPorte Chain of Lakes. Visit www.nwipa.org for more information.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- Craig Zandstra: Lake County Parks is buying property for their Veterans Memorial Trail between Broadway and Iowa Street in Crown Point. Work is almost finished on the Oak Ridge Prairie extension of the Oak Savannah to Erie Lackawanna trail, with a ribbon cutting this fall. Mitch Barloga commented that it will be a great addition to our trail system.
- Dean Button: The Hammond Port Authority is under contract with Landmark Signs to produce a number of wayfinding signage in Robertsdale.

- Mitch Barloga: NIRPC is still working with the communities along the Erie Lackawanna Prairie Duneland. Hammond is taking the initiative and we are looking at signage along those trails.
- Zully Alvarado: There was a ribbon-cutting for the Zagster Bike Share program in Miller and the adaptive bikes program is in place. There are about 89 users. David Wright added that 34% repeat ridership in Miller. On Broadway, ramps are being installed in every intersection with sidewalks. Also, signage and mapping will be more accessible.
- Steve Antonetti: Zagster in Valparaiso has had 911 rides and 40+ annual members.
- Mitch Barloga briefed the committee on the bike program in Reykjavik, Iceland, where they installed a new six-station bike system. Bicycling is becoming a worldwide thing.
- Leslie Phemister: INDOT, Highland and Griffith are doing a hawk signal and speed table project on 45th, which was funded through NIRPC. Mitch Barloga added that it might be the first speed table in the region.
- Mitch Barloga: Merrillville contracted with South Shore Arts and a mural painted in a tunnel on US 30 on the Erie Lackawanna Trail. It is not being tagged. Graffiti people will not tag “works of art.”

B. Emerging Trends Video – No video was presented.

C. General Announcements

- The Active Transportation Alliance has put together a resource for collaborating with IDOT. Copies of the resource were distributed.
- The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has created a new festival, “The Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival. It will be held October 6, 7 and 8 and will feature 45 different events. The event is free, but registration is required. Visit their website for more information at https://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/outdoor_adventure_festival.htm.
- The Valparaiso Night Ride is Saturday at 11 p.m.
- August 31 from 9:30 am to 4 pm – training workshops on the disabled will be held for law enforcement along the water front and beach.
- September 23 – Hanson Park in Michigan City paddling and fishing event.
- September 30 – First annual *Creekness Stakes* hosted by LaPorte Country Soil and Water District and Wilderness Inquiry! The proceeds from this event go towards outdoor youth engagement programs.
- Michigan City has a bike repair station in Washington Park.
- Lowell Labor Day Parade and Festival – September 1-3.
- Gary Evers is retiring next month.
- The Greenway + Blueway Plan is still being edited.

D. Next 3PC Meeting is Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.