



Bike to the Future

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Bishop Grandin Greenway West Committee Meeting Minutes

February 15th, 2007

Pls see attached pdf file for map and further information.

There were approximately 15 people who attended tonight's meeting held at the constituency office of Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living and MLA for Fort Garry. The meeting was chaired by Janice Lukes, Coordinator for the Winnipeg Trails Association (A part-time position that works 12 hour days!). Attendees included Anders Swanson, Jeremy Hull and myself from B2F. Kevin Nixon from the City of Winnipeg and Lindsay Gauld, Barre Hall and a number of members from a Wildwood Park recreational cycling group were also in attendance. A representative from Rod Bruinooge MP for Winnipeg South (Wade Myall) attended as well. The meeting started at 7:00pm and finished at 9:00pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to organize a committee to be called The BGGW (Bishop Grandin Greenway West) Steering Cmte. This committee will fall under the umbrella of Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc, (BGGI) which is a registered charitable organization. The Steering Cmte will be formed in March/April and will attend BGGI's AGM in May 2007. BGGW is looking to hold a wider Community Consultations etc in June. Janice will be one of the Co-Chairs of BGGW. The other co-chairs are Les Weins and his wife. Janice also asked for others to volunteer and Barre Hall from the Winnipeg Cycle Touring Club volunteered to look after the interests of the cycling community. For those not aware, Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc has put in place and/or will finish in 2007/2008 a 12 ft wide path from St. Annes Rd to River Rd just east of the Fort Garry Bridge. The BGGW Steering Cmte's purpose is to build public support and funding to build a path from the south west side of the Fort Garry Bridge west along the south side Bishop Grandin Blvd and cross over or under the soon to be constructed Kenaston extension (~3yrs), turn north and follow on the west side of Kenaston to Scurfield. BGGW trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail. The TCT route travels into Whyte Ridge, then north thru Fort Whyte connecting into Harte Trail. This provided ideal linkages into Assiniboine Forest, the trail beside Sterling Lyon Parkway and beyond. A DRAFT project timeline sees completion of the BGGW trail in 2010 - or sooner depending on pending funding applications.

Janice gave some updates on "who's got the money!" She says she has rec'd considerable encouragement and support from Bill Elliott (Fort Whyte) Kerri Irvin Ross, Justin Swandel, Brenda Leipsic and Mayor Katz. The provincial budget is expected in April 2007 and as previously announced the Province has committed to additional investments in Winnipeg's sections of Trans Canada Trail.

Janice also advised she has applied for a 6.5 million dollar grant from the Manitoba Regional Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) which is tripartite funding (Fed/Prov/other(private)) to complete city wide trail connectivity. She has also applied for funding from the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement to fund BGGW - which is also tripartite (Fed/Prov/City). There is also the 7 million dollar 5 year Bike Path funding in the City Budget previously announced in January 2007 which BGGW will be lobbying for. Kevin Nixon reinforced his observations that Civic Officials and Politicians usually react very favourably to stewardship groups and rarely, if ever, instigate projects such as paths and trails on their own. There are too many competing priorities.

There will be 17 million dollars spent on the Rehab of the Fort Garry Bridge and BGG Inc wants cycling paths added to both the north and south sides. There is an already existing 5ft wide multiuse path (legal to ride your bike on) on the south side. They want this significantly widened, hopefully to 10 ft or more. As well the path under the bridge is very narrow and could use some widening as well.

There will also be a rehab in 2007 of Waverley Street from Bison Drive to Bishop Grandin to prepare for Waverley West implementation. For those not aware, Waverley Street will cease to exist from the perimeter to approximately Lee Blvd. The intersection of Waverley and Perimeter will be removed. Instead, Kenaston will continue south from Bishop Grandin to the Perimeter and will be the major intersection there. There was concern raised as to how residents from St Norbert Grandmont Blvd area will get across the Perimeter to Waverley West.

The cycling community was well represented, having at least 7 of us in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm

Tks
Don