

# Bike Path Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

## 11/09/13 Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Bike Path Ad Hoc Committee was called to order on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. at the United Church of Christ in Shabbona IL. The following committee members/ advisors were present:

Dan Nolan  
Jerry Foster  
Marc Cinnamon  
Wendy Schnorr  
Linda Novotny  
Kurt Hermann  
Frank Ottengheime  
Jim Johnson  
Andy Stahr (Pizzo Landscaping)  
Al Aspengren  
Allison Kidd Probst

**Additions to the Agenda:** None

**Citizen's Addressing the Board:** None

**Approval of Minutes from , October 5, 2013 Meeting:** Kurt Hermann motioned to approve the minutes. Jerry Foster seconded. All in favor Aye. Motion carried.

**Pizzo and Associates:** Andy Stahr was there to discuss possible options for landscaping along the bike path. Jerry Foster introduced him and informed that they were used at the Resource Bank. He is a landscape artist. They are an ecological company and focus on restoring native lands. They specialize in low maintenance solutions. The prairie plants that are native to this area developed over thousands of years. The plants have evolved to be drought tolerant and have deep root systems, which is good for erosion control. It is a specialized process and it takes 3-5 years to establish a planting. This eventually requires a third of the maintenance of traditional landscaping. The first year requires a lot of mowing to keep weeds down. The second year is spot mowing and spot herbicide application. The third year is when the flowering becomes more prevalent. Important to watch and eliminate certain types of plants such as thistle. Jim Johnson asked what the issue will be with farmers spraying in the adjacent fields. It depends on what is being sprayed. Some flowers will re-establish themselves if they are sprayed. Once area is graded then it can be planted and blanketed on slopes for spring/summer planting. If planted in the fall it needs to be blanketed.

Cost would be the next factor to consider. New installs are typically \$3500/acre for material and installation. This does not include any type of blanket which is typically \$3-\$5 per square yard additional cost. Design costs are extra estimated at \$5000- \$7000. Costs can also be manipulated by what type of seed mix is used. A five year maintenance plan would \$3500-

\$5500 per year. Each time a controlled fire is an additional \$4000. After year 5 the estimated cost per year is \$2000.00. The rest areas could also be planted with native plants as well.

**Construction Cost Estimates:** Jim Johnson has worked on some cost estimates. Two questions on how do we pay for it and how do we maintain it? Jim has looked at the Illinois State Bike Trail Funds. The committee needs to come up with another source of money. The grant is also a reimbursement program. Land acquisition would need to occur before any money could be approved. The future of the program is also unknown as well. The maximum contribution is \$200,000.00. The grant administrator is checking on the issue of buying land easement versus the land and the issue that the path is not one straight path. Jim is also going to investigate the Safe Routes to School Funding Cycle Grant.

Wendy Schnorr went to the MidAmerica Greenway and Trails conference and was told to connect to another trail for more funding options. Wendy provided the committee with materials from the conference.

The committee discussed what companies and organizations could be contacted for donations. The idea is to obtain grants to pay up to 90% of the project so only 10% would need to be from donations.

Jim Johnson compiled estimated costs and came up with a projected cost of \$650,000.00. He accounted for some possible contingencies. By making some modifications it can be lowered down to \$480,000.00 but would be a seal coat and only 6 inch base.

Committee also discussed going with a company such as Fehr Graham and how to raise some of the initial money that would be needed just to apply for the grants. A licensed surveyor would also be needed. Jim Johnson would like to do more research before going to Fehr Graham. Jerry Foster will approach them to find their costs for engineering and grant writing.

Jim Johnson found that money cannot be awarded to a 501 3c and will need to be awarded to a government agency. Discussion of responsibilities would fall with the township during construction and the village after construction.

Jerry Foster will have a resolution for the bike path for the Economic Development Committee to review at their next meeting.

Dan Nolan asked the committee to put together a list of 3-4 prospects that could be approached for donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. Motioned by Dan Nolan, seconded by Jerry Foster.

The next meeting will be on December 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the United Church of Christ.

Meeting Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee submitted by Allison Kidd Probst.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ November 9, 2013