

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Rome Office

Introductions: Ron and Sue Underwood-Walker Co Historical Society, Sandra Lindsey-Cave Spring DDA, Tom Lindsey-Cave Spring DDA, Lisa Stone-NWGA Public Health, Julie Smith-BWNWGA, John Johnston-Cave Spring, Larry Madden-Pinhoti Trail, Charlie Jones-NWGRC

-The August meeting in Bartow County, at the new emergency center in ATCO, was hosted by Missy Phillips of Keep Bartow Beautiful. After the meeting, the group went to the Leake Mounds Trails that were built by the City of Cartersville. The Mounds had been excavated by University of West Georgia students. There is also a new canoe put in on the Etowah River near the Leake Trail site. Cartersville/Bartow County are working on trail plans to connect to the Silver Comet Trail.

-Charlie gave an update on the GDOT contract workscope. Hopefully in the next week it will be officially approved but likely with a lesser amount than requested. GDOT is rolling out a new program called; "Teens in the Driver's Seat" (fact sheet handed out) and the NWGRC will be tasked with implementing for the 15-county region. Ideally the funding would be available for 12 months.

-Tom Lindsey reported on the August 29 meeting in Cave Spring with Roger Williams, GDOT Board representative from NW Georgia. Roughly 50 people attended with many people speaking in favor of the SCT to CS connection. Tom said that Katie Dempsey and Roger discussed finding support and funding for the project in the state house. Regarding the feasibility study, Charlie said that the route proposed at the August 29 meeting in Cave Spring would be given to the as yet unnamed consultant for the study.

-Julie pitched the Georgia Bike Summit that will be held in Columbus the last weekend in October.

-The Rome/Floyd Trail Update is progressing with the public roll out of the plan in October. Charlie announced that Kevin Howard, with the Rome/Floyd Planning Department is no longer with the city/county. A replacement has been hired. Julie said that one idea that the ALTA consultant mentioned was to make the two inner lanes of Broad Street a bike lane and to change Broad Street parking to reverse angle. Sandra Lindsey said that she attended a DDA workshop in Decatur, GA and making cities more walkable and bike friendly is a huge trend.

-Someone asked if changes were going to be made to the Micro-grant program and Charlie said the only one was that applicants can only request one product from one vendor at a time. Multiple vendors on one request will not be considered due to ordering and payment complexity issues.

-The October 9 meeting was discussed and Cedartown was mentioned as a possible location. Julie to follow up and confirm meeting time and location.