

**EAST GRAND FORKS  
REGULAR  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 10, 2024 – 12:00 Noon**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mike Powers, President called the July 10, 2024 meeting of the East Grand Forks Planning Commission to order at 12:07 pm

**CALL OF ROLL**

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: Commissioners: Mike Powers, Richard Audette, Chad Erickson, Brad Ortzman and Karen Peterson

Absent: Randy Boushey

Guest(s) present: Stephanie Halford, Forks MPO; Cody Christianson, Bolton-Menk Consulting

Staff present: Nancy Ellis (CP), City Planner; Brenda Ault (EA), Executive Assistant

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

A quorum was present.

**COMMUNICATION**

1. Resignation of Commission Member Gary Christianson. President Powers asked how long he had been on the Commission, CP Ellis stated he was on when she started in 2006 and she expressed her gratitude for his years of service.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson, Seconded by Commissioner Ortzman to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024 Organizational Meeting and the Regular Meeting M/S/P-Erickson, Ortzman; 5-0, mc.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Matter of Approval of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Presentation**

CP Ellis reminded the Commission that The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program is a new federal funding program that provides Federal grant funding from the United State Department of Transportation. This is a program is similar to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) in that it is focused on improving safety of the traveling public, however it can have a significantly expanded scope of potential funding

opportunities for implementation. There is approximately \$1 billion available nationally each year.

This funding is split into two categories, Action Plan grants and Implementation grants. Action Plan grants are used to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The Implementation grants are used to fund projects and programs identified in the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. To be eligible for Implementation grants the applicant must have a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan in place. The City does not currently have a plan which meets the necessary requirements.

We have been awarded funding for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Grant. We have received \$500,000 to conduct the study and prepare the action plan; of which the local entities must match the 80/20 split of \$100,000. Grand Forks and East Grand Forks will each be responsible for \$50,000. She invited Halford and Christianson to speak to the group.

Halford thanked the Commission for their support, informed them that they had applied for the grant and been awarded \$400,000 for Grand Forks and East Grand Forks. She stated, the Federal Grant Program was to prevent death & serious injury on roads and streets and this comprehensive safety action plan supports this plan. She introduced Christianson and invited him to address the Commission.

Christianson stated the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Components are:

1. Leadership commitment and goal setting
2. Planning structure
3. Safety analysis
4. Engagement and collaboration
5. Equity
6. Policy and process changes
7. Strategy and project selections
8. Progress and transparency

He explained that the High Injury Network is determined by every crash in the city is assigned a point score based on the collision type and the road segment on which it occurred. Intersection related crashes account for more than 50% of all crashes and about one-third of fatal crashes. Rates are expressed as the number of crashes per million entering vehicles rather than a million vehicle miles of travel.

He also said the Virtual public engagement has an online comment mapping tool. Pop-up engagement will be held at the University Park Neighborhood Event on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Peterson questioned whether any events will be held in East Grand Forks. Halford stated that she had talked with Economic Director Gorte about the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Showcase. Peterson suggested Heritage Days and the October Craft show as well.

Halford also stated that CP Ellis and David Kuharenko, Assistant Engineer for Grand Forks, had a huge impact on the grant and that this will open the doors on other

EAST GRAND FORKS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, February 14, 2024

grants. Input from the community will be very important as well. CP Ellis stated that she could put it up on the electronic billboard by the pool. Halford stated they have been utilizing social media and they will be back a few more times with updates for the Commission.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Erickson made a motion to adjourn, President Powers adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Brenda Ault  
Executive Assistant