

Alpena County Heritage Route Team Meeting Notes

Date: 7-31-06

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Mich-e-ke-wis Park Shelter

Present: Greg Sundin (City of Alpena), Eric Cline (City of Alpena), Rich Sullenger (City of Alpena), Mike Uskiewicz (City of Alpena), Ken Czapski (U.P. Engineers & Architects), Marie Twite (Alpena Township), Ken Gauthier (Sanborn Township), Doug Vam (Sanborn Township), Bev Bodem (Senator Stamas' Office), Dennis Bodem, Lynn Kolasa (DDA), Deb Pardike (CVB), and Denise Cline (NEMCOG),.

Sundin explained that he is going to present the plans for the Mich-e-ke-wis Park shelter to the Planning Commission for their information because the new plans will have to be included in the Mich-e-ke-wis Park/Starlite Beach Master Plan. Czapski presented the first draft of the Welcome Center designs including two schemes. Scheme #1 included a partition wall between the 3rd and 4th windows (windows at the front of the building). Scheme #2, encompassing the fourth window, included a larger area of the shelter devoted to the Heritage Center. The partition wall would be constructed to the ceiling to allow for a sound barrier between the Heritage Center and the remainder of the building.

A barrier-free restroom was included on the plans. A pull-down gate was also included to prevent access to the Heritage Center when it is closed, but which would still allow access to the restrooms from the other side of the shelter. The group also agreed that air conditioning would be necessary for the Heritage Center side of the building (possibly some time of additional heating system as well). The current concessions counter would not need to be kept.

Provisions for parallel parking for RV's were included as part of a road-widening design. The group discussed the option of installing a sanitation station for RV's. Sullenger suggested that RV's could be directed to the Water Recycling plant instead of installing a sanitation station at the park.

Provisions for storage within the building were discussed. An area toward the back of the building has been designated for storage. Sullenger indicated that he felt the smaller floor plan would be better because it would leave a larger area for events in the other half of the shelter. Eric Cline stated that he would prefer the larger floor plan now rather than to building the smaller with the possibility of needing to expand it later. The configuration of displays was discussed. Displays might or might not extend above the window sill. The group agreed that solid glass doors should be used to close off the Heritage Center instead of a pull-down partition.

Sundin brought up the need to look at the entire layout of the building in the future. Eric Cline discussed the need to identify which park improvements would be included as part of this project and which would be eligible for MDOT funding. He also stated that provisions needed to be made for electronics if interactive displays and wireless technology were to be used. Kolasa and Pardike both indicated that they would prefer the larger floor plan.

Czapski stated that he would come up with a modified Scheme # 2 (larger floor plan) and bring it back to the committee along with cost estimates.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 1:30 PM at City Hall.