

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – December 13, 2017
Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Cook, Kari Kostka, Jim Keller, Mark Suderman, David McKinnon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marc Grubert, Julia Kertz-Grant

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck

OTHER: Larry Maneely (Commissioner’s Office), Jason Boal (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

Mike Edwards, the new Open Space & Trails Coordinator, introduced himself to the group.

Motion: C. Cook moved to approve the minutes. J. Keller seconded. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

PENITENTIARY CANAL GREENBELT:

S. Koberg supplied an update on the Penitentiary Canal Greenbelt. Scott scrolled through pictures as he talked. The construction component is progressing quickly. Progress to date includes filling of the entire canal up to the syphon. Pipe is being placed in the lower section today. The entire surface has been milled and some will be used for the base. The base will be amended before the asphalt is put in. Biweekly construction contractor meetings are being held to address items such as capturing erosion off site. There will be some savings by reducing the number of manholes. These savings will be used to enhance the berm that used to be in place when the canal was open. Without a berm to break up the landscape, the access between Warm Springs Avenue and the pathway is too open.

E-BIKES:

C. Cook started a letter of recommendation to follow the City’s direction when it comes to E-Bikes. C. Cook inquired if the Bike Park should be excluded in the letter and note that Ada County will work with Eagle on what their direction for E-Bikes will be. S. Koberg suggested another way to approach the letter would be to suggest that we work with other appropriate partners for offsite locations. M. Suderman suggested that we come to the table with a stance and not just follow suit with Boise or Eagle. J. Keller added that each trail is a specific case and that there are 2 elements that come into play. The first is the specific nature of each trail and the second is the partnerships involved. All elements need to be looked at on a case by case basis. D. McKinnon added that it may be difficult to keep up with the E-Bike rules and what we need is an umbrella, for simplification. He also added that enforcement may be an issue. S. Koberg added that consistency and simplicity are the two things the end user will be concerned about. Ada County is sort of in the middle because we own properties that are separate and unique. The next step is to clarify our stance and communicate that to the community. A recommendation from the Parks Board would be helpful. It would provide support as we move forward.

C. Cook said he would finish up the letter and send it out.

RED HAWK TRAIL DEVELOPMENT:

S. Koberg shared a map of potential connections at Red Tail Trail. Since the last meeting he has met with Fish & Game staff and is trying to get them out on site to take a look at trail connections and determine if they already have data. There is concern about displacement of wildlife in the area.

NEW BUSINESS

ADA/EAGLE BIKE PARK:

Scott reminded everyone of the interactive map that is on the Ada County homepage. He pulled it up on the computer. The information is basic but can be updated. A lot of Mike's efforts will be at the Bike Park once he gets going. C. Cook inquired what the plan was for downhill trails since BAMBA is no longer doing trail work at the Bike Park. M. Edwards replied that outreach needs to be done. M. Edwards also added that he wasn't sure if BAMBA was done working at the Bike Park. S. Koberg inquired why BAMBA doesn't want to work at the Bike Park. C. Cook responded that it's not anything that was announced, but that they would rather work at Avimor and that there is too much red tape at the Bike Park. S. Koberg added that with Mike now on board and with assistance from seasonal staff we will have a much more consistent and effective presence at the Bike Park.

OTHER BUSINESS:

L. Maneely brought everyone up to speed on the Plantation Island Bridge project. FEMA took an application from the Foundation for Parks and Lands, as the property owner, for relief funds from the disaster declaration. This was denied by FEMA. There is a \$50 million relief fund that was put in place by the legislature and governor. The Foundation was encouraged and did apply for this. There is a grant opportunity with COMPASS for project preparation. State funding was going to be decided at the end of November. The COMPASS committee that evaluates the applications will do so in April. COMPASS Board will make the grant award in June. The Foundation is not eligible for the COMPASS grant so Ada County has applied for it and, if awarded, will hand them the money to them.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.