

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – January 18, 2017
Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Suderman, Jim Keller, Kari Kostka, Chris Cook, Marc Grubert, Julia Kertz-Grant, David McKinnon,

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg and Candy Hahlbeck

OTHERS PRESENT: Commissioner Visser, Larry Maneely, Megan Basham

INTRODUCTION:

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

Approval of the minutes from the December meeting will be deferred until the February meeting

J. Grant requested that her comments regarding Redhawk Trailhead/Military Reserve Trailhead and trails that are not on ACHD right of way roads be added to the meeting minutes from December.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

M. Basham provided an updated the Board that P & Z included the recommendations for Dry Creek go forward to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

REDHAWK:

S. Koberg provided an update on Redhawk. He explained that Mark Perfect with Development Services has provided an extensive Activities Plan which is a breakdown of everything that is needed to move forward with plans for Redhawk that include initial planning, outreach, engineering, design, permitting, building plans, pre-construction and inspections. The plan also included resource hours and staff hours which totals 537 hours. Scott is hopeful that these hours can be expedited and trimmed back.

S. Koberg also explained that Mark responded to the conversation between legal and ACHD regarding the frontage and maintenance of the right-of-way and road. Mark's comment from ACHD was access to the frontage was not a problem according to ACHD.

S. Koberg updated the Board on Avimor's commitment to this project. He explained that after speaking with representatives from Avimor and following up with Meg Leatherman, that instead of the \$5,000 capital that was to go to the funding of the trailhead, that use of their engineering staff would be used instead because of issues with the timeline, planning and design. It was agreed that this would be more valuable than the capital that was originally offered.

J. Grant inquired if this funding needed to be used by the end of the year.

In addition, S. Koberg updated the Board on a letter he sent dated December 8th, 2016 to the adjacent landowners, Gerald and Robin Teal regarding a revocable trail easement on their property. He has not received a response but plans to do a cold site visit with them. J. Grant mentioned that she has a contact number for them.

R. Visser inquired exactly where this potential easement would be. S. Koberg explained that the potential easement would be on a small segment of private property that has acreage between the

county's Redhawk property and Avimor property. C. Cook showed a copy of the map to R. Visser to help explain this point.

PENITENTIARY CANAL GREENBELT:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Penitentiary Canal Greenbelt. He stated that following the previous meeting that a final walkthrough was completed by the engineering/consulting team along with Ada County Operations. The preliminary design is in development. Design considerations include pathway widening, placement of manholes for canal access once piped, the syphon, and alignment within the Bureau of Reclamation corridor.

The wetland areas (less than ½ acre) were looked at and because they were identified, wetland credits would need to be purchased in the implementation of this project which will cause the cost to increase. We are still awaiting the Bureau of Reclamation's follow up to the SHIPO designation. The design is expected to be completed prior to the end of January.

In addition, S. Koberg noted that no snow removal maintenance has been done because of the narrowness of the path. And that maintenance staff are stopping just past State Park's entrance because snow removal equipment can't safely be used.

G. Grant inquired if there had been further discussions with the Gregerson's regarding this property. S. Koberg replied that he had not heard of further discussions.

L. Maneely inquired about Greenbelt access at the Ben's Crow Inn/Conger property. S. Koberg replied that from a County stand point, per the agreement with the Bureau, we are not doing anything to address connectivity at Ben's Crow. There is no authority, obligation or legal right to do so.

L. Maneely inquired if development will be started before the current project completes. S. Koberg replied that development has already started.

C. Cook inquired if developer will build the path and have users cross on private land. S. Koberg noted that a sandwich board was up at the bridge that said future connectivity for Greenbelt was coming.

NEW BUSINESS

FACTS/JUDY PEAVEY-DERR GREENBELT:

S. Koberg provided an update on the FACTS/Judy Peavey-Derr Greenbelt. The County accepted 5 easements of land behind the water treatment facility. Snow removal is a challenge for this path. Future items for this path include striping, widening potential, debris issues and signage.

M. Grubert inquired as to the location of the path.

C. Cook inquired as to condition of the path. S. Koberg explained that he did a final photo walkthrough and reported that it is in good shape but with challenges. Challenges are, because of the limitations of the gravel pit operations and riparian area, leaf litter and debris, branches, weed intrusion and flooding.

R. Visser inquired as to how this path is tied into the Greenbelt.

S. Koberg also reported that a FACTS committee member proposed a bike repair station on this path.

PLANTATION ISLAND GREENBELT:

S. Koberg provided an update on Plantation Island Greenbelt. County leadership has asked for input from staff, if the County were to acquire this property, what would need to be done. Planning documents have been prepared indicating what would need to be done and some alternatives that could be explored on Plantation Island. If the County does acquire this property, Park & Waterways would likely handle maintenance and may take on additional Greenbelt that currently belongs to Expo.

J. Grant inquired if the property is privately owned. S. Koberg responded that it's the only section of the Greenbelt that is not owned by a municipality. It is owned by Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands.

L. Maneely explained that the Foundation has expressed strong interest in being rid of the property. The County is very hesitant to make any commitments because of the potential mitigation in several

different ways. He went on to say that Ted Argyle has been reviewing the language in the contract agreement to take ownership of the property. Chief Justice McDevitt is negotiating for the Foundation. J. Grant inquired about the discussion between the County and City. S. Koberg responded that he didn't know what the ultimate deciding factor would be.

S. Koberg also noted that this would be a good time for the Advisory Board to address any concerns to the Board of Commissioners regarding this property. Concerns from management have been given to the Board.

R. Visser commented that there is more to this project; accretion and boundary changes over the past 30 years.

J. Grant inquired as to which side of the island was seeing growth. S. Koberg commented that growth was on the upstream end and that erosion was also an issue. He noted that erosion control would be addressed before spring if County took over ownership.

ECHANOVE RANCH ESTATES TRAIL EASEMENT:

S. Koberg provided an update on Echanove Ranch Estates Trail Easement. Echanove Ranch is in the vicinity of Redhawk. The County has had a trail and conservation easement parallel to Dry Creek for 15 years. After discussion in the Fall the Board of Commissioners elected to move forward this year with placement of a trail this fiscal year.

The easement calls for a 10 foot wide, multi-use pathway with a primitive, unimproved surface. Once things thaw out, we will be out flagging a trail route.

C. Cook inquired as to which side the path would be placed on. S. Koberg responded it would be the south side of Dry Creek.

C. Cook inquired if there have been complaints from homeowners who have built on the easement. S. Koberg replied that encroachment has been an issue with homeowners and that a decision has not been made to rectify the encroachments. This issue will be revisited, but the encroachments will not affect trail construction.

M. Basham inquired if the trail connects to Hidden Springs. S. Koberg responded that no, it does not and that it gets users off Dry Creek Road. He believes the intent was a placeholder for future connectivity.

M. Basham inquired if there are any Ada County regional trails in Hidden Springs. S. Koberg responded that there are, and that they are Ridge to Rivers trails.

M. Suderman inquired about the Echanove Ranch Estates trail easement placement and if the easement stopped at McFarland Creek Road. S. Koberg responded that the trail easement is west of McFarland Creek Road and will not connect to the Dry Creek Estates, but will connect to Broken Horn Road.

R. Visser inquired as to an agriculture easement or contract on the corner of Brookside and Hwy 55 and if it is privately or publicly owned. M. Basham responded that this would be on the February 15th public hearing and that currently there is no easement and that the land is privately owned.

C. Cook suggested discussing e-bikes on the Greenbelt at the next meeting

K. Kostka suggested discussing the app for the Bike Park.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.