

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – June 28, 2017 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Keller

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg and Candy Hahlbeck

OTHER: Larry Maneely (BOCC), Meghan Basham (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

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

Motion: C. Cook moved to approve the minutes. K. Kostka seconded. Motion passed

Agenda Changes: J. Grant would like to add the Ramaker property protection effort to the agenda under New Business.

C. Cook would like to add the property off Aldape Summit. The gate came down, it use to be a no trespassing zone but recreationalists have been using it.

OLD BUSINESS

SNAKE RIVER TRAILS FIELD TRIP:

S. Koberg updated those who could not attend the BLM led field trip to Halverson Bar that took place on May 24th 2017. Scott scrolled through photos that were taken during the visit. J. Grant inquired if the trails were planned or just user created. S. Koberg responded that it was a little bit of both, primarily user created trails which were then indoctrinated in where appropriate trail connections might be. C. Cook mentioned that the largest Golden Eagle population in North America nests in this location. S. Koberg added that no Peregrine Falcons are in this area. K. Kostka noted the reason was because it not their habitat for nesting. C. Cook added that while on the hike there was discussion about creating a connection between the trails and making it an official route. M. Grubert inquired as to how may miles this would be. C. Cook responded 10 miles.

BOISE RIVER FLOOD UPDATE:

S. Koberg supplied an update on the Boise River Flood. He indicated that the flood is over and now we are moving into repair in a few areas. The first is from Barber Park down to Parkcenter Bridge where there is significant damage to the primitive Greenbelt Pathway. We are also assisting with the effort to replace the Plantation Island Bridge. A new bridge is needed that could be up to 300 feet long and would likely need to be placed further upstream. The estimated cost is \$600,000.00. The third repair is the Sunroc/JPD Greenbelt segment. As for Barber Park cleanup, restoration efforts have been made after the water receded from the parking lot. Sandbags and Super Sacks have been removed. S. Koberg explained that Ada County IT was able to come out with their drone and do a flight just after the peak of the flood. S. Koberg reviewed the drone footage with everyone. Most of the forested area was under water during the flood, some areas stayed dry. Part of the budget submittal this year included a proposal to install a flood embankment that would push the water behind our maintenance shop and enhance that area for a constructed wetland.

The next major point where there were flood concerns was near Bubb Diversion. Just downstream from this was one of the major breaches on Barber Park property. S. Koberg scrolled through photos

that were taken of the damage. As the photos show, there is significant erosion down to large cobbles, not a usable pathway surface. The depth of erosion is 16-18 inches and 9-10 feet wide.

J. Grant inquired if Scott had heard from any neighbors during the flood fight. S. Koberg indicated that he had not. J. Grant inquired as to where the money is coming from for repairs. S. Koberg replied that we are seeking FEMA money. Scott presented information to FEMA in their format along with photo documentation. The total cost estimate for the 3 projects for Barber Park, Plantation Island, and Sunroc is \$1.715 million for repairs. M. Grubert inquired if the Plantation Island Bridge could be used elsewhere. S. Koberg responded that it could be, but not in a critical area. It will not be placed back in the same location.

GREENBELT PATHWAY CLOSURES:

The City of Boise has announced today that most of the Greenbelt has reopened. There are 3-4 primary spots that can't reopen, but most of the 25 miles managed by Boise City will reopen. J. Grant inquired as to the signage on the paths in Barber Park. S. Koberg replied that everything from Bubb Diversion to Bethine Church River Trail is still closed. There are trail barricades and trail closure at these points. J. Grant commented about the green infrastructure aspect showing the value of these undeveloped lands along the river. The parties also discussed the ACHD bike detour map app.

REDHAWK

J. Grant mentioned Redhawk and that it hasn't been on the agenda in a while. S. Koberg replied that it has taken a back burner for now. He went on to say that money slotted for Redhawk may need to go to other projects if the money from FEMA doesn't come through.

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET UPDATE:

S. Koberg reported on the department budget. He indicated that the budget is not yet set, but that he requested an Open Space & Trails Coordinator position along with 2 new longer term seasonal staff. Scott also requested \$330,000.00 for the flood embankment and wetland area. \$90,000.00 was approved to phase in this project. The last item that was requested was \$1.325 million to complete the Penitentiary Canal project. The caveat is that the Board of Commissioners has proposed to use foregone tax funds for this project. L. Maneely explained what foregone taxes are and that 6-7 years ago the Commissioners did not take the 3% max that could be taken in a general property tax increase. Foregone is the 3% increments each year, a dollar total based on the property in the County, that goes on the books but is never collected. There has been some new legislation put forward that requires a public hearing anytime foregone will be used. It has to be designated for a specific purpose in a public hearing. This is where the Penitentiary Canal project funding is being proposed to come from. K. Kostka inquired as to if the foregone money is used, that it will be an ongoing, annual tax. L. Maneely replied that yes, it goes into the fund base. C. Cook inquired what happens with the money once the canal project is complete. L. Maneely added that about 3 years ago the Clerk started to remind the Board that the annual 3% increase is necessary to adjust for inflation and maintenance on existing infrastructure.

M. Basham added that the date of the public hearing is July 11th.

FEMA DISASTER DECLARATION FLOOD ASSISTANCE REQUESTS:

This week Scott presented information to FEMA in their format along with photo documentation. The total cost estimate for the 3 projects for Barber Park, Plantation Island, and Sunroc is \$1.715 million for repairs.

AVIMOR RECREATION PLAN:

We have been working with Development Services and Avimor to update their recreation plan. The way that their comprehensive plan for the community was adopted is that any changes need to go

through a very extensive process, so there was an effort made to divorce the recreation plan from that process in anticipation of Avimor contributing easements to the County for public trail management.

ALDAPE SUMMIT

C. Cook inquired if Aldape Summit is able to be recreated now that the gates are gone. S. Koberg said he would find out.

ADA/EAGLE BIKE PARK

C. Cook inquired if the Bike Park was in good shape. S. Koberg indicated that it could use some attention. C. Cook mentioned that at the bottom of Shake and Bake it was hard to see where the takeoffs and landings are. M. Grubert inquired about treating Skeleton Weed. S. Koberg responded that Ada County Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement will be hiring a new Director soon and this person will be approached to figure out if they can be more engaged in a management strategy as far as what can be done via vehicle versus having someone walk 11 miles to treat it.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m