

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – March 22, 2017 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg and Candy Hahlbeck

OTHERS PRESENT: Commissioner Rick Visser, Amanda Hoffman (BLM), Jared Fluckiger (BLM)

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. D. McKinnon seconded. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

RED HAWK:

S. Koberg provided an update on Red Hawk. Scott has made contact with the adjacent land owner and he has no interest in granting any type of trail easement at this time. At this point we are stuck within our property. The trail connection between the Red Hawk trail and Avimor is still possible but it will be more visible and likely more expensive. J. Grant inquired about the Aase's Onion and walking the alignment. S. Koberg responded that we have not yet done any vegetative inventory at this time. As for the trailhead we are now investigating what it will take to improve the road beyond the initially proposed trailhead location so we can make use of a turnaround that is ½ mile up the road for equestrian use and parking. KM Engineering, on behalf of Avimor, is evaluating that. The initial proposed location would have been more expensive to try and create enough space whereas this alternate location will cost more in road improvements. The input from Development Services at this point is the Boise Fire Department would treat this as an extended driveway which would need to be improved for their access. C. Cook inquired if the trailhead is in the budget for this year. S. Koberg replied that the trailhead and trails were budgeted in the amount of \$60,000. Kevin from KM will provide a construction estimate once he knows about the driveway improvements needed and finalizes a trailhead concept. M. Grubert inquired if the Avimor trails will connect in a different spot. S. Koberg responded that the connection to Avimor will remain the same and the alternative trailhead is a better tie in.

PENITENTIARY CANAL GREENBELT:

The Bureau of Reclamation submitted their letter to the state archeologist on March 3rd. They indicated that they agreed that it was historically significant but has not retained historic integrity. They argued in the letter that it isn't eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. SHPO has 30 days from the date of this letter to respond. The Bureau of Reclamation indicated in that letter that if SHPO disagreed with Bureau of Reclamation that it would be taken to the Keeper of the National Register. If it is put on the register, Scott is unsure what the options are moving forward. On the design side, pipe size was discussed at the last meeting. The design engineers were asked to come up with some alternate solutions based on modeling. They came up with 3500 feet of 36 inch pipe and 4850 of 42 inch pipe. This will reduce cost but still be able to push the water through. The project budget is 1.34 million.

BIKE PARK MAPPING AND APP:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Bike Park Mapping and app. He mentioned that the existing map was posted to the Facebook page even though it has errors. The drone flight was scheduled with Ada County's IT Department for March 21st, but it was cancelled by IT. The flight took place March 22nd, S. Koberg hopes it will result in some nice stitched together imagery that can be used for an updated trails map and incorporated into a mobile app. Once preliminary results are obtained, Scott will circulate to the Parks Board. C. Cook inquired as to the map up at the top. S. Koberg responded that he wanted to wait to produce anything until we get new imagery.

BIKE PARK TRAILS MAINTENANCE:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Bike Park Maintenance. He noted that he recently tuned up Snoop Loop and repaired ruts on Rabbit Run. David and his scout troop will be out this evening to do additional trail work. They will target Low Rider. Scott also mentioned that the trails have held up surprisingly well so far due to consistent trail maintenance last Spring and Fall.

SWIMBA has posted their trail maintenance days. They are March 30th, April 4th, April 6th, and April 11th. Most of the work will start on the southwest facing trails including D's Chaos, Twisted Sister and a little of Rabbit Run. The back side will be worked on once it dries out.

Eagle is having a trail maintenance party on all the downhill trails on the front end of the park on April 2nd.

There are currently no muddy trail closures and everything is open.

Scott also noted that we have not had much contact with BAMBA in the recent months. Scott hopes they will honor their commitment that they have made in the past.

NEW BUSINESS

HUBBARD RESERVOIR:

S. Koberg provided an update on Hubbard Reservoir. He noted an equestrian incident that happened a week ago Sunday that picked up some local news and social media coverage. An equestrian user that uses the trails frequently was riding through a section of trail that was wet where the reservoir had filled up beyond its typical boundaries and wetted a portion of the trail where she was riding through on her horse, and the horse sank deep into an unstable soils area. The horse and rider are ok. It resulted in Parks staff closing that section of trail and reevaluating other areas resulting in additional trail closures on site. This may result in a future reroute of this section of trail. This is being treated similar to high water closure on the river, with barricades. J. Grant inquired as to the percentage of equestrian users as Hubbard. S. Koberg responded that it was roughly 75 percent. M. Suderman inquired if this was the first time something like this had happened. S. Koberg responded that this was the first time he had heard of a situation like this. M. Suderman responded that this was a record winter and the odds of this happening again are slim, but it is something that needs to be addressed. J. Keller inquired when maintenance is done on this property. S. Koberg replied that Parks staff checks this property once a week.

GREENBELT CLOSURES AND DAMAGE:

S. Koberg provided an update on Greenbelt closures and damage. Sections of the Greenbelt are closed from Barber Park to Bown Crossing. A section of the JPD trail is now closed due to sloughing of the bank into the gravel pit. The sloughing was communicated to Sunroc and Boise River Flood Control District by our Department. That same day Sunroc said they needed to get on the levy with their heavy equipment to repair the levy so it didn't breach. As a result, there is now cracking on that section of the Greenbelt so it has been shut down for public safety. C. Cook inquired if the county was charged to get the levy fixed. S. Koberg responded that that is an area where we do not own the property, but easements are in place so the repair was paid for by Sunroc, the landowner.

S. Koberg mentioned that if the Board wanted to talk about Plantation Island they could. C. Cook inquired about The Foundation giving Ada County Plantation Island. S. Koberg responded that it

never happened and was unsure if it would happen. At this point we are not involved with management, just helping with the trail closure. R. Visser mentioned that it was somewhat of a one sided trade, that's why the county didn't go for it. In addition, S. Koberg mentioned that people have been going around the fully fenced barricades at both ends and climbing the rails of the bridge to get around the closure. In addition, S. Koberg mentioned a potential solution would be in the winter when the flows reach around 240 cfs. At that point heavy equipment could get onto the island via the south channel from the levy by Expo.

SNAKE RIVER TRAIL:

Amanda Hoffman from BLM talked with The Board regarding the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (West) Travel Management Area. The Snake River Birds of Prey is managed under a 2008 Resource Management Plan. In these plans, decisions are made regarding transportation planning and that is whether areas are open to cross county motorized use, limited in some way with a variety of limitations, or closed to motorized use. All the areas being considered in the effort are limited to existing routs. This is the baseline for starting the planning effort with a goal that they will get to designated routs with limitations on season and vehicle types. Amanda brought a map that displays the planning area. The Travel Management Plan has 3 steps- the first being inventory. This is being wrapped up by taking this to the public to see if anything was missed and validating the work that was done. Route evaluation is the second step. The result of this will determine some alternatives which will then be taken to the public and get feedback. The final step is the planning stage where an environmental assessment is prepared.

The timeline is to wrap up scoping by March 30th and the route evaluation will begin. During scoping they are hoping to obtain information on routes used that may have been missed and any resources or concerns the public may have so that they can go into the evaluation process. The evaluation process will occur this spring into the summer. Alternatives should be developed by late summer or early fall with another series of public meetings to present to the public. At this point another comment period will occur; the environmental assessment will be prepared, and a public comment period which will happen late winter 2017 with a decision winter 2018.

S. Koberg thanked Amanda for coming out at such short notice. He went on to say that the best thing the Advisory Board can do at this time is to review what is out there now and provide comments.

J. Grant inquired if there is a density of travel routes hoped to be reached or a standard. Amanda replied that the standard for wildlife and raptors is 1 mile per 1 square mile. This is something they will be taking a look at. It is important to know the NCA is managed for raptors and their habitat, cultural resources, and science and educational opportunities. C. Cook inquired about creating a Snake River Trail and if this would be a good time to identify some of the routes and try to link them together, using existing roads, as a non-motorized opportunity through the NCA. Amanda responded that this is the best opportunity to do that and to provide feedback.

Motion: C. Cook moved to Submit Comments to BLM. D. McKinnon seconded. Motion passed.

EVENT REQUESTS:

S. Koberg provided an update on Event Requests. He reported that a new Events Coordinator has been hired. All Greenbelt and Bike Park events requests will start to be routed through him. He requested that if anyone sees races or events being promoted on social media, to please forward it to Ada County Parks & Waterways. M. Basham added that if the event starts or ends in Ada County, that many times they will need a temporary use permit from Development Services.

BOISE RIVER FLOWS:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Boise River Flows. He reported that our parking lot is partially flooded. Flows were bumped up to 7750 cfs at Glenwood. We are currently monitoring for trail closures among other things. We still don't know how it will impact the float season, but he has already received a request for an interview. S. Koberg also noted that members of the Jackson Factory Team Kayakers were in the park at the first diversion as you float the river.

M. Grubert inquired as to the maximum flow that can be released. D. McKinnon replied that 16,600 cfs. This would be the 100 year flood stage and would close the park.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.