

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board –October 25, 2017 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Julia Kertz-Grant

**STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck

**OTHER:** Jason Boal (Development Services), Commissioner Rick Visser

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

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

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

#### **PENITENTIARY CANAL GREENBELT:**

S. Koberg supplied an update on the Penitentiary Canal Greenbelt. There were 3 responsive bidders to the project; Central Paving, Knife River and Granite Excavation. The bid was awarded to the lowest responsive bidder-Granite Excavation. Their bid was \$1,924,386. The contract with Granite was signed yesterday at the Open Business Meeting. The notice to proceed is today. The path will be closing later than expected. There is a pre-construction meeting on Monday with Granite Excavation. They do intend to use the existing asphalt for equipment access. This could allow them to keep the path open longer. Granite does not plan to extend the closure period due to the later start. There are plans to reach out to the public again after the pre-construction meeting.

#### **E-BIKES:**

S. Koberg read an email from Doug Holloway from Boise City Parks regarding the City's take on e-bikes and what they have done in the last year to evaluate where and how they were going to adapt to e-bike concerns and requests for usage on the Greenbelt and the Ridge to Rivers trail system. The bottom line is that the City has a draft ordinance. The purpose of this is to classify what an e-bike is, motorized versus non-motorized. They would be classified as non-motorized. The Greenbelt is non-motorized. If we followed suit and modified the current Parks code, we would need to clarify what e-bikes are. This would include the entirety of the Boise River Greenbelt pathway currently managed by the City of Boise and would be fully authorize e-bike usage. Class 1 and 2 would be authorized for Greenbelt usage. C. Cook inquired if there has been any push back from City of Boise regarding the ordinance and it being changed. S. Koberg replied not that he knew of as far as the Greenbelt portion is concerned. M. Suderman inquired if Doug Holloway or anyone with the City reached out to anyone with the County to get the County's take on what they wanted to do with the County's portion of the Greenbelt or do they just do what they want and we follow suit? S. Koberg responded that it's a little bit of both. J. Keller mentioned that he was at a public hearing this past week in Ketchum and there was a handout passed out on the Federal Electric Bicycle Law, HR727, which was passed in 2002 to specifically address e-bikes.

J. Keller mentioned that the consistency issue is big enough to follow the path we are on.

M. Suderman commented that enforcement is an issue. His concern is that people will use e-bikes on the Greenbelt that don't know how to handle them. He went on to say that there isn't a realistic way

for the County to not follow suit. J. Keller added that Blaine County is leaning towards no speed limit signs and no enforcement. C. Cook inquired if Boise City will actually give out tickets. S. Koberg responded that he was unsure if they would, but it was specifically mentioned in Doug's report. They intend to post speed limit signs and issue citations for speed violations.

#### Ridge to Rivers E-Bike Component

S. Koberg explained that the City of Boise will be allowing e-bikes on about 25 trails that are fully on City of Boise property. In terms of the partners, it's not something other Ridge to Rivers partners are looking at allowing, including Ada County. Going back to consistency, Scott went on to say that it's going to be challenging if the City follows through with this, with 25 trails that will allow e-bikes but not all the trails. It's a mixed message. There will be follow-up with the City and other Ridge to Rivers partners.

The parties then went on to discuss Boise City's OPDMD's Foothills Trails revised policy and the sticker for e-bikes that will be provided to people who apply for assistance via an e-bike in the Foothills.

C. Cook inquired about the Avimor trails. M. Grubert responded that they follow the Forest Service and e-bikes are banned on these trails.

K. Kostka added that in the last meeting we talked about getting some written comments back to Rep. King. Rep. King did ask for specific input and added that she will probably be finalizing this bill soon. Scott asked the Advisory Board to review the new version and that they would talk about it next month.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

#### **RED HAWK TRAIL DEVELOPMENT:**

Scott met with David Gordon today to reinvigorate the effort for the Red Hawk property and try to get a better handle on the prioritization, phasing and scheduling of what we want to accomplish. For a year we pushed for the trailhead before the trails, but now Scott is thinking that the trail itself is a better priority to start with. A trail from the Red Tail Trail on Hidden Spring property that either branches or loops off Hidden Springs onto County property and back to Red Tail is priority one to get that lobe started. This would be a more doable project that could potentially be flagged this fall and built this spring. From that lobe begins the launching point for the trail to get across the draw on the other side of the creek and down the slope. This would be more of a phase two because it's more of a thoughtful approach to the creation of the trail. Phase three would be 2 draft connections from there to Avimor. The first is going through the BLM 80 acre parcel. The second is entirely on Avimor property. The trail connection is the important piece. The trailhead is something we want to determine once we get a new lobe connection. There is a big trailhead off Dry Creek that is suitable for horse trailers. We want to know if we are putting a trailhead in the right spot. We want to work closely with Avimor to make sure we meet the objectives collaboratively to take some pressure off the equestrian usage and have them park down below. Another meeting is scheduled with David to go back out to the site.

#### **VICTORY WETLAND:**

Years ago, this department worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ada Soil and Water Conservation District and ACHD to collaboratively develop a sediment basin and constructed wetland area. This piece of property is located on Eight Mile Creek near the intersection of Victory and Five Mile Roads. The total site acreage is 5 acres or less. The sediment basin portion of the property that is owned by ACHD and a portion owned by Ada County. There is a management agreement and our department is supposed to be taking care of this area. So far we have only done bare bones management. There is an existing concrete pathway and education signage regarding the features of the wetland. This area needs more work. We are attempting to get Suez Water to hook up to the main line from Hiawatha Drive. Irrigation boxes will be put in along with a sprinkler system or irrigation system. Scott reported that we are reinvesting in this property partly because he met with ACHD and the Director of the library that is on the corner of Five Mile and Victory and Scott had a conversation with a neighbor that is interested in making this property right again.

**FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM:**

Scott provided an update on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. There was a declaration date of October 7<sup>th</sup> where we were approved, but there are a lot of strings and paperwork attached. We will work with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management and FEMA Region 10. There is a Mitigation Grant and a Public Assistance Grant. We will go after both of these to work on the JPD Greenbelt, Plantation Island Bridge and the parking/trail blowout situation from the flood here in Barber Park. This is reimbursable grant funding.

**OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR POSITION:**

There were 29 applicants that were narrowed down to 8. Phone interviews will be this Friday; in-person interviews will be the following week. This person should be onboard in early November. C. Cook inquired if these were local applicants. S. Koberg responded that the applicants were from all over the county.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

K. Kostka looked into the Sunroc situation. The Department of Lands has met with Sunroc and listed all the issues following up with the letter that they sent letting them know that they needed to adjust their plan. The plan was approved initially for certain items, but they were found to be in violation of their own plan. They are going back and developing a new plan and in 2-3 weeks they will be responding with their new plan. IDL has the opportunity to review the plan. There is no new set time, but whatever is approved will be implemented.

J. Boal added that Sunroc is working towards compliance and being cooperative. He added that the annexation of Garden City was denied by Garden City. There were concerns with the incomplete flood mitigation that was happening.

D. McKinnon reported that he has been working with David, Sara and Tim along with some BLM people at Lower Dry Creek and the Tertelings are on board to open Lower Dry Creek from BLM's land to Grossman's property which would then connect Dry Creek to Peggy's then Peggy's back around to Corrals. This is something that could happen quickly. Easements are also in place for Seaman's Gulch. David has also been working with the property owner between the County and the Tertelings which would then open up Grossman's property to Cartwright. This would open up all of Cartwright up and over to Hidden Springs to the Water tower over to Seaman's Gulch. This would make these all public. He has also been working with the Little family in which easements have been granted to the Treasure Valley Land Trust.

M. Grubert inquired if there was a lot of trail work to do. D. McKinnon responded 2/3 of the BLM property is already in place.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.**