

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – October 24, 2018 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Suderman, Julia Kertz-Grant, Karen Danley, Chris Cook, Kari Kostka, Scott Frey

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Mike Edwards

OTHER: Larry Maneely, Chris Daly (Development Services), Emily Reaves (Parks Board Applicant)

INTRODUCTION:

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

C. Hahlbeck let the Board know that K. Danley's portion of the June minutes regarding E-Bikes has been updated to reflect a clearer statement.

K. Danley added that, regarding E-Bikes and the motion at the last meeting, she is against E-Bikes all together, not just against the trial period.

New member Scott Frey introduced himself.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg provided an updated on the news release that will go out tomorrow regarding E-Bikes. It will indicate a trial period for Class 1 E-Bikes at the Bike Park. This will be a yearlong trial period. Signage and social media updates will take place in appropriate areas. J. Grant inquired if the new release mentioned the trial period. S. Koberg responded that yes, it was in the 4th paragraph of the news release. K. Kostka inquired if Eagle is part of the year trial period? S. Koberg responded that they are on board but have already changed their city code to permit Class 1 E-Bikes on foothills trails within Eagle City limits.

On October 2nd, Scott and Mike met with the new NICA Director, Eddie Freyer and Ridge to Rivers staff. Eddie agreed to meet with Scott and Mike because of the mostly positive comments David Gordon has received on the cycling league practices that have been happening at the Bike Park and on the Ridge to Rivers trails. Their season is July through mid-October. The intention is to reach out to all the coaches regarding race schedules and share via social media and on site. S. Koberg also shared that NICA is launching a program called Teen Trail Corps. This is to empower team captains to become active in trail maintenance and educate trail users and members. M. Suderman commented that every encounter he has had with these high school teams has been positive. He went on to ask if, per the Ridge to Rivers website, a group larger than 8 should split up to smaller groups. C. Cook thought it was a 10 person group, as did S. Koberg. S. Koberg went on to say that the coaches were mindful of this as well. C. Cook inquired what time of the day they ride. S. Koberg responded that it was an after school time frame. During the summer months, it would be early in the morning. M. Edwards added that he met with the coaches from NICA. They will get together this winter and discuss practice schedules and using social media to let other riders know.

S. Koberg updated the Board on the Ridge to Rivers quarterly meeting that happened on October 16th.

M. Edwards also attended this meeting. Hot topics included purpose built trails and are we ready for separation of trail use. J. Grant inquired where the Happy Trails campaign is. S. Koberg responded that it wasn't a topic that was touched on, just briefly mentioned. He added that once the fall trail maintenance is completed, winter is a good time to focus on these kinds of topics. S. Koberg went on to say that the first quarter trail planning proposal was provided at this meeting. The Stack Rock trail and the Red Hawk trail are high priorities right now. M. Suderman inquired where the Stack Rock trail will begin and end. S. Koberg responded that he hasn't seen the alignment on a map. He added that there are a few things in the works for Stack Rock, including the parking area provided by the Forest Service and ACHD. J. Grant inquired about a new parking area up Bogus Basin on a new piece of property the City purchased. This was to take pressure off the upper parking area because there was going to be a new connection near Sweet Connie. C. Cook inquired if there was a timeline on the Flow Trail near Bob's. S. Koberg responded that there wasn't.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards shared a PowerPoint presentation of the work that has been completed at the Bike Park and other properties in the last month. There hasn't been much rain, so trail work has been put on hold. Instead, he focused on signage that needed to be replaced. This included new sign posts and stickers that need to be replaced. Social trails have also been an issue and another project he has been working on. The Shake n' Bake sign was replaced again to reflect that it is an expert trail instead of an intermediate trail. The decal on the signage had fallen off. He hopes this will help stop the trail braiding that has been happening.

Trail work signs will include bright yellow 11x17" signs that let users know what is happening ahead. Compliance has been good. Trail event signs are also being used when trails are closed because of events. This information is also being posted on the Facebook page.

Riders have been shortcutting the corners on some of the trails. Following a Ridge to Rivers example, he cut up some of the old rails that were getting bent and placed about 25 of these markers in the ground. A plunge cut was then done with a chainsaw to create a flat surface for signs. He is now waiting for the signs to be completed and will be attached to the posts.

Drains were cleaned out before the most recent rain storm. M. Edwards took advantage of the moist soil to repair some of the damage to Stormin Mormon caused by the four wheeler and equipment used to repair the bermed corner. A long section with a large rut was also repaired. It was difficult to ride because of a 6-7 inch rut. Another water drain was also added as well and work completed on some of the jump faces. Feedback has been excellent. Fence work was also completed in this area.

Soil Tac was used on a section of D's Chaos where it meets Rabbit Run. Soil Tac was also used near Snoop Loop on the Twisted Sister Connector.

The SWIMBA/NICA trail day had a good turnout. Every drain on single track trails was cleared. The day prior, M. Edwards' crew went through and marked where things needed to be cleaned out. C. Cook inquired if more post and rail could be added to the Flow Bridge so users would stop going around the bridge. M. Edwards responded not much more can be done on the Flow Trail. A ride around was put in last spring on Shake 'n Bake, but they continue to go around it. This fall, he plans to come back and churn up the soil with a pick-mattock, putting jute netting down, reseeding and putting posts to start with and fence if needed.

M. Edwards provided an update on Hubbard Reservoir Recreation Area. Earlier this year it was decided that fencing would be removed. In total 1,400 pounds of t-posts, 500-600 pounds of raw barbed wire and 3.5 tons of other fencing debris were removed. In total, 3 dump truck loads and a week's worth of work.

Upcoming projects include connectivity between Dry Creek Ranch, Avimor and the Bike Park. M. Edwards has gone out and flagged a proposed trail. J. Grant inquired if this development was in a holding pattern. C. Cook responded that no, it wasn't.

Another project is looking at the layout of a trail between Broken Horn and McFarland Roads. Letters will go out in a couple weeks to let homeowners know that a trail is being looked at for this area.

M. Edwards is planning to remove the 2 cement culverts and replace it with a 30 inch plastic culvert then build a pathway over the top of it on Monday.

M. Edwards is working with a BSU student named Jonathon Davis on developing a trail user survey at the Bike Park. There will be questions in the survey regarding E-Bikes. J. Grant inquired if M. Edwards has looked at the one from Ridge to Rivers. M. Edwards responded that David Gordon is sending that one to him along with a trail survey from 2015.

Later today M. Edwards is meeting with Matthew Taylor to discuss an Eagle Scout project at the Bike Park.

Lastly, M. Edwards will be looking at RTP and MTB license plate grants for plate compactors and a mechanical wheelbarrow.

ADVISORY BOARD FIELD TRIP REPORT:

J. Grant reported that she went to the Victory Wetlands property.

K. Kostka has been coming down to Barber Park and noted that the repairs from the flooding look great. She added that the wildlife conservation trail signs are a nice addition. S. Koberg added that additional signage will be placed soon including rules and maps. C. Cook added that he visited the Bike Park.

K. Kostka inquired if another Parks Board trail day could be arranged. She also inquired if a tour of the buildings in Barber Park could be arranged. S. Koberg said that could be arranged. S. Frey added that himself and his wife are involved with the NICA program and are members of SWIMBA. They have quite a bit of experience with NICA, both as coaches in the past. He believes NICA is the best, most organized and professional organization. It's bringing new young riders out to the trails. As far as trails and awareness, they do a lot of instruction each year for their coaches. One of these teachable items is what to do when you meet a horse on a trail.

NEW BUSINESS

ADVISORY BOARD APPLICATIONS

S. Koberg supplied an update on the status of Parks Board applications. There is currently 1 open position for which we have received 9 applications. The Commissioners are in the middle of scheduling interviews. A new Board member should be selected before the next Parks Board Meeting. Another applicant will probably come from this pool when Chris Cook leaves.

NEW TRAIL PROPOSAL

K. Danley updated the Parks Board on the new trail proposal presented to the BOCC on February 21, 2018 and approved by all 3 Commissioners. The Commissioners have asked K. Danley to present this to the Parks Board. K. Danley stated that Veterans Trail has 3 blind corners and a steep hill coming down. She added that there are short sightlines with little time and room to be able to move out of the way for oncoming trail users. The trail starts at the Veteran's Trailhead and travels north as it meanders the foothills to the east of Veteran's trail. After traveling north about .7 of a mile, the trail connects with Big Springs Loop. The trail is on Ada County property. She added that there really isn't a safe way for people to access the trails behind Veterans. C. Cook inquired if that was all on Ada County property. K. Danley responded that it was. J. Grant inquired of the time line for the trail build and the length. K. Danley responded that the timeline is not clear at this time. She guessed that the length was $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. As for funds, there is \$2000 available. C. Cook inquired if this would be a Ridge to Rivers trail and who would be in charge of the trail. K. Danley responded that the trail will be built and donated. J. Grant asked who would build it and donate it. K. Danley responded that it would be Ada County. J. Grant went on to ask how the process works for this trail. S. Koberg responded that this trail connection proposal was evaluated 2 years ago along with the Ridge to Rivers partnership. Ada County holds the license agreement that was granted by the Veterans Cemetery for the single existing trail and trailhead parking. When this was brought to the Administrator of the Veterans Cemetery, he didn't want additional parking or trails coming from the trail license agreement that was already in place. S. Koberg clarified that if anything happens with this trail, Parks and Waterways will not be involved and it would not be a Ridge to Rivers trail. He thinks the way it would work is that it would be up to the neighborhood association to build it and maintain it. J. Grant added that she was still

confused how a county entity approved something on state land, where the county entity is a partner with Ridge to Rivers and the trail wouldn't become part of the Ridge to Rivers program. S. Koberg clarified that it's not on state property, but adjoins state property and the 2 easements, and the proposed trail is on county property.

RIDGE TO RIVERS OPEN HOUSE RESULTS:

C. Cook inquired what came from the survey questions. S. Koberg responded that the key component was BLM's public process as a partner in Ridge to Rivers. There were other items to discuss at the open house, but a lot was regarding what BLM was contemplating on BLM parcels.

OTHER BUSINESS:

C. Hahlbeck reminded the Board that because of the holidays coming up, the next 2 meetings would be 2 weeks sooner than normal. The December meeting will be C. Cook's last meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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