

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – September 26, 2018 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Keller, Karen Danley, Chris Cook, Kari Kostka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Suderman, Julia Kertz-Grant,

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Mike Edwards

OTHER: Larry Maneely, Chris Daly (Development Services), Arlynn Hacker (Treasure Valley Equestrians)

INTRODUCTION:

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

C. Hahlbeck let the Board know that there was a Bike Park addition to the last month's minutes. Members took a few minutes to read this addition.

Motion: J. Keller moved to approve the amended August minutes. C. Cook seconded. Motion passed

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg provided a status update on the Red Hawk trail proposal. The Hidden Springs Open Space Committee rejected the Red Tail reroute with the stacked loops concept. They did support the western loop that is entirely on Hidden Springs and Ada County property. They suggested a reroute junction that stays entirely on the Hidden Springs property as opposed to the private land owner's property. David went back out with new software that would allow him to determine where that property line was. He confirmed that it will take 2 climbing turns to get above the slide, but that it was a doable reroute. The Hidden Springs Open Space Committee has put this item with just the western loop before their town council for a 30 day comment period. This closes on October 4th. End result would be 2 miles of new trail as opposed to the 4.65 miles of new trail as originally proposed. This has been communicated with the land owner and he is still trying to determine sale or development of that property. The county still holds the easement for Red Tail. We are waiting to hear the comments. C. Cook inquired what the landowner said. S. Koberg responded that it was by email and that he had some things in the work as far as development.

Fiscal Year end is September 30th. Over all it was an off the charts record breaking year for the float season. Over all there was a 44% increase in the parking and 41% increase in equipment rental from our busiest year which was 2015. We feel confident in what we accomplished this year and the direction we are moving with the contractor moving forward. L. Maneely inquired what the total revenue was. S. Koberg responded that our share of the total equipment and shuttle rental is 3 payments of \$25,000.00 and 20% of anything over \$200,000.00. The previous highest gross revenue year was 2015 and that brought total equipment and shuttle to \$589,000.00.

S. Koberg reminded the Board on the protocol after 3 missed meetings. Marc Grubert has resigned from the Board. This is Jim Keller's last meeting. Chris Cook will be leaving in December. S. Koberg encouraged the Board to find someone that will be a good fit. C. Cook asked that the application link be emailed out.

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. The bermed corner on Stormin' Mormon has been replaced with soil hardener. Unfortunately, this didn't hold up. In talking with the manufacturer of the product, they suggested adding large amounts of sand to the Soil Tac. This was done and the berm seems to be holding up well. Users are enjoying the ride. Extra soil was used fill in parts of the trail that had cupping and ruts. They are holding up well.

The next project was the part of Shake n' Bake that comes out onto a road. This trail was rerouted using a bermed corner that would come out on Junk Yard. K. Kostka inquired how long Mike would have his seasonals to help out. M. Edwards responded that they would be around until the 3rd week of October.

At Hubbard, M. Edwards and his crew have disposed of the old fencing that was the old corral. He also mentioned all the weeds that were pulled and piled up, ready to be hauled away. They took down a new section of fence. There are now 31 piles of fencing that will be removed once we get some moisture. They also flagged some barbed wire that was close to the trail. The 404 Permit was received this last week to remove the culverts and replace with a 30 inch plastic culvert. This has to be done after irrigation season and all excavated materials must be removed. He is hoping to start this project toward the end of this month.

At Oregon Trail more weed control has been happening. A brush cutter was purchased because the weed whackers weren't able to do the job.

We are also being recognized by the Ada County Preservation Council with a plaque commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. The plaques will be placed on 1-2 new kiosks.

Trail signs and markers are being replaced at the Bike Park.

M. Edwards met with SWIMBA recently and they still plan to adopt D's Chaos, Twisted Sister, Snoop Loop and Junk Yard to do maintenance.

M. Edwards also met with a BSU student named Jonathon. He would like to do an internship with us. He can only work weekends and after 5PM. M. Edwards would like to have him work on a survey for the Bike Park. C. Cook inquired what was on tap for the seasonals for the rest of the season. M. Edwards replied that if it rains, he would like to pick up all the barbed wire at Hubbard and the drains at the Bike Park need to be cleaned out before it rains, and getting the trails ready for winter. K. Danley inquired what the time line was on replacing the culverts. M. Edwards responded that its irrigation and weather dependent. K. Danley went on to say that a horse got stuck trying to go around the culvert. M. Edwards responded that you could take the trail to the north as an alternate route.

ADVISORY BOARD FILED TRIP REPORT:

J. Keller shared that he was recently in Switzerland. He had the biggest opportunity to see people on E-Bikes in Zermatt which is almost a carless city. He went on to say that at least half the bikes he saw were E-Bikes. Most of the people in this city use bikes to get around, as the streets are very narrow. You have to constantly watch for these bike riders because they aren't verbal when they are passing you. As for the speed issue, J. Keller found that people on traditional bikes were riding faster than the people on E-Bikes. He contributes this to individual rider, age and maturity level. K. Danley inquired if the E-Bikes were on single track trails? J. Keller responded that he hiked single trails where bikes were allowed. Most bikes he saw were just standard mountain bikes. He didn't see any E-Bikes while he was on the trails. K. Danley inquired if they were allowed on single track trails? J. Keller believed that they were allowed as he didn't see anything that said they were prohibited.

C. Cook added that he rode the 2 new berms at the Bike Park and reported that they were great.

K. Danley added that she lives by Seaman's Gulch and Veterans. Between her and her family members, this is their typical route.

NEW BUSINESS

ADA/EAGLE BIKE PARK DISCUSSION

C. Cook inquired from M. Edwards as to the status of the Eagle Ordinance. M. Edwards responded that they have passed their ordinance.

S. Koberg provided an up to date summary of the E-Bikes topic as discussed by this Advisory Board. He added that the first time E-Bikes was placed on this Advisory Board's agenda was February 2017. That resulted in the invitation to Rep. King in August, 2017. From August 2017 to the current meeting, E-Bikes have been on the agenda consistently. In September 2017 the input from the Board of Commissioners was that we needed to get on the same page as the cities. At that time, there was a change made to the Ada County ordinance. In November 2017 Sara Arkle from City of Boise came to talk about what the city was doing with E-Bikes. In May of 2018 we heard from Steve Noyes from City of Eagle regarding E-Bikes at the Bike Park. Consistency and enforceability between jurisdictions has been the main theme through this process. S. Koberg wants to give everyone a chance to be heard, on the record, regarding their thoughts on E-Bike at the Bike Park.

K. Danley feels that a clear position statement from the board is needed. Also, when a vote takes place that a roll call voice vote is taken. She was surprised to hear from Steve Noyes that Eagle received a green light from the Advisory Board that they support E-Bikes at the Bike Park. She thinks it's important to show that it wasn't a clear yes or no. It helped her to revisit the context of the discussion from the June meeting.

K. Danley moved to listen to eight minutes of the June minutes regarding E-Bikes. There was no second to this motion.

C. Cook doesn't think that we needed to listen to the recording. He was unsure of the benefits. He suggested that they focus on the Ada/Eagle Bike Park discussion. He went on to say that we could go around the table and get everyone's thoughts on the Ada/Eagle Bike Park related to E-Bikes and move forward with a motion specific to that and move on.

M. Edwards apologized for oversimplifying the Board's comments. He hoped that by attaching the comments from individuals that it would suffice.

K. Danley thinks it's important to revisit this topic and clarify that it wasn't as simple.

K. Kostka added that she didn't want to revisit it because her personal opinion has changed since June. She thinks her comments would be different now than they were in June. She added that their role is as an Advisory Board and that they don't make binding decisions. They also bring different ideas to the table. For the Board to have one voice all the time would be difficult. She thinks there was a majority opinion to go with E-Bikes at the Bike Park. She doesn't think anything would be different had Eagle Council received all of the Board's comments.

C. Cook inquired if J. Keller wanted to second K. Danley's motion. J. Keller responded that he wasn't sure of the value of it. He went on to say that his feelings regarding E-Bikes at the Bike Park have evolved as well and that it's more important to find out what everyone thinks right now.

C. Cook suggested that they go around the table and get everyone's thoughts and move on from there. J. Keller still has a hard time calling E-Bikes non-motorized. He thinks that the trial period will work out and that 99% of the E-Bike riders will be responsible. He thinks it's wise to go in gradually and see what's happening. He would prefer a measured approach that involves monitoring, feedback and assessment before a large scale acceptance.

S. Koberg commented that policy can always be changed if necessary. He went on to say that he appreciated J. Keller's comments and that monitoring, feedback and assessment was right on the mark.

K. Kostka feels that the Bike Park is an appropriate location for E-Bikes. It makes her feel better that if needed, the policy can always be walked back. She went on to say that possibly M. Edwards could gather the feedback that is needed to make a decision. She still has reservations with E-Bikes with the additional ridership and miles on the trails and how that changes the landscape and experience for people. She feels the Bike Park would be a better message than no message at all.

K. Danley is still black and white. Pedal assist is still using a motor and its non-motorized trails. She doesn't advocate for even Class 1. She thinks it's a slippery slope and can't decipher between Class 1, 2 or 3 easily whether it's assisted or non-assisted, it's hard to tell in a brief moment. Concerning land management, she know she owns easements and if they were used for something differently than what she agreed to, she would have a problem with that and possibly revoke the easement. As far as E-Bikes on single track, her research shows that Oregon Parks allowed E-Bikes on paths wider than 8 feet but not on single track trails. She doesn't advocate for E-Bikes on single track. If there was to be a trial period, she thinks there needs to be a specific time period with specific parameters to be measured

in the meantime so you can have specific data to consider. She doesn't think making it a law and sometime in the future we will re-assess, will work for her.

C. Cook sees that Eagle has moved forward with their thoughts that they would like to see them at the Bike Park. As far as consistency goes, he thinks it would be wise for the county to get on board with this because signage would get messy and enforcement would be non-existent. He went on to say that if there's any place in the foothills where E-Bikes could be allowed, then the Bike Park is an ideal location. Over the summer, there have been quite a few people that have been riding their E-Bikes in the wrong places in the foothills. All of his experiences have been on the uphill and he has always been passing them. He doesn't think speed is an issue. He is in favor of trying them at the Bike Park and making sure that there is good signage.

C. Cook moved that the committee recommends that Ada County pursue a trial of 6 months at the Bike Park for E-Bikes on Ada County Property.

J. Keller seconded.

A roll call voice vote was conducted- Jim Keller, Chris Cook, and Kari Kostka are for E-Bikes at the Bike Park and Karen Danley is against E-Bikes at the Bike Park.

AMENDMENT OF THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Written statement from K. Danley seeking to clarify her statement on E-Bikes from the June 27, 2018 Parks Board meeting.

C. Cook moved to submit changes to C. Hahlbeck and she will make the changes to the June minutes.

J. Keller seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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