

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – April 24, 2019 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kari Kostka, Karen Danley, Hilarie Engle, Emily Reaves, Scott Frey, Chris Miller

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Suderman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck

**OTHER:** Kelly Woodworth (Development Services), Eddie Freyer (NICA), Chris Wyatt (NICA), Commissioner Rick Visser

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

K. Danley inquired if minutes would be taken at the offsite tours. K. Kostka responded that the public meeting is held first then the tour. We aren't required to include tour minutes because it wasn't an official public meeting therefore not a requirement and an official part of the record.

K. Kostka proposed the board could include notes from the tour as part of the official record. K. Danley offered to compile the notes and invited others to send their additions to her

E. Reaves moved to approve the March Minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **EDDIE FREYER WITH NICA:**

Eddie is the league director of the National Interscholastic Cycling League. Eddie has been the director for the last 2 years. Chris Wyatt is the Director of Stoke. He runs the business development side of NICA.

Eddie showed a PowerPoint presentation as he talked. NICA was founded in northern California in 2001. Idaho is the 13<sup>th</sup> NICA league in the nation. At the end of this year there will be 27 leagues nationwide. The program in Idaho started with 246 student athletes. Early in the program a Try-It-Out Program was initiated. Student athletes who may never have the chance to mountain bike were able to try it out and it gave coaches a means to recruit student athletes. This program has since been phased out as they go into their fifth season and the program is more widely known. Through donations and fundraising efforts, NICA offers a financial assistance program to students and coaches who otherwise may not be able to participate. There is broad representation of athletes from all corners of the state excluding the Idaho Panhandle.

For the 2018 Season, there were 887 registered student athletes, 467 coaches and an average 600 racers per race. C. Miller added that with adult races, you are lucky to get 100 racers. There is a 3:1 ratio of parents, family members to racers.

Registration opened April 1<sup>st</sup>. Practice starts July 1<sup>st</sup> and the race season starts at the end of August and goes through the middle of October. For the fifth season, its projected that there will be 1000 student athletes with 500 volunteer coaches. There will be 6 races, round robin format.

For the future, continued growth of 10-15% with geographic expansion onto other communities across the state with a focus on northern Idaho, building the program for long-term sustainability, adding new programs and establishing a state based non-profit.

New Programs include GRiT (Girls Riding Together), Teen Trail Corps, NICA Adventure and Teen Leadership Council.

The GRiT program is aimed towards recruiting and retaining more female student athletes and coaches in NICA programming. The overall goal is to increase NICA's participation rate from 20-30% female participation-both coaches and student athletes by 2023.

Teen Trail Corps started as a partnership between NICA and Idaho Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) with support from REI. Since then, the program has been formerly developed over the last year into their own self-sufficient branded Teen Trail Corps program. This program is broken in 3 focuses-Riders, Stewards and Lands.

The NICA Adventure Program is broken up into 3 areas focusing on fundamentals, performance and adventure. This is an alternative to competitive atmosphere of NICA races.

The Teen Leadership Council are student representatives from each team across the state that attend a weekend summit, learning on-bike and off-bike leadership skills. The students become the steering committee that helps guide the vision of the league.

M. Edwards inquired if NICA has a curriculum for trail building? Eddie responded that they do. Phil is the Teen Trail Coordinator. He has developed an entire curriculum.

S. Frey inquired how NICA coaches and their teams could collaborate with the Open Space and Trails Coordinator. Eddie responded that they could visit the website which will have lists of contacts and partners. They could also visit the calendar of events on the website or they can contact Eddie directly.

K. Danley asked that because interscholastic is in the title, is there some reinforcement for succeeding in school. Eddie responded that the student athlete is always a student first and an athlete second. At the league level they don't mandate or dictate grade point requirements but the individual teams are urged to do that and some of them do require a certain grade point average to participate.

K. Kostka inquired about the races for this year. Eddie responded that the races are at Brundage, Grand Targee, Galena, Magic Mountain, Jug Mountain and Bogus.

K. Danley inquired if NICA has reached out to Kristin Armstrong regarding the GRiT program. Eddie responded that there are 2 ambassadors for this program, Kristin Armstrong and Rebecca Rush.

S. Frey inquired how Ada County could help or support NICA and what their needs are. Eddie responded that opportunities to get the student athletes and coach's involved through the Teen Trail Corps with projects and working together to create a good template that can be shared with others.

### **ELECTIONS:**

S. Frey suggested that they go around the table and members could express if they were interested in serving for either Chair or Vice Chair. K. Kostka has been on the board for 5 years and is willing to continue serving. K. Kostka went on to say that M. Suderman is debating whether he would like to continue past his term which expires in September but he wouldn't mind serving until then. S. Frey has been on the board for 6 months and would be willing to serve but would not like to jump in quite yet. E. Reaves has been on the board for 3 months and is not interested in serving. K. Danley has been on the board for 1 year and 3 months and is interested in serving. H. Engle has been on the board for 3 months and is not interested in serving at this time but maybe next year. C. Miller has been on the board for 3 months and not interested at this time.

C. Miller inquired that because M. Suderman is not present and has been serving as Vice Chair, is it appropriate to do elections at this time. K. Kostka responded that Mark asked if he could vote via proxy, but that really isn't allowed. She added that he could be elected to a position while not in attendance, but because the Advisory Board will be in the field for the next few meetings; this was the best time to do elections. In addition elections are typically done in April.

**S. Frey nominated K. Kostka as Chair. E. Reaves seconded. Motion passed. K. Kostka will continue as Advisory Board Chair.**

**S. Frey nominated K. Danley as Vice Chair. E. Reaves seconded.**

**C. Miller nominated M. Suderman. H. Engle seconded.**

**Vote on M. Suderman as Vice Chair. 2 Yes none opposed.**

**Roll call voice vote for M. Suderman to continue as Vice Chair. 3 For 3 Against. Motion Fails**

**Vote on original motion for K. Danley as Vice Chair. 5 For 1 Against. Motion passes. K. Danley is the Advisory Board Vice Chair.**

**OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:**

M. Edwards updated the Board on what he has been up to the past month. There have been many trail closures because of the rain. Most recently he caught riders on trails that have been clearly marked with closed trail signs. Education to the public is important. Not just that the trail is closed, but why. E. Reaves added that after being educated more by M. Edwards, she posted messages on social media groups she is a part of explaining why trails are closed. She has comments back that it was very informative. M. Edwards showed photos of trails that had been ridden on while they were wet. Trails that have been completed this spring are Snoop Loop, D's Chaos, Twisted Sister, Low Rider, Junk Yard and Flow Trail. Trails remaining are Shake 'n Bake and Storm'n Mormon.

A trail day was held recently with a good turnout from SWIMBA, City of Eagle and many NICA members.

Big projects for this summer include rebuild of 3 berms on Shake 'n Bake. Rebuild rock drops on Shake 'n Bake. Rebuild jumps and landings on Storm'n Mormon. Address trail cupping on Storm'n Mormon and paint the shed.

M. Edwards and his seasonal rebuilt the landing on the Flow Trail and installed a drain on a berm on Junk Yard.

M. Edwards will go out to Hubbard Reservoir tomorrow to place signs indicating high water and sink holes.

We were contacted by the National Park Service and they offered to replace trail signage at Oregon Trail. The entrance sign mentioned on the Park Improvement Plan will be replaced.

We are also working with ITD to update the entrance sign with a horse symbol.

In addition we are working with BLM on rerouting a trail on the eastern section of the park due to erosion.

M. Edwards inquired if anyone had any input on the Oregon Trail Improvement Plan. He would like any input submitted in the next two weeks.

K. Kostka inquired if any of the Board members were interested in participating in a trail day. She will talk with Mike more on this and get back to everyone.

Landslide Loop by Red Hawk is complete.

Supplementals for FY20 budget include a restroom at Oregon Trail and money for trail hardening. Another supplemental was for a mini skid steer.

E. Reaves inquired if the survey was ready to go out. M. Edwards responded that it is, he was just waiting for a good weather to proceed.

**ADVISORY BOARD FIELD TRIP REPORT:**

H. Engle visited Oregon Trail and noted how dangerous the entrance was because of the lack of a turn bay. She enjoys how clean and quiet it is.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

K. Danley informed the Board that the Northwest Neighborhood Association has received a \$50,000 grant for a neighborhood survey and to create a neighborhood plan.

The survey results show more trails in the foothills to the north of NW Boise connecting to Dry Creek, Avimor, and Hidden Springs are in strong demand. Therefore, the North West Neighborhood Association is interested in sponsoring trails.

Karen also met with Eric Grace from the Treasure Valley Land Trust to discuss trails in NW Boise and identifying the Goodale Pass of the Oregon Trail

K. Kostka will get together with Parks staff to set a time for the next meeting at Hubbard. This will be a late afternoon meeting.

C. Miller inquired if we were looking for any other guest speakers and suggested the Treasure Valley Land Trust.

*ADJOURNMENT*

**K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:28p.m.**