

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – August 28, 2019 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kari Kostka, Karen Danley, Hilarie Engle, Emily Reaves, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Frey

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Scott Koberg

OTHER: David Corcoran (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

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

Chuck Vertrees introduced himself and provided a little background.

Other Board members introduced themselves.

H. Engle moved to approve the July minutes. E. Reaves seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Subcommittees for Hubbard, Oregon Trail and Ada/Eagle Bike Park were set up at the last Board meeting. K. Danley is the Chair for the Oregon Trail Reserve subcommittee and reported that herself, E. Reaves and H. Engle met. Some items that came up were a 2 mile all weather trail loop, depending how successful that is and possibly add more. Access to a turning lane to safely access the park from the south side, adding an equestrian to the signage coming from the south end on the Highway 21, funding/possible donations or matching donations, signing on trails to be interactive and educational, designated equestrian parking and identifying where the wagon trails are and talk about women on the trail and why they chose the route they chose. A restroom would be a nice addition. The next meeting is September 5th at 1:45PM at the trailhead.

K. Danley reported for S. Frey regarding the subcommittee meeting held at Hubbard Reservoir. The land is leased, not owned by the County. Many equestrians live in the area but access is limited due to the parking. The cheat grass is challenging in this area. She is researching goats to help with this problem. The barbed wire and concrete culvert was replaced. C. Vertrees added that he has experience with using goats for weed management in Hidden Springs. He thought it was very useful when done correctly. M. Edwards added that he had a conversation with Ann Debolt. She has a program that uses women inmates to plant sage brush. He plans to stay in touch with her in case Ms. Debolt has left over sage brush at the end of the year the inmates could plant at Hubbard. Scott provided an extensive written report.

C. Miller provided an update for the Ada/Eagle Bike Park subcommittee. The first meeting comprised of figuring out the priorities for the Bike Park and understanding more detail than Mike could provide during the site visit. Also understanding other issues the Bike Park faces. E-Bikes and dogs off leash are two big issues. The subcommittee will be reaching out to some folks they think may want to join the Bike Park Subcommittee.

E. Reaves inquired if the plan for E-Bike and dogs off leash was to have each of the subcommittees take these two items into consideration. Is this still the plan? K. Kostka responded that there has been discussion on topic based subcommittees as well. Her thought is that the 3 subcommittees were just set up and she doesn't want people to be over committed. She doesn't think we need to set up even more

subcommittees right now, but she is open to feedback. The Board went on to discuss this topic. C. Miller inquired about the end of the E-Bike pilot program at the Bike Park. How will this be assessed? M. Edwards responded that it was open ended. He was hoping with the survey and observation that he could provide some good feedback to the Parks Board. C. Miller inquired if there were other entities where they have done E-Bike trials and have measured the impact of it. M. Edwards responded that there were some places in Colorado where they have implemented and tracked what is going on.

OREGON TRAIL AND BIKE PARK SURVEY DISCUSSION:

M. Edwards went through the results of the Oregon Trail survey. There was a high response rate from the equestrian group (39%) and walking/hiking/running/historical (43%) and a total of 199 respondents. The survey showed that there are local groups that visit almost daily and first time visitors. 62 percent of the visitors found the site to be satisfying to very satisfying. Most visitors bring their dogs and have their dogs on controlled off leash or sometimes on leash. Women visit the park more often than men. 71% of the respondents were female. 73 percent of the respondents knew that Ada County manages the Oregon Trail. Project implementation was ranked from highest to lowest as: repave parking lot, enhance park entrance, develop a parking lot of Columbia Road, trail connections to other trail systems, update kiosk information, install dog waste bags, identify historic wagon ruts with signage, develop an all-weather trail and sign and map trails. The most common comment was "Desiganted Horse Trailer Parking." The take away is that people are pretty satisfied with what is happening out there, but users would like some additional amenities. H. Engle inquired when equestrians ride as she has never seen the parking lot full. K. Danley responded that she typically rides at 6:30AM. The parties went on to discuss the other parking lot that is planned and how equestrians can get the most out of the park. K. Kostka added that she has seen drones and model airplanes in that area in addition to less dumping.

M. Edwards went through the results of the Ada Eagle Bike Park survey. The largest percentage (88%) of usage is the biking community. Most respondents have used the park for a long time. 50 percent of respondents use the Bike Park daily or 3-5 times per week. The Bike Park is primarily in use in the early evenings. The overall rating for the Bike Park is at 92 percent very satisfied to satisfied. 8 percent of respondents bring their dog to the park. 68 percent of respondents said that users practice proper etiquette. 27 percent of respondents have used an E-Bike. 45 percent of respondents thought that the trails at the Bike Park were appropriate for E-Bikes. 51 percent of respondents agreed that E-Bikes and E-Mountain Bikes are a form of motorized recreation that don't belong on trails for non-motorized use. 73 percent of respondents are male. The parties then went on to discuss the comments at the end of the survey.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg supplied an update of the fiscal year 2020 budget. This was approved last Tuesday during the Board of County Commissioner's Open Business Meeting. Our department had 3 capital improvement submittals. We received support for the Barber Park pathways improvement CIP for \$645,000.00.

We were also approved for some supplemental items. We requested and were approved for \$250,000.00 for ongoing Greenbelt damage/ repair maintenance. The other supplemental request we received was \$50,000.00 for a vault toilet at Oregon Trail. The Red Hawk to Avimor phase 2 project was also approved for \$55,000.00. This is intended to connect Landslide Loop to the Avimor trail system near Broken Horn. The caveat to this is that the environmental assessment that the BLM just submitted is currently under appeal. S. Koberg isn't sure where the appeal process will lead. The final supplemental request related to open space and trails that was approved for funding was a mini skid steer in the amount of \$30,000.00

The Raft and Tube season will wrap up on Labor Day. After this week S. Koberg anticipates that the rental concession and shuttle will gross over \$800,000.00. There is a small chance it will surpass the biggest gross revenue year on record which was last year. The County's anticipated budget for the

revenue share is \$130,000.00 and was set in May 2018. We expect to reach nearly \$200,000.00. We expect to take in \$135,000.00 for parking. We budgeted \$100,000.00 in anticipated revenue.

Season ending inventory will happen Wednesday after Labor Day.

The Boise River Greenbelt 50th anniversary celebration is happening this year. The celebration will start Thursday, September 19th.

Brooke Conn is our new Event Coordinator. She replaces Kevin Bell.

H. Engle thanked Scott for all the river cleanup he has been doing.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

Skipped due to time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

K. Kostka added that we will likely have an equestrian presenter come out October or November.

K. Kostka has had some ideas floated to her for people to come in and present, if anyone had more ideas, please relay them to her.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:37p.m.