

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – August 23, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kari Kostka, Chuck Vertrees, Eric Plotkin, Emily Reaves, Hilarie Engle

ABSENT: Chris Miller, KC Shedden

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Robbie Sosin, Brent Moore, Ryan Davidson

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. S. Koberg thanked Bob Batista, EXPO Idaho Director, for hosting parks board meeting at Turf Club.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

C. Vertrees moved to approve July 26, 2023 minutes, E. Reaves seconded. Motion Passed. No agenda changes.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Oregon Trail: No Report.

Bike Park: No Report

Hubbard: No Report.

GREENBELT SAFETY:

R. Sosin put together a Greenbelt safety survey and distributed to Advisory Board for comment and feedback, he is prepared to go out the following week to begin soliciting survey responses on Ada County Greenbelt. Hasn't pushed or advertised this since Ada County Parks & Waterways Master Plan Survey (MPS) will be needing a final effort to gain responses. Will advertise safety survey once MPS is closed. H. Engle inquired about posting to Nextdoor, R. Sosin responded that he'll ask for help from E. Reaves to post on Nextdoor site. H. Engle commented that there was a speed incident on greenbelt recently and getting a survey out would be a good idea. R. Sosin indicated that he will be flexible on timing for Board Members who would like to participate in survey collections. S. Koberg reiterates the objective of Greenbelt safety survey as collecting data for our stretches of Greenbelt and report back to the partnership-at-large. Survey is first effort to address Greenbelt safety issues.

ADA COUNTY PARKS & WATERWAYS MASTER PLAN:

E. Reaves inquired when the MPS will close. R. Sosin and S. Koberg responded that they'd like input from the Advisory Board, BerryDunn recommended closure of survey and social pinpoint site on August 31. E. Reaves responded that when the time comes, she will push on Nextdoor to get last minute survey responses. S. Koberg indicated he thinks that Aug. 31 is too early to close and would like to aim for ending closer to end of fiscal year (September 30), he then opened to the Board for discussion and input. E. Reaves inquired about the response rate of the surveys, R. Sosin responded that from reports he's seen from BerryDunn regarding targeted surveys, we are getting really good response rates, he is unable to speak to response rates from people finding the survey on their own through our social pinpoint or otherwise. S. Koberg recommended to the board that the survey is open later and that there should be one final push to gather responses utilizing Float the Boise Facebook page and other social media channels after Labor Day. The Board agreed with S. Koberg, after which he said that he'd summarize and report decision to BerryDunn.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg recounted how Jeff Milkes with BerryDunn visited Barber Park and solicited responses from the public on several key issues using pictures and stickers. The responses were generated with 2 poster boards with 4-5 topics each, using stickers to indicate which issue should be the top priority for the department as well as what the top 3 priorities Ada County Parks & Waterways should have.

S. Koberg summarized what topics were used, the demographics of responders, and the trends responders showed. He commented on the fact that he observed a high volume of young people and that responses trended toward preserving and protecting existing natural resources as opposed to expanding trails/parks etc.. E. Plotkin and C. Vertrees pointed out that if they had done the survey at a different time at a different place such as a trailhead or Hubbard then the survey would deliver wildly different results. The results of these poster board surveys will be summarized and included in the Master Plan. S. Koberg pointed out that due to the rise of social media, climate action and protecting the environment is now at the back of many young peoples' minds and that may be why the surge of environmental protection is present with the poster boards. C. Vertrees inquired if people were placing stickers on both boards, S. Koberg explained that there were many times where Jeff and his wife would split up the boards and go around to collect responses. E. Reaves thought that it was interesting that the responses tended to be from a younger demographic, but they weren't very interested in interpretive signs, E. Plotkin postulated that younger people can just google points of interest. He then went on to ask if there were any plans on soliciting responses at the Fair or ongoing outreach with the poster boards, S. Koberg indicated that this piece of feedback generation was over and BerryDunn will be moving on with other activities.

OTHER ITEMS:

S. Koberg gave a brief summary of the progress on the EXPO Park ARPA project and explained some ideas that they've had and received through public input. He then shared a story of a public forum meeting with the contractors and subcontractors where the meeting was flooded with roller derby advocates, showing how some public input sessions can be influenced by large amounts of attendees that are pushing for the same goal. E. Plotkin suggested that depending on when construction begins then the fair next year will be a great opportunity to provide input, S. Koberg explained that by next year the opportunity for input will be over but they will be able to spread the word. He then explained some of the challenges that are still needed to overcome to begin construction The contractors are working with ACHD to ensure proper stormwater drainage for the EXPO Park. S. Koberg will work with R. Sosin to gather feedback from the Advisory Board as needed. C. Vertrees inquired about Lady Bird Park and it's status, S. Koberg explained that it was purchased with similar funds as Barber Park, so there are special processes in place to transfer ownership of property. R. Davidson explained that there have been some snags in the process but expects them to get worked out. S. Koberg explained that with Lady Bird Park there are opportunities to create/improve sports facilities. K. Kostka asked to clarify the reason for Lady Bird Park transfer. S. Koberg and R. Davidson explained that even if the transfer doesn't occur, the ARPA park will still be built, but it would cause some hold ups with accommodation of visitors.

R. Davidson inquired about float season numbers, S. Koberg shared all of the float season numbers, explained that the numbers haven't increased by the same margins as the previous few float seasons, and he also revealed that the only revenue target the department might not hit is parking. He mentioned that this year has been running very smoothly, attributed it to partnership with City of Boise and the Float the Boise website.

K. Kostka asked if the Advisory Board float will still be occurring, S. Koberg affirmed this and explained details for parking. E. Reaves inquired if the river flows will go up since they are drawing down the water at Lucky Peak, S. Koberg doesn't expect the river flows to bump back up again.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin reiterated the Greenbelt Survey and Master Plan Survey as focuses for outreach at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.