

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – December 13, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kari Kostka, Chuck Vertrees, Emily Reaves, Chris Miller, Hilarie Engle, KC Shedden

ABSENT: Eric Plotkin

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Brent Moore

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

E. Reaves moved to approve October 25, 2023 minutes, C. Miller seconded. Motion Passed. No agenda changes.

ADA COUNTY PARKS & WATERWAYS MASTER PLAN:

Art Thatcher with BerryDunn provided a project status update. He referred to a PowerPoint presentation as he talked. He went on to report that the first phase of the project was the Discovery Phase. The elements we have gone through that are complete are the demographics report, inventory, and level of service analysis are done and provided as staff documents. The Initial Engagement and Needs Assessment Survey are done and results have been provided. They are about 50% of the way with Benchmarking. BerryDunn have been asked to look at other communities in Idaho but also other communities around the country that they have worked with. It can be difficult to get entities to respond to requests for information. They are about halfway through with that. Operation and Maintenance Assessment is about 50% done along with the Financial Assessment. 5 of the deliverables have been completed, and they are about 75% done with the Mission/Vision/Values. Three of the deliverables, Benchmarking, Operation and Maintenance Assessment/Financial Assessment are 50% of the way done. Phase 2 is the Analysis Phase. BerryDunn was here six weeks ago and did the Finding and Visioning presentation/workshop. This looked at the data that was collected and data points. The Goals, Action Items and Recommendation are 25% completed. Once they reach the 50% mark, they will send us to review and provide feedback. They will start working on the Capital Plan/Costing, Draft Plan and Final Plan. A draft plan will be sent to us by the end of January 2024 for review. C. Miller inquired if Art received the feedback from the Master Plan Committee Team. Art was unsure because these items would have gone to Jeff. C. Miller went on to ask how this feedback will be used. Art responded that it will be included in the Goals, Actions, and Recommendation section. K. Kostka inquired at what point the Advisory Board will be asked to weigh in or review items. Art responded that the draft plan would come to the Department Project Team along with the Final Plan. S. Koberg added that C. Miller and H. Engle are defacto representatives on the committee but he thinks the full Board would want to see the draft documents as well. Art added that as they are planning their trips, they will try and schedule them when Parks Board meetings are happening. C. Miller suggested getting on Art and Jeff's calendars now to avoid any conflicts. C. Hahlbeck will forward the meeting dates for January, February, and March 2024 to Art. H. Engle inquired how the public meeting went. S. Koberg responded that we did it remotely. He went on to say that it was live streamed on Facebook but there wasn't a lot of interaction. He through Art and Jeff did a really great job. Art went on to say that we did a Mission/Vision/Values workshop in August and a follow-up in November. Between the staff, himself and Jeff, they have come up with an updated Mission Statement that everyone feels good about. We also did a Values exercise to produce 5 new vales to guide the Department-honesty, empathy, teamwork, education, and accountability. Staff are also refining statements to define what each one of those are. For the Vision statement we got down to a couple of different versions and right now S. Koberg and staff are word smithing and

making sure they feel strong about the vision statement. When all of these are gathered, he will provide to S. Koberg and he can provide to the Parks Board.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Oregon Trail: E. Reaves reported that R. Sosin wanted to do a tour but didn't know when. This would possibly be a self-guided tour.

S. Koberg reported that 2 times in less than a week, vehicles that entered Oregon Trail drove over the wooden posts. This caused damage that needed to be repaired.

S. Koberg went on to talk about squatters that are on a portion of the Oregon Trail property. He is working on the next steps which will include fencing and signage. E. Reaves inquired if the road could be gated. S. Koberg responded that it had been gated at one time, but it's been destroyed within the past year or so. This gate belongs to BLM. K. Kostka inquired if just putting up no camping signs would cover this for the Sheriff's Office to enforce. S. Koberg responded that he tried to impart on them that in the County Code Title 2 Chapter 2 we specifically reference Oregon Trail. In the code there are already restrictions on anything you can do. They tend to agree that posting a sign with Title 2, Chapter 2 restrictions. C. Vertrees added that on the Hidden Springs open space, they have seen 1000% increase in this type of trespass within the last 6 months. K. Kostka added that state and federal are saying the same.

GREENBELT SAFETY:

S. Koberg reported that at our last meeting he shared that he thought the Float the Boise page layout could be used for a Greenbelt page. Joanna, the person who built the Float the Boise page thought it was a good idea. No traction as of yet. We may engage Ada County IT. E. Reaves inquired if there was anything the Board could do push on the City of Boise. S. Koberg responded that at this point we need to lead the charge at a staff and leadership level. The parties went on to discuss this.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ARPA PARK:

S. Koberg reported that park boundaries have been redefined. It's now 41 acres. Phase 1 includes 5 main elements-all wheel sports garden, ridges, large playground/plaza area, lowlands, and the Greenbelt. At one point we talked about re-routing a portion of the Boise River in a side channel through the site getting ecological uplift as flows increased on the river. This has proved to be somewhat of a dead end. There are a couple reasons- the permitting is challenging and there is a gas line that would have to be relocated. The project team remains excited about this project and how it will set the tone for Phase 2 which is the more active sports field section. The timeline remains aggressive. To be completed by the end of 2026.

JPD GREENBELT:

S. Koberg reported that the closure was posted on Facebook on December 11th. The responsive contractor that was awarded the bid was Stroth General. Phase 1 is downstream from the 3 Cities Crossing Bridge which is the main bridge at the head of Eagle Island. They are doing limbing and trimming for the large equipment that will come down this pathway. If all goes well, we will be completing a lot of this phase before a spring flow increase on the Boise River.

OFFICE REMODEL:

The office remodel has wrapped up. We will have 1 shared office space, 1 office for the Open Space & Trails Coordinator and a collaboration space.

OTHER ITEMS:

A trail day at the Bike Park in the spring is a possibility. C. Miller thinks April would be a good time for this.

We have the revised alignment for the Dry Creek Ranch connection. Davey and David went out and plotted/flagged. We are waiting on Development Services to loop us back in. They were tasked with taking this to Boise Hunter Homes.

B. Moore reported that Development Services met with ACHD on the Eckert Bridge a couple weeks ago. They have selected a consultant. The concept study is high level, everything is on the table right now. ACHD is finalizing the contract and B. Moore has another meeting with them next week. He will keep the group informed.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.