

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – December 12, 2018 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Suderman, Karen Danley, Chris Cook, Kari Kostka, Scott Frey

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**OTHER:** Chris Daly (Development Services), Rick Visser

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

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

Guests Jill Mohn and Andrea Kowalski introduced themselves.

K. Danley noted changes she would like for November's minutes. Changes will be made and an update posted to the website.

**Motion: M. Suderman moved to accept the minutes subject to changes as discussed. S. Frey seconded. Motion passed.**

S. Frey would like to add and an additional topic to New Business, Educational Item.

K. Danley would like to discuss the officer nominations before there is a vote.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

S. Koberg updated the Board on the Barber Pool/Barber Dam Greenbelt alignment. The FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) relicensing has been initiated by Enel Green Power and Fulcrum as well as Ada County. The current license will expire November 30, 2023. The relicensing takes 5 years to complete. The pre-application was submitted on November 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. The request was made for a TLP (Traditional Licensing Process). There is a comment period open now until December 30<sup>th</sup>. The Barber Pool area is located between Diversion Dam and Barber Dam. The Penitentiary Canal Greenbelt runs along the boundary of the Barber Pool. The County also own 35 acres of property in the Barber Pool. S. Koberg went on to show a map of where this property is. There are some agencies and organizations that are interested in removing the dam which would eliminate the pool. Currently, it's a wildlife refuge and intended to be managed as such. Brandy Wilson recently invited S. Koberg to participate in the Barber Pool Advisory Council, which she is the Chair. The intent is to resurrect the Barber Pool Conservation Inventory and Analysis that was done in 2002 and begin working to prioritize and implement action items. S. Koberg has accepted this invite. There are 3 main components to the Pool; environmental enhancement, education/outreach and coordination/access. In the short term, the committee has some online surveys and presentation they have been reviewing. The advisory council includes Boise City, Fish and Game, Idaho Shakespeare Foundation, Ada County Highway District, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands and Ada County. K. Kostka inquired if he was similarly involved with conversation regarding the Sue Howell Park. S. Koberg responded that we have been in talks with Boise City the last couple of years regarding Sue Howell Park. The upstream portion near Sue Howell is already a designated access point for education, research and interpretation. In place down from Barber Dam is a deflection berm. Option A for Greenbelt alignment would take the Greenbelt pathway north of the deflection berm. This is outside the influence of the deflection berm. The berm was placed as a requirement through FERC. In the event of a dam failure, it would protect those homes from flooding. Aligning the Greenbelt outside

the berm makes the most sense. There is already an access road the county uses and a license agreement with ACHD to access the storm water pond. Option B is being contemplated because the homeowners adjacent to option A had some concerns about the Greenbelt going right behind their homes and they requested an evaluation. Boise City has requested support from Ada County for option A. The recommendation that has now been followed is that the city has asked for comments from FERC in Seattle regarding Option B.

S. Koberg supplied an update on Dry Creek Ranch. The meeting that was supposed to happen with the folks regarding the transportation issue was rescheduled to December 19<sup>th</sup>. For the upcoming meeting, Scott plans to bring the former planning documents including a draft easement from the former property owners. When it was owned by the Jekers, there was a trail easement drafted by the Prosecutors Office. It was never formalized, but shows intent to the initial proposed development. S. Koberg has requested a meeting with Development Services to make sure we are aligned on the approach. The intent is to not lose this proposed trail connection.

Fiscal Year 2020 budget is due 1 month prior to the normal due date. Typically, our preliminary budget is due in May. Our personnel budget will be due the week of April 1<sup>st</sup> and our operating and personnel combined budget will be due the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>. Capital projects are due by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Four Advisory Board interviews have been conducted. Three more will be conducted next week. No appointments have been officially been made at this time. K. Danley inquired who sits in on these interviews. S. Koberg responded that it is the Board of County Commissioners and himself.

S. Koberg read a letter from COMPASS congratulating Ada County Parks & Waterways on the Leadership in Motion Award for the Penitentiary Canal and Warm Springs Greenbelt projects. C. Daly submitted these projects for this award. There is an award luncheon on Monday that S. Koberg will attend along Scott Williams from Operations and the Commissioners.

K. Danley inquired who votes to appoint new Board Members. R. Visser responded that the Commissioners who are present vote.

### **OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:**

M. Edwards supplied an update on what he has been up to in the last month. He pulled up a PowerPoint presentation to reference photos as he talked. He mentioned that there hasn't been a lot of work happening at the Bike Park. He was able to get out there earlier this week and put up some signs. He checked on the bermed corners and they seem to be holding up well. This time of year mud is an issue with people walking on wet trails.

The biggest project in the last month was the 2 informational kiosks that were installed at Oregon Trail.

The other large project was flagging a trail between McFarland Road and Broken Horn Road. The trail will be 10 feet wide. He has another meeting next week to discuss connectivity between the Bike Park and Avimor. C. Cook inquired if most of the homeowners are ok with the trail. M. Edwards responded that they are mostly ok with it. There is 1 gentleman who thinks the trail gets too close to his house. They would like a narrower trail. K. Danley inquired if the current trail width is 10 feet. M. Edwards responded that the proposed trail would be 10 feet wide. This follows Forrest Service guidance which is between 8 and 10 feet for equestrian multi-use, two way trails and class 4 trails. It also meets several other guidelines put out by the Forest Service. C. Cook inquired how large the easement is. S. Koberg responded that there is a 100 foot conservation easement and the approved plat is 10 feet on McFarland Creek that comes in from the other side.

M. Edwards is still working on the Bike Park survey. Survey Monkey only allows 10 questions and we have more like 20. He will be talking with IT about a program called Select Survey.

M. Edwards is also working on Park Improvement Plans with a focus on Oregon Trail. He has looked at a couple improvement plans that he likes such as the Victoria Topaz Park plan.

He was also working on an RTP and MTB License Plate grant. This is a no go. Items purchased with this grant have a Buy American requirement. The items M. Edwards wants to use are not American made. M. Suderman inquired if there are American companies that will provide the machinery he needs? M. Edwards responded no, not that he was aware of. M. Suderman went on to inquire if there

should be a caveat that says something about if you can't find it, to go somewhere else. C. Cook inquired what the grant amount was for the MTB License Plate grant. M. Edwards responded that that grant goes up to \$5000 and wouldn't be enough to cover the cost of a Dingo.

M. Edwards and S. Koberg spoke with Brian Brodine, the cattle rancher on Avimor during a site visit to the Red Hawk property. He has some complaints about some of the cattle guards because the cows were getting out and eating homeowner's lawns. M. Edwards did some research on a particular pedestrian bike cattle guard. M. Edwards passed around an example. He will get with Brian to see if this will work. K. Danley inquired about the survey for the Bike Park and if M. Edwards has considered including a map. M. Edwards responded that he is only asking recipients to respond to properties that Ada County and Eagle own, not Ridge to Rivers. One of the reasons he isn't including a map is to see if people understand where the boundaries are. C. Cook commented that the cattle guards are dangerous for users when they are wet. M. Edwards responded that there was skid tape on the one he preferred. K. Danley inquired how equestrians get through this cattle guard. M. Edwards responded that there would be a side swing gate that bikes and pedestrians are able to bike or walk through.

#### **ADVISORY BOARD FIELD TRIP REPORT:**

S. Frey rode Red Tail Trail at Hidden Springs. He commented that it was a nice trail that has been improved over time. He inquired who manages these trails. C. Cook responded Ridge to Rivers and Hidden Springs. S. Koberg added that Ridge to Rivers manages Red Tail Trail while Hidden Springs owns and manages some internal trails within Hidden Springs. K. Danley inquired if Hidden Springs has a lease agreement with Ada County for these trails? It was clarified that the trails in Hidden Springs are on Hidden Springs' property. K. Danley visited Veteran's Trail and she hiked the new trail that is flagged.

#### *NEW BUSINESS*

#### **OFFICER NOMINATIONS:**

K. Danley brought up that because C. Cook is currently Chairman, that they couldn't hold elections. C. Cook will step down and the election can take place. K. Kostka inquired if the new Chairman would be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. C. Cook responded that they could either elect a new chairman at this meeting or wait until January. K. Danley went on to read from Roberts Rules of Order regarding filling the vacant Chairman position. **Motion: K. Danley moved to wait to do elections until January once the Chairman's seat is vacant and there is sufficient time between meetings. The motion died for lack of a second.** M. Suderman proposed that we do elections at this meeting. K. Kostka added that she would prefer to have the elections at this meeting as opposed to January when the legislative sessions starts as she is not sure she will be able to attend all future Parks Board meetings. All Board members are in favor of elections at this meeting instead of at the January meeting except K. Danley. **Motion: M. Suderman nominated K. Kostka to be Chair. Motion: K. Danley nominated S. Frey.** He declined. **A roll call voice vote was conducted, all Board members voted for the nomination of K. Kostka. Motion: K. Kostka nominated M. Suderman to be Vice Chair. S. Frey seconded. Motion: K. Danley nominated S. Frey.** He declined. **A roll call voice vote was conducted. All Board members voted for the nomination of M. Suderman. Motion passes.**

#### **SITE VISIT SCHEDULE:**

S. Koberg proposed a site visit schedule. January and February would be regularly scheduled meetings in the office. March through June would be in the field conducting site visits.

March 27, 2019, Ada/Eagle Bike Park

April 24, 2019, Hubbard Reservoir

May 22, 2019, Oregon Trail

June 26, 2019, Barber Park

K. Kostka inquired if these site visits would be lunch meetings like they are currently? S. Koberg responded that yes, that's what was suggested at the last meeting. Depending on the site location,

driving to and from will take up a larger portion of the day. We can either car pool from the Barber Park or Board members can meet at the site. M. Suderman would like to open up discussion about possibly doing the Hubbard Reservoir at another scheduled time because of the location. K. Danley suggested that this Hubbard meeting would replace a regular scheduled meeting. After some discussion, S. Koberg suggested that we have a site meeting in March and then we are back in the office in April for elections. K. Kostka added that this would be a good time to evaluate the March meeting and move forward with adjustments as needed.

**EDUCATIONAL ITEM:**

S. Frey suggested that we invite people from outside the Parks Board to speak on their individual programs. He suggested Ridge to Rivers, NICA, SWIMBA and equestrian groups/clubs. It may be possible that their goals align with ours. K. Kostka thinks this is a great idea. M. Suderman thinks it would bring awareness to other organizations that the Parks Board exists. K. Kostka inquired what the best way to go about inviting these folks to our meetings. S. Koberg suggested that K. Kostka reach out to these organizations.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

S. Koberg thanked M. Edwards for his 1 year of service with the county and presented him with his 1 year award.

This is C. Cook's last meeting. S. Koberg thanked him for his almost 10 years of service and presented him with a small gift on behalf of Ada County Parks & Waterways.

*ADJOURNMENT*

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