

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – February 27, 2019  
Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Miller, Mark Suderman

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

**OTHER:** Kelly Woodworth (Development Services), David Gordon (City of Boise)

**INTRODUCTION:**

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

K. Kostka moved to adjust the agenda to move David Gordon’s presentation to first position. K. Danley seconded. Motion passed

*NEW BUSINESS*

**DAVID GORDON WITH CITY OF BOISE AND RIDGE TO RIVERS:**

David Gordon introduced himself. He comes from a Forest Service background in addition to trail consulting. He has managed the Ridge to Rivers program since 2005. There are currently around 200 miles of trail with close to one million visitors each year.

David shared a PowerPoint presentation. The purpose of Ridge to Rivers is to provide a high quality system of trails for the enjoyment of Treasure Valley residents and visitors to the Boise Foothills.

Partners in the Ridge to Rivers System include City of Boise, Ada County, BLM, Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game with the City of Boise being the lead agency. Each agency has an inter-agency agreement that allows for funding transfers and allows for work to be done on their lands.

David went over the funding breakdown with the City of Boise contributing the most amount of money.

Management challenges include erosive soils, effects of winter trail use (erosion) and the amount of users on the trail.

Upcoming trail projects for Ridge to Rivers include Stack Rock Trail, Curlew Connection, Landslide Loop (Formerly Red Tail) and Hawkins Loop.

K. Danley inquired how many bike flow trails there are. David responded that there are none right now. The plan was to have two but they didn’t pan out. The Simplot family pulled out after the plan was put together and the City of Boise pulled out after backlash from the Bike Park and Dog Park.

K. Danley inquired why the Simplot family changed their mind. David responded that Mike Simplot met with his board and they would like to develop their property.

**INTRODUCTION CONTINUED:**

Kelly Woodworth with Ada County Development Services introduced herself.

K. Kostka moved to approve the January minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

E. Reaves moved to revisit the Ada County Ordinance on E-Bikes as an agenda item. K. Kostka seconded. Motion passed.

## **FY20 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:**

S. Koberg updated the board on the 3 Capital Improvement Projects that have been submitted for FY20.

**Project 1** is the Expo Idaho Greenbelt. S. Koberg showed photos as he talked. This path is now highest priority as far as Ada County ownership portfolio for assets of Greenbelt properties. This path no longer meets the 11 foot path width. It measures 9-9.5 feet currently. The condition of the path includes potholes, critter damage, root intrusion and buckling.

The cost estimate for a new path is \$706,000 and would take place in 2 phases if the request is approved from the General Fund. S. Frey inquired who owns this section. S. Koberg responded that this is Ada County Property. S. Frey went on to inquire if the section on the south side will still terminate as it does now, after the new path is put in. S. Koberg replied that yes, it will terminate as there is no ownership or river front property beyond Remington Street, only private property and no easement potential.

K. Danley thanked S. Koberg for addressing the connectivity between Garden City, Boise and Glenwood Street. She went on to inquire who is building the new bridge. S. Koberg responded that the same bridge is being placed by the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands that was removed during the flood.

**Project 2** is the FACTS/JPD Greenbelt. There are 5 easements that the county holds and is responsible for management, maintenance and construction. This is the section of pathway that was threatened with pit capture during the flood in 2017. The FY20 CIP submittal would only include phase 1. S. Koberg showed photos as he talked. This path is 9 feet wide. As you work your way down river, the trail deteriorates because of the flood fight efforts due to heavy equipment usage on the path and water damage. K. Kostka inquired about the price for this request. S. Koberg responded that it was \$1,028,000 split up over 2 fiscal years. H. Engle inquired if it helps these projects rise to the top if they are public safety issues. K. Woodworth replied that it can help the perception for the Transformation Board comprising of several elected officials and department heads in the county. They are supposed to prioritize on a scale of urgency and importance.

**Project 3** is Barber Park. S. Koberg showed photos as he talked. The pathways in the park are just old roads that were left in place when the park was reconfigured just over 10 years ago. This is a public safety concern. We are looking to improve the walkways with concrete. Another factor is the parking field. Creating a parking design and plan for an asphalt parking lot in the front portion would be beneficial. After speaking with a couple of parking specialists, it may be possible to get up to 20% more vehicles on a paved surface. Total cost for this is \$890,000. A contribution from the Parks fund balance will be used for a portion of this project with additional funds also being requested from the General Fund.

S. Frey inquired if ADA accessibility will play into the application proposal. S. Koberg responded that any improvements to county property of this nature would be required to comply with ADA accessibility standards.

## *STAFF REPORTS*

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

The specs and designs for Landslide Loop have been submitted to six different contractors. They have until March 4<sup>th</sup> to submit for the project.

S. Koberg added that it would be great to get a motion for a letter of support for the CIP projects. The parties went on to discuss how the letter should read and what the order of importance of the projects should be. K. Kostka added that it's not required that the projects be ranked. A letter stating that the Board has reviewed the projects and supports all of them in general would be sufficient.

**E. Reeves moved that S. Koberg draft a general letter of support for the Board to present and for the Chair to sign. K. Danley seconded.** No vote was taken.

K. Kostka clarified that the letter was for general support of the CIP projects. K. Danley added that her second was before the ranking issue. She would prefer it ranked but she wouldn't stop the motion because of it. K. Kostka responded that she would prefer a general letter and leave the ranking to

people who know what to prioritize and doesn't want unintended consequences. E. Reaves seconded it being a general letter.

**E. Reaves moved that S. Koberg draft a general letter of support for the Board to present and for the Chair to sign. K. Danley seconded. Motion passed.**

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

M. Edwards supplied an update on what he has been up to in the last month. 2 surveys and the Oregon Trail Improvement Plan have been sent out to the Advisory Board for review. Over the next few weeks and into the summer M. Edwards would like to implement the surveys to get an overview of why people are visiting both Oregon Trail and the Bike Park. He would like to get a use satisfaction baseline and other sub topics. E. Reaves inquired if M. Edwards wanted them to take the survey. M. Edwards responded yes. M. Edwards then went through the questions on the surveys. K. Danley inquired if the surveys were out now. M. Edwards responded that no, it's just a test for now. She went on to ask M. Edwards when the surveys would be out. M. Edwards responded in the next 3-4 weeks. The parties went on to discuss the question regarding what time of day users are visiting the park. Depending on the time of year the survey is taken will determine the time of day the park is visited. E. Reaves asked for clarification on question 7 regarding dog off leash. She went on to ask if a no dog option would be something M. Edwards would want information on. M. Edwards responded that it would be an option.

Question 9 refers to conflict issues. K. Danley asked if equestrians could be added. M. Edwards said it could. The big topic M. Edwards is trying to gather information on is park improvements and is asking survey takers to rank these projects. K. Kostka suggested adding a photo or logo to make the survey more official. M. Edwards responded that when it goes out via email and social media that it will have the County seal on it.

M. Edwards went over the Oregon Trail Improvement Plan by section. K. Danley added that it's important to note that a lot of trail heads are not accommodating for equestrians. Oregon Trail is a nice place for equestrians to access. It's off the freeway and near other places that have horses. A lot of equestrians use this trail because of the great sightlines and places to park. She asked that equestrians be considered as one of the primary user groups. M. Edwards responded that as you read through the document, he specifically cited goal 3 from the Ridge to River 10 Year Plan which identifies better equestrian signage and parking.

E. Reaves inquired about the absence of a turn bay into Oregon Trail from the Highway 21 Bridge. S. Frey responded that he brought this up to ITD. He hasn't heard back from them.

Another section of the documents deals with installing an all-weather trail. The City of Boise is doing some armoring of their trails to keep the mud down. We don't have many of those kinds of trails on this side of town. He pointed out a section of trail he would like to armor. K. Danley inquired what armoring a trail means. M. Edwards responded that we would smooth out the trail; put in ¾ inch gravel and use a plate compactor to level it so it's more like a gravel road. This is estimate to run between \$14,000-\$15,000. A restroom needs to be installed. The entrance needs to be updated.

Outside of the parking area there is an old section of the Oregon Trail that M. Edwards would like to clean out and put information kiosks in at both ends.

K. Kostka inquired how he would like feedback. Would ranking in the survey suffice? M. Edwards responded that that would be helpful.

### **ADA COUNTY E-BIKES ORDINANCE:**

K. Kostka has been tracking House Bill 76 which would change the statute restriction and classifications on E-Bikes. In email exchanges, K. Danley asked what the impact would be for county or local authorities. S. Koberg volunteered to refresh everyone on what the County did last year. The key difference for this bill is how they define E-Bikes. They include all 3 classes whereas Ada County Ordinance excluded Class 2 and 3. This bill reads that Class 1, 2 and 3 are E-Bikes and would be allowed on not just streets but the Greenbelt as well. This means that there is a potential to amend the Ada County Ordinance in July if this passes and becomes effective. K. Danley inquired if House Bill 76 affects the Greenbelt but not single track trails. S. Koberg responded that House Bill 76 doesn't

change anything with multiuse trails. K. Kostka added that Ada County and Boise City are already out in front of this issue but there are other counties through the state that haven't addressed E-Bikes. The emphasis is on local jurisdictions to say E-Bikes are not permitted. Otherwise it's just blanket permitted.

*ADJOURNMENT*

**K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:55p.m.**