

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – February 28, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kari Kostka, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees, KC Shedden

ABSENT: Hilarie Engle, Emily Reaves, Eric Plotkin

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Brent Moore, Robbie Sosin, Spencer Lay (ACSO Associate Legal Advisor)

OTHERS:

Art Thatcher (BerryDunn) via Teams

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

C. Miller moved to approve the January minutes, K.C. Shedden seconded. Motion Passed.
No agenda changes.

GREENBELT SAFETY (SPENCER LAY, ASSOCIATE LEGAL ADVISOR, ACSO):

Spencer Lay explained to the group how the Greenbelt MOU came to be. About 2 years ago his office was approached by Garden City about making a significant change to the Greenbelt. The original plan was to ban E-scooters. A couple of detectives were sent out to the Greenbelt to try and find out who was causing the problem. It was discovered that nearly 2% of all users were the problem. It was decided to put in place an inattentive driving code for the Greenbelt. The detectives also found that users slip between jurisdictions of Boise, Garden City and Ada County pretty quickly especially when near the fairgrounds. Garden City's 2-part plan was to put the inattentive driving plan in place and an MOU between Boise City, Garden City, Ada County Eagle, etc. stating that any law enforcement entity that touches the Greenbelt will be cross-deputized to be able to write tickets for inattentive driving activities that happen on the Greenbelt. Ada County would have a more significant change because of the existing inattentive driving that is already in effect that wasn't being enforced. Garden City, Star and Eagle have already adopted this MOU. Boise City plans to possibly adopt this soon. He went on to say that changing the "control of speed" as little as possible or else it defeats the purpose of the MOU. Too much variation from the original ordinance would be problematic. C. Vertrees clarified that if we were to suggest a change in attachment in A, that change would not take place for all parties because it has already been signed. He went on to say that a specific speed limit would be ideal. S. Lay responded that deputies and officers were vehemently against this as it is hard to register this and unenforceable. K. Kostka inquired how the public is supposed to know what is reasonable and prudent. S. Lay responded that before this is rolled out a significant messaging campaign from the Sheriff's Office along with other participating agencies would happen before users are hit with infractions. He added that we define "greater than prudent" is a moving target. Someone intentionally going fast enough to crash. As an example, for inattentive driving, someone coming down Bogus going too fast and slipping around. The inattentive driving would be considered a misdemeanor. A misdemeanor equals restitution in Idaho Code. The inattentive and faster than prudent is meant to not over enforce, but to bring up the minimum standard. The hope is to make people think twice about what they are doing. S. Koberg inquired why Ada County and Boise City haven't signed? S. Lay responded that honestly, he didn't know we existed, and we already had an attorney in the PA's Office that reviewed this. That attorney went through an entire review process and present it to the BOCC. The Board wanted the Advisory Board to look at this. Boise City's attorney has signed off on this. Their Bike Unit really wants this signed immediately. This hasn't been a priority for Boise City. Next steps will be S. Koberg providing comments to the BOCC and with Lorna Jorgenson in the PA's Office.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE (BERRY DUNN):

Art Thatcher with BerryDunn supplied an update on the draft Master Plan items he has been working on which are Policies, Goal, Strategies and Action Items.

The Policies, which many are included in the 2007 Parks, Open Space, and Trail Plan are organized into 4 categories, Accessibility, Expansion, Partnerships and Administration.

C. Miller inquired if there is any prioritization applied to the items in the document. A. Thatcher responded that as we get to the final document there will be a top 10 list of priorities to attack first. This is based on what has or has not been accomplished from the prior Master Plan and the different touch points from the Needs Assessment.

C. Vertrees inquired about policy's 4.5 and 3.4, these are around when a new development comes in. He inquired if the language is hefty enough. Is there a detailed Operation Plan? B. Moore responded that it could be easy as sending more application transmittals to Parks. This could also include individual members of the Parks Board that receive these transmittals. This could also potentially be a Planning subcommittee with the Park Board. This will be added as an agenda item at the next meeting. C. Vertrees inquired who will approve this plan? S. Koberg responded that ultimately it will be the Board of Commissioners that signs off on this. K. Kostka added that she didn't see some of Robbie's roles like communication or education roles in this plan. A. Thatcher responded that there are specifics under the Goals and Actions Items that talk about these items and well as the Barber Park Event Center. K. Kostka added that Canyon County has a partnership with the Shoshone/Bannock Tribes and work with the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation to redo the signs along the Snake River. They are using indigenous artists for this project. Perhaps this is something that could be carried over to Ada County. K. Shedden called out Policy 1.3-collaboration with partners-he feels like it shouldn't just be the County that is doing the funding. Perhaps using additional resources or something along those lines.

The Goals policies include Funding, Sustainability, Branding and Growth. C. Miller inquired about item 2.8 as there isn't any mention of this in the written document. Until there is some level of enforcement of these rules, people won't get serious about doing it. He would like to see the Sheriff's Office ticket people who aren't following the rules. C. Vertrees added that this could be an extension of 2.a. For Goal 3.1b Scott wanted to call out that the plan recommends the Parks Department hire 11.6 additional staff. C. Miller inquired that for 3.1a, the 76 funding sources, will this be listed somewhere? A. Thatcher responded that there will be a summary in the Master Plan and the full list is typically provided as a staff document that can be distributed to the Advisory Board or added as an appendix. K. Kostka added that for 4.2-increase boat registration to Ada County- Is this an option? S. Koberg responded that its an option through the vessel fund for users' primary use. This is a percentage that goes to Ada County.

K. Kostka inquired as to next steps and how the Board can be helpful. S. Koberg responded that the best thing they can do is to get their comments in. He requests the comments are received by Thursday, March 7th.

GREENBELT MOU:

S. Koberg encouraged Parks Board member get their comments into him so he can pass them on to the BOCC. This MOU will not be approved until they hear from the Parks Board. The Board went on to discuss some aspects of the MOU. C. Miller inquired what form this recommendation this will take? S. Koberg suggested that we could help craft a letter and add in a supplemental department letter of support. K. Kostka will send S. Koberg an email with a letter of support.

MOTION- C. Vertrees moved to make a recommendation to the BOCC to approve this Greenbelt MOU. 2nd K. Shedden. Motion passed.

OTHER ITEMS:

The parties went on to discuss the possible sale of Plantation Island and how that would affect Greenbelt access.

There is still a plan to have a trail maintenance day at the Bike Park.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.