

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – January 31, 2018 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Cook, Kari Kostka, Jim Keller, Karen Danley, Marc Grubert, Julia Kertz-Grant

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Suderman

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Mike Edwards

OTHER: Commissioner Rick Visser, Jason Boal (Development Services), Myren Amsden (Idaho Horse Council), Lois Murphy (Western Riding Club), Pamela Willett (Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club), Jill Mohn (Western Riding Club), Tim Breuer (Land Trust of the Treasure Valley).

INTRODUCTION:

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

Karen Danley, new Board Member, introduced herself and her equestrian guests.

Motion: C. Cook moved to approve the minutes. J. Keller seconded. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

PENITENTIARY CANAL GREENBELT:

S. Koberg supplied an update on the progress of the Penitentiary Canal. It has been piped from the siphon upstream to Diversion Dam. The railing has been cut and they are now working on solutions for when it is widened and the railing is replaced. It is anticipated that water will be able to be delivered by March 15th, per Board of Control's directive. C. Cook inquired if there have been issues with people using the path. S. Koberg responded that it is virtually impassable because there is no surface and with the large machinery out there. There will probably be more issues with this once the base is put down.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD MEMBER RE-APPOINTMENT:

S. Koberg reminded the Advisory Board about the Board reappointment process. The County Commissioners determine who shall serve at their pleasure. They can reappoint members or appoint members to fill a vacancy. The Vice Chair David McKinnon was up for reappointment but was not reappointed by the Board, Karen Danley was appointed by the Board. This leaves the Vice Chair position open to be filled.

VICE CHAIRPERSON ELECTION CONSIDERATION:

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected in April. In the interim, a Vice Chairperson needs to be appointed. **C. Cook moved to appoint Kari Kostka as interim Vice Chairperson until the election in April. M. Gruber seconded. Motion passed.**

E-BIKES LETTER:

C. Cook drafted a letter based on the recommendations of the Advisory Board. J. Grant stated that she couldn't support E-Bikes on the Greenbelt. C. Cook inquired if anyone wanted to change their stance on E-Bike usage on the Greenbelt or reopen the discussion due to J. Grant's recommendations. He went on to say that it would be complicated for Ada County to manage its sections of Greenbelt if E-Bikes are allowed on Boise City Greenbelt but not Ada County's. M. Grubert inquired if Boise City has already implemented this ordinance. J. Grant responded they are in a 6 month trial. S. Koberg responded that it's already being implemented on City of Boise's Greenbelt. M. Grubert suggested that we follow suit with a trial run, but that he wasn't a fan of them on the Greenbelt either. K. Kostka suggested we reevaluate after the trial period. M. Edwards added that he had a chance to sit down with Steve and Rob from City of Eagle to talk about their approach at the Bike Park. They do want E-Bikes at the Bike Park. He went on to say that it seems more appropriate on their property that more mostly downhill trails with trails just up to those. S. Koberg noted that suggestions can be made for modifications to the Board's letter. He also added that we have moved forward with submitting a request to the PA's office for revision to the County Code for E-Bikes. C. Cook agreed to make the changes to the letter. J. Grant asked if there would be a vote on the language used in the letter. S. Koberg responded that a motion would be needed for Chris to sign the letter on behalf of the Board unless something independent is written. If changes were made to the letter, C. Cook would forward it to Advisory Board members for approval.

C. Cook moved to modify the letter. J. Grant seconded. C. Cook will bring the revised letter back to the next meeting for review by the Advisory Board.

RED HAWK IDFG INPUT AND INVENTORY SCHEDULE:

Scott and Mike met with Idaho Fish & Game staff on the property in late December. Tim was also in attendance with a Hidden Springs perspective and so was David Gordon representing Ridge to Rivers. The site visit was to gather input from Fish & Game regarding trail connections and wildlife considerations. Fish & Game has some wildlife migration data for this area, but it isn't recent. They have scheduled a helicopter inventory in March. The conversation during the site visit focused on using the helicopter inventory data to better understand where the animals are using the Foothills between Highway 55 and the Red Hawk property and see if there are other potential corridors for trail development heading north that Ada County could help collaborate and get involved with. T. Breuer added that everyone on the fieldtrip was conscience of the wildlife. There are some possibilities of adjusting the alignment; rather than a small loop, creating a larger loop so there is space, seasonal closures, etc. that could allow for both recreation and sensitivity to wildlife. T. Breuer's commented that his perception is that Fish & Game's interest are keener on the elk issue than the deer issue. J. Keller inquired if there were any mitigations discussed with seasonal closures to mitigate impacts on wildlife? S. Koberg responded that this was a topic that was discussed-management strategies, enforceable or non-enforceable. Hidden Springs folks tend to be conscientious of seasonal closures. The data collected will help make the best decision for this trail. J. Grant inquired if this property has a botany inventory? S. Koberg responded that all the inventory work for the Avimor piece has been done but not all the pieces on the Red Hawk Property.

J. Grant inquired about what happens if the county doesn't use this property for this purpose and it is sold? S. Koberg responded that anything is possible. At this time there is no indication that selling is being considered. K. Danley inquired if there is a parking lot at the Red Tail Trail. C. Cook responded that a trail head location hasn't been determined yet because of the site location. Because of this, the focus has been on the trail itself.

DRY CREEK RANCH TRAIL CONSIDERATIONS:

Ada County was approached by Boise Hunter Homes regarding past input from the Advisory Board as far as internal and external trails from the Dry Creek Ranch property. Additional thoughts have been communicated to Jason with Development Services. Scott and Mike met with Adam from Boise Hunter Homes to discuss a trail from the Bike Park to Dry Creek. It appears a connection can be made from the Bike Park near the gate at Goose Creek from Junkyard. It's in the early phase, so we will

need to see where this project falls within the rest of the projects. K. Danley mentioned that it would be nice to have a bypass trail that goes east for those that want to access other trails, instead of bikers and equestrians going into the Bike Park. C. Cook responded that one of the complications with a trail like this is that it is next to the landfill and they need to have a wildlife buffer and because the Bike Park abuts that buffer, there isn't much room. S. Koberg responded that we aren't looking at any trail considerations beyond the fence at the Bike Park.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

ADA/EAGLE BIKE PARK:

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities at the Bike Park. He wants to see what we have now and how its functioning. He went out to see how the drains were functioning and overall how the trails were holding up. Two items that need to be addressed are how we are communicating with the public and what our trails look like. Mike is working on a document with photos to document his work. He is scrolling through this as he talks. Using GPS, he is identifying all the features on the trails, taking photos at these locations and looking at signage. For each trail he is documenting what we have for signs and how they are holding up. He is also looking at what is needed for maintenance and the soil. Mike continued to go through his document and point out items on the Flow Trail, Shake n' Bake and Twisted Sister that need attention and his plan for improvements.

HUBBARD RESERVOIR:

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities at Hubbard Reservoir. He supplied some background on Hubbard, noted the reservoir doesn't hold water well. Mike referred again to his document with photos. He went on to say there is an old corral that he thought needed to be removed. The trails that are there are linear and flat but what we actually need are trails that wind around trees and other features. He would be working with either Department of Lands to create this trail. K. Kostka inquired what the tie in with Department of Lands is. M. Edwards responded that he was supposed to be working with Dean Johnson from Department of Lands as part of the lease agreement. L. Murphy mentioned that a horse became stuck in the mud last year because of the sink holes. This is where signs would be useful. K. Danley inquired what the attraction of Hubbard is as opposed to other sites to ride. K. Kostka responded that it was closer than other places. J. Keller inquired if Mike has worked up a cost estimate. M. Edwards replied that that was part 2 of the project. M. Edwards also spoke about using SWIMBA or other equestrian groups to help in the construction to keep the costs down. K. Danley inquired if Hubbard was multiuse. M. Edwards responded that yes, it is. M. Grubert inquired if there was agility course the equestrians could do on flat ground. K. Danley responded that a public trail course was a possibility.

BIRDS OF PREY NCA 25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:

C. Hahlbeck asked the Advisory Board to review the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey 25th Anniversary calendar of events flyer that was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.