

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – January 24, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kari Kostka, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees, Emily Reaves, KC Shedden, Eric Plotkin

**ABSENT:** Hilarie Engle

**STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Brent Moore, Robbie Sosin, Commissioner Ryan Davidson

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

#### **SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Oregon Trail:** S. Koberg shared that we now have approval from BLM to complete the all-weather trail. There are a couple of minor restriction where the ruts exist as they do not want us using heavy equipment. Now we just have to schedule what works best for the Trail Crew this spring. C. Miller inquired how long the trail will be once complete. E. Reaves responded she thought it was 1.4 miles. This trail will be completed this spring.

**Bike Park:** C. Miller added that Eagle has added an all-weather/all-concrete trail that resembles a rock faced trail. The mountain bike community has been very positive about this trail. C. Miller inquired if there are any thoughts to extend this to Ada County's side. S. Koberg responded that we haven't discussed this item but there has been more discussion about a new proposed trail that starts on Ada County's side from the top of Treasure View Traverse and coming down to Eagle's side. C. Miller would like to discuss with his fellow committee members and possibly make a non-binding recommendation to the Parks Department for an all-concrete/all-weather trail.

#### **BROADWAY TO 3<sup>RD</sup> PEDESTRAIN PATH:**

K. Shedden explained that Capital City Development Corp. has come up with funding for a path that would partly run behind the Ada County Courthouse. This path would connect Broadway to 3<sup>rd</sup>. R. Davidson added that this came to them several years ago. This path was denied at the time. The concern was for safety due to sharing a road with vehicles traveling around the courthouse. R. Davidson sent an email to Capital City Development saying that he would be willing to reconsider if they would like to walk the property and review the safety concerns. K. Shedden thought if they were spending money on the path, and if there were concerns with security, they could put up a fence. R. Davidson wouldn't mind giving this another look.

#### **GREENBELT SAFETY:**

S. Koberg reported that it came to his attention that the Ada County Sheriff's Office has been working with other jurisdictions to create an MOU and modify County Ordinance as it pertains to speed on the Greenbelt. This MOU is not completed yet. R. Davidson asked for the Advisory Board's input. E. Plotkin inquired if there would be a unified set of rules for the Greenbelt throughout jurisdictions. R. Davidson added that if a city decides to put in a special ordinance for themselves, he doesn't think this would prohibit it. S. Koberg added that to get clarification of these items and other items, he thinks dual or joint enforcement would have to be in an attachment to this MOU. We have invited Spencer Lay who is the Associate Legal Advisor for the Sheriff's Office. He will be attending the February meeting and will be able to answer questions. C. Miller thinks the purpose of this MOU is to raise

public awareness, not to ticket people. His sense is that this is the first step to start and build public awareness. K. Kostka added that this is an MOU between entities to coordinate enforcement. She doesn't know if this is enforceable if its not posted somewhere or in a public space in terms of what the speed limit is. R. Davidson would like the Advisory Board to review this MOU and approve it before it comes before the BOCC. C. Miller suggested that everyone review individually then email thoughts to C. Hahlbeck to be compiled for the next meeting. C. Vertees added that the critical next step would be to get intent/objective from the person that wrote this MOU. S. Koberg added that he doesn't know what version of the MOU this is, but it sets the table for us to figure out who Boise City's point of contact is, how this originated, and what they are seeing as the issues. Advisory Board members will review the MOU and send their comments to C. Hahlbeck by January 21<sup>st</sup>. She will compile and provide copies to Advisory Board members at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

K. Shedden inquired about snow removal on the Greenbelt and asked why snow hadn't been removed from the Warm Springs part of the Greenbelt. S. Koberg explained that we are still implementing a new snow removal plan. Each property falls within a priority list and the Warm Springs Mesa section of the Greenbelt will be cleared of snow once higher priority sites are completed.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **MASTER PLAN:**

The Operation and Maintenance and Financial Assessment are still under development. The draft plan has not been delivered to us yet. We will forward copies to Board members once received. We are still working on finalizing the Mission, Vision, Values. Plan on the February meeting agenda being split between Greenbelt Safety and the Master Plan.

#### **ARPA PARK:**

Scott brought up a map of the planned park at Expo Idaho as he talked. He pointed out key features of the new park. K. Kostka inquired if Plantation Island factors into this plan or is there interest in having it factor in? S. Koberg responded that it didn't. K. Kostka added that Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands is looking to sell or transfer Plantation Island if the County was interested. C. Miller inquired if there are concerns with homelessness in this area. S. Koberg was unsure but suggested it may be a good question for the Sheriff's Legal Advisor that will be at our next meeting. E. Plotkin inquired about mosquitoes being an issue in the lowlands area. S. Koberg responded that there has been some consideration for this.

#### **JPD GREENBELT:**

S. Koberg reported that we have a closure from the West Bridge to the waste water treatment facility. The project is finally moving along. The reason for the delay was that the contractor, Stroth General, did not initially receive approval from Sunroc to access this site where we expected access to be granted. This has since been resolved with a subcontractor agreement. The contractor has been pulverizing the asphalt and the closure fencing and signage is installed. This is a very active construction area. If this phase is completed and the river doesn't rise before March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will have them move upstream from the West Bridge to Garden City limits. If there is concern for water levels, we will wait until the river goes down. Either way construction is likely to continue up until summer depending on progress. This is an ARPA project.

#### **DRY CREEK RANCH REGIONAL TRAIL SUPPORT:**

S. Koberg reported that last week he and Development Services staff met with Boise Hunter Homes to discuss the trail and the grading plan. He showed a photo of property as he talked. The initial alignment that was proposed by Parks & Waterways staff influenced too many proposed lots. We went back to the drawing board and proposed an alternate route after walking the site with David Gordon from Ridge to Rivers and Davey Brown. This alternate route was given to Boise Hunter Homes who requested a meeting. Boise Hunter Homes then came to the meeting with 2 different alternate routes, one of which was the pre-development route. We are working to verify that this will be a sustainable

route. We will re-evaluate when weather allows. Other things we still need to come to terms with is easement language. We are miles apart from Boise Hunter Homes on this. From there we will need to get an accurate estimate of the trail construction cost. We will need estimates of other proposed costs by Boise Hunter Home. They are currently proposing a fence on either side of the entire length of the trail. They have also asked the county to pay for this. S. Koberg met with the full Board yesterday and he mentioned that he may need them back at the table to talk with Boise Hunter Homes if they can't get through this with Development Services. There are also questions of who manages the trail post-construction. This needs to be a public entity that isn't an association that can shut the trail down without appropriate cause. B. Moore added that one recourse Development Services has is to stop approving plats until they comply. Currently legal has been engaged about the easement language. In a perfect world we would get this built in the spring. S. Koberg thinks we are close to an agreement on the alignment, but still far apart on the easement. C. Vertrees inquired if this land is in a conservation easement or have applied for a conservation easement. Both S. Koberg and B. Moore weren't sure. The parties went on to discuss this.

S. Koberg added that David Gordon proposed some trail closures in the winter. These trail's include Heroes Trail, a segment of Seamans Gluch, Who Now Loop, Full Sail, Polecat Loop, and Bucktail. The closures are due to misuse or extensive muddy trail use and damage that is irreparable or costly. These trails aren't closed yet, but if/when they are closed you can expect to see some outreach from the City of Boise. E. Plotkin inquired what closure looks like. S. Koberg responded that it would be fenced or gated with signage. The parties went on to discuss the misuse of trails.

#### **PROGRAM AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:**

R. Sosin reported that he reached out to H. Engle and E. Reaves about an Oregon Trail guided tour. He is finishing up the research portion. He has been reading trail journals. He plans to talk about fur trappers, the Whitmans, Fort Hall, Fort Boise and a little about points of interest specifically Soda Springs and Three Island Crossing. He will also discuss Ezra Meeker, Sara Sutton and the ruts of the Oregon Trail. He asked if Board members had anything else he should talk about. E. Reaves suggested to speak on what kids did on the trail. C. Miller suggested discussing the difference between the Oregon Trail and the Kelton Freight Trail. K. Kostka suggested the history of indigenous people and importance of some of these places. Robbie also plans to make a video as well.

R. Sosin went on to say that S. Koberg was approached by the Horseshoe Collective which is a organization that handles funding for name, image and likeness opportunities for Boise State Athletes. People can donate to this collective and the Collective pays student athletes to volunteer. Boise State fans can go out with BSU athletes to perform volunteer opportunities. He went out and found some beaver activity that needs to be addressed with beaver wrap. R. Sosin is going to meet with Joe Nickell, the head of the Horseshoe Collective and walk him through the project area. This is centered around 208 day, a day of community service on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The idea is to get a consortium of volunteers and student athletes to go out and do community service.

#### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.**