

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – July 26, 2023

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

ABSENT: Hilarie Engle, Eric Plotkin, Emily Reaves

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

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

C. Vertrees moved to approve the June 28, 2023 minutes. C. Miller seconded. Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Oregon Trail: No Report.

Bike Park: No Report

Hubbard: No Report.

GREENBELT SAFETY:

K.C. Shedden explained that the Warm Springs golf course had an open house. Boise City is flipping the clubhouse from the north side to the south side and adding a 200-person event center. This will cause more traffic at this Greenbelt intersection. At the open house there was a discussion about possibly rerouting the Greenbelt around the clubhouse. Parking for the new event center will be challenging. The parties went on to talk about possible parking solutions.

AUGUST MEETING:

The parties discussed a possible float in lieu of a meeting or a morning /evening float. We will send out some possible dates and do a doodlepoll and settle on a date.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Boise River Float Season. There was a kickoff news conference on the Barber Park beach with county and city leaders and agency partners in attendance. The first 25 days of the season we have parked over 15,000 vehicles. Reports of incidents in the river are down along with flows. K. Kostka inquired if the numbers of people floating the river determines if we can hold daytime events at the event center? S. Koberg responded yes and no. We sort of discourage it because you either have to tally vehicles or have guests pay. This is communicated to potential renters, as this is beyond the typical fee. We don't book events on Friday-Sunday. S. Koberg went on to say that he thinks we will hit our revenue targets for the budget that was set a year and a half ago. K.C. Shedden talked about his experience floating the river this past weekend. The parties went on to discuss this and use of alcohol and marijuana on the Boise River. K. Kostka inquired if we are getting good traction on the new Float the Boise website. S. Koberg responded that yes, we are. C. Vertrees added that it may help to do a reservation system for raft and tube rentals. S. Koberg added that may be something we look into after this season.

S. Koberg provided an update on the Master Plan. After this meeting we are doing a Mission, Vision and Values workshop. Jeff Milkes with BerryDunn is in town doing site visits and tours. We will be getting the updated survey out today. Jeff will also be doing some engagements with visitors and give them the link to the survey. C. Miller inquired how long the survey will be open? S. Koberg wasn't sure but asked C. Miller how long he thought to keep it open. C. Miller responded no less than 2 weeks. C. Miller added that when the survey is complete, he would like an opportunity to look at the data and interact with BerryDunn on how we might want to interpret and analyze it.

OTHER ITEMS:

C. Vertrees inquired about the Expo Idaho community outreach. S. Koberg thought it went smoothly. R. Davidson added that it went well. It was a casual style meeting with reps from PORT there. They set up photos and maps of what the future park will look like. S. Koberg added that Expo Idaho will have an outreach booth at the Fair. R. Davidson responded that Ada County will have a booth with a different Department Head each day who will be able to display information about their department. Volunteers will work 2-hour shifts. S. Koberg added that California Skate Parks, a subcontractor who is designing the All-Wheel Sports Garden, will be coming to town in early August for a possible public outreach meeting to speak on this particular feature at the new park.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin is back in the office. He met with the Boise City. They estimate about 400 people per day visit the Float the Boise site.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:

B. Moore reported that the re-design for Eckert Road is on ACHD's 5-year work plan. They will be starting a concept study soon. Then they will move on to a detailed design right-of-way acquisition study. This will take several years before construction starts.

Eagle has approved a Master Plan for their shooting sports park that is in the Foothills. This will be 85 acres. They also approved a Master Plan for a traditional sports park on Highway 16.

The Spring Rock planned community is going to Planning and Zoning on September 14th. This is a 2-phase plan, and they are currently on phase 2. This would also include a 30-acre park that would include an almost 2 mile path.

C. Miller inquired if the recently created Ridge to Rivers ADA accessible trail at the Grove, that is now dog on leash, was it a requirement to make the trail on-leash to comply with ADA accessibility. S. Koberg responded he is unsure if this was a requirement for ADA compliance, but it was a consideration because of wheeled types on transportation and safety. S. Koberg went on to say that at the end of 9th Street there are now areas where people with limited mobility will have greater access including the designated loop at the Grove Trailhead. C. Miller went on to say that part of the concern is that if he wants to walk his dog off leash from the Grove parking lot up to Hulls Gulch or Kestrel, he must walk on Owl's Roost which is where the bikes are, possibly creating more conflict. This raises the question of a possible dog off leash pedestrian trail. S. Koberg responded that he will follow up with Ridge to Rivers Program Coordinator.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.