

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – June 24, 2023

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, 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 May 24, 2023 minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Oregon Trail: No Report.

Bike Park: No Report

Hubbard: No Report.

GREENBELT SAFETY:

H. Engle reported there is a post on Next Door that a man was hit on the Greenbelt and ended up in the ER. K. Kostka added that Boise City has been bombarded with E-bikes/E-Motorcycles at the Pump Track. S. Koberg hasn't seen this issue at the Ada/Eagle Bike Park. KC Shedden added that ACHD has the Warm Springs concept study they are doing. KC said he mentioned that the section where everyone gets off Warm Springs belongs to Ada County. S. Koberg added that we have been engaged with ACHD, but there hasn't been a lot of involvement from us because its more related to the pedestrian crossing on the roadway.

KC inquired if there was anything the Parks Board could do to help with Greenbelt Safety. S. Koberg responded that we intend to do more outreach. This will include possibly having a table in the vicinity of the area of the Warm Springs Golf Course with a short survey.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Boise River Float Season. This has been one of the more challenging announcement time frames. It took until yesterday afternoon before we were 100% sure we were opening. This weekend will probably be the busiest in Barber Park history with hot temperatures, holiday weekend and the first weekend of the Float Season. MAV will be coming in this weekend to assist with traffic control.

Flows have now stabilized. Temperatures are good and debris mitigation is ongoing. The Facebook post announcing the opening date has 354 reactions, 193 comments and almost 500 shares. It's picked up a lot of traction with the news media as well. There will be a media event here at Barber Park tomorrow at 3:30PM. H. Engle inquired what time the rentals open. S. Koberg responded 11AM on weekdays and 10AM on weekends. There are discounts on Wednesdays. The Snack Shack is under new ownership. They are making some modifications. S. Koberg added that we have 2 ambassador boats that he is happy to loan out if members of the Parks Board would like to use them. C. Vertrees inquired if the flows came down to help open by July 4th? S. Koberg responded that there was some coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation. Flood control to protect downstream from the Dam to protect from flooding is the first step. Then it turns to flow augmentation which can't be done at the same time as flood control. Flow augmentation means that a certain amount of Boise River water has to get to the Columbia Basin by a specific time. So this means they have to moderate the flow from the river to adjust for that. For this year we asked them to stretch it out a little longer than intended. They were open to this conversation. E. Plotkin inquired that the last time we met it was looking like July 4th

wouldn't be feasible for an opening date. What changed? S. Koberg responded that it has mostly to do with the flows and the ability to drop it sooner. Fire was able to mitigate last week and into the weekend.

S. Koberg provided an update on the newly installed playground. It officially opened yesterday. S. Koberg shared photos of the new playground as he spoke. C. Miller inquired if the turf used is artificial. S. Koberg responded yes, it was the recommended turf base for a particular fall standard along with a particular ADA compliance.

S. Koberg provided an update on the FY24 Budget. All Department Directors presented their budgets 2 weeks ago to the Board of County Commissioners. Deliberations were last week. R. Davidson added that Budget Deliberations went well and they finished by Wednesday. It's a fairly flat budget. They tried to make sure nothing was padded. Currently, it's a Finalized Proposed Budget. The next step is voting on it next month.

S. Koberg reported on the Master Plan and Survey. C. Miller provided good feedback to weigh in with our consultant team on the survey. Everything he suggested was integrated into the updated survey. This survey is expected to be distributed shortly. Jeff and Tom plan to come out within the next month. They will be doing visits with people in Barber Park and surveys on site.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

No Report.

OTHER ITEMS:

C. Miller inquired about updates on Dry Creek. R. Davidson replied that it was a productive meeting. Boise Hunter Homes is ready to move forward with the permanent trail. They proposed to pay for the trail and would like Ada County to pay for the fence. No formal decisions have been made. Because the community has been so engaged; they may do a groundbreaking ceremony. R. Davidson thought an "Adopt a Trail" approach for the trail would be effective and the neighbors could sponsor a portion of the trail. C. Miller inquired about the trail route. R. Davidson responded that there is a proposed route and he could get that map to us. C. Vertrees inquired if the route is something they proposed? R. Davidson responded that it was something they proposed due to the platting and where they want the houses to go. C. Vertrees added that the design and picked route will directly impact the long-term maintenance of it along with the cost. Whoever can get in front of that at the design phase to make sure it's a very sustainable trail, is important. E. Reaves inquired who will build the trail. R. Davidson replied that Hunter Home will build the trail and Ada County will maintain it. S. Koberg will follow up on this. E. Plotkin inquired about the Avimor component. R. Davidson responded that they talked about that too. Progress is being made.

K. Kostka added that she wasn't opposed to floating the river. S. Koberg added that they could do a morning float or an evening float during mid-week. They will talk after the meeting to gauge interest.

E. Reaves added that she connected Robbie with the 3rd grade teachers at Riverside. The kids and teachers gave rave reviews.

She went on to thank Scott for talking about the Oregon Trail at the last meeting. She plans to go out there at some point on a weekend for a cleanup day. She would also like to investigate the on/off leash signage.

E. Plotkin inquired if there are any plans for updated tracking of floaters. S. Koberg responded that our IT team was able to find a couple different cameras. One of these will be mounted at the pier to count individual people as they come by. The other camera will be mounted at the secondary gate to provide feedback on car counts. We also plan to put in conduit with the camera at the pier to record river temperature. E. Plotkin inquired who else will be look at this data. Our IT Department will also be looking at this data in addition to Parks & Waterways. These cameras will also be used as another level of security.

C. Miller inquired how we account for people who park outside the park? S. Koberg responded that we won't. We will probably capture the majority of floaters. The group went on to discuss this.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.