

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – April 27, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Robbie Sosin

OTHERS: Commissioner Davidson, Brent Moore (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

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

No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. C. Miller moved to approve the March 23rd minutes. E. Reaves seconded. Motion passed.

ELECTIONS:

The group discussed the Chair and Vice Chair positions and what's involved. E. Reaves nominated K. Kostka to continue as Chair and C. Miller to continue as Vice Chair. C. Vertrees seconded. Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

E. Reaves and H. Engle are on the Oregon Trail Subcommittee. E. Plotkin and H. Cater are on the Hubbard Subcommittee.

E. Reaves asked if a future meeting could be held at Hubbard. Because of some Board member schedules, we will have to find a time that will work for everyone. S. Koberg suggested an evening tour of Hubbard and a tour of Barber Pool site visit in May.

C. Miller inquired what the Bike Park subcommittee could be doing to help Park staff. M. Edwards responded that the Bike Park is on autopilot at this point. The focus for the next couple years will be Oregon Trail and primarily Hubbard.

K. Kostka inquired if anyone from the Bike Park subcommittee would like to be on either the Oregon Trail or Hubbard committee. C. Miller said he would like to be on the Hubbard subcommittee and K. Kostka will be on the Hubbard subcommittee. C. Vertrees will join the Hubbard subcommittee. S. Koberg added that because we now have a Barber Pool Master Plan, that a subcommittee may be a good idea. K. Kostka responded that they would revisit this.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

We have started our seasonal staff hiring. We have 2 that have started, 3 are pending being hired and we need 4 more seasonal maintenance staff and 2-3 possibly in the kiosk.

We have a new equipment rental and shuttle concession contractor after 14 years with the same company. The owner decided to sell the business and we were notified at the end of the last fiscal year. The former owner will stay on as a consultant this year. E. Reaves inquired if there will be any front-end changes. S. Koberg responded no, not at this time. She went on to ask if S. Koberg knew what the season will look like. S. Koberg responded that he thinks it will be busier then ever with another record-breaking year.

We submitted our preliminary FY 23 Budget to the Clerk's Office and its still under review. The 2 items for next fiscal year is the Barber Park Master Plan and the playground equipment. The playground equipment is a Parks supplemental request for FY23. C. Miller inquired what the schedule will look like for the Barber Park Master Plan. S. Koberg responded that if approved we will get a schedule from the consultant team. He thinks it will take all next year to complete.

Construction has started on the forest loop and bridges. We will have partial completion in mid-June. The contractor is BriCon. The bridges won't be in place until September. The event center is staying busy with 31 events between now and mid-June. S. Koberg added that we did a rate change for the event center. This will take effect April 1, 2023. This will bring the cost up to market value.

OPEN SPACE & TRAILS:

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities.

Oregon Trail-M. Edwards and Davey have been working on removing the dirt that was pushed on to the Kelton Trail.

M. Edwards and Davey also met with Jerry Eichorst and the BLM archeologist to discuss extension of the trail improvement project on BLM property.

Ada/Eagle Bike Park- Davey has been busy clearing drains on Twisted Sister, D's Chaos and Junk Yard trails. He has also been working on Storm'n Mormon and Shake'n Bake.

Dry Creek Ranch-M. Edwards met with Avimor, Dry Creek and Ada County Development Services. They discussed connectivity between Avimor and Dry Creek, amending the legal description of Dry Creek southern regional trail and working on getting easements for both organizations. C. Miller inquired who's responsibility it will be when these agreements are in place. M. Edwards responded that it would be the County's responsibility.

Hubbard Reservoir-M. Edwards reviewed the Hubbard Reservoir plan. The two things that are driving this is what we can get done now and funding. K. Kostka inquired if he was still looking for feedback. M. Edwards responded that he was and would like to have them within a month. K. Kostka inquired how the planning process has been going with Idaho Department of Lands. Mike responded that it's going well. K. Kostka inquired if there was a plan for outreach to neighbors in the area. M. Edwards responded that a letter will go out to neighborhood associations and others in the area.

PROGRAM AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin provided an update on his activities. Micron held an event at the event center. 40 employees planted 155 native plants provided by the Golden Eagle Audubon Society in Gopher Grove here in Barber Park. The volunteers were split in to 2 groups with half digging up weeds and planting the native plants, while the other half wrapped cottonwood trees. The plants included 3 different species of sagebrush, rabbitbrush and 3-4 different species of native Idaho grasses. Robbie will be watering these plants once a week. This is part of a bigger project that Ada County is involved in called the Boise River Re-wild Project. The goal is to restore river habitat from Diversion Dam to Parkcenter Bridge.

Commissioner Davidson added that they declared a drought emergency. This mostly effects only agriculture and the amount of water they can use. They will be encouraging residents to conserve water through the summer.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.