MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – April 28, 2021

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

ABSENT: Scott Frey

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck

OTHER: Brent Moore (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:
C. Miller called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.
C. Vertrees moved to approve the March 24th minutes. H. Carter 2nd. Motion passed.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:
Nothing new to report from the Bike Park. C. Miller is surprised at the growth that has happened out there. Trail maintenance at the Bike Park recently had good turnout. H. Carter inquired how the cooperation with the City of Eagle has been. S. Koberg responded that is has been consistently good. H. Carter added that M. Edwards is putting together the Park Improvement Plan for Hubbard Reservoir. They are waiting on his plan to be sure there is consistent and accurate communication.
No new update on Oregon Trail. H. Engle commented that there is less dog poop out there right now.
There was some rain damage on the Joe Palmer Trail due to recent storms.

ELECTIONS:
Parties discussed who was interested in taking over the Chair and Vice Chair positions. C. Miller inquired if there were any other duties besides Chairing meetings. K. Kostka responded that sometimes letters of support are needed, and she will write those, as Chair. C. Hahlbeck added that the Chair can call special meetings of the Board, sign documents of the Board, see all actions of the Board are properly taken and make Board appointments to subcommittees. Both K. Kostka and C. Miller were ok with retaining their roles. E. Reaves nominated K. Kostka and C. Miller to remain as Chair and Vice Chair. H. Carter seconded. Motion passed.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Barber Park Plaza & Pathways Project.
S. Koberg supplied an update. This project is scheduled to be completed early to mid-June. We are hoping to pull the construction fence at the event center on Friday just in time for our first event since mid-March 2020. The plaza is coming along nicely. As of Monday, there is no longer any asphalt. It has all be demoed and removed. It is now base prepped for concrete. H. Engle inquired if we will have air stations. S. Koberg responded that no, we will not bring them back due to conflict on the beach and trash issues. E. Reaves inquired if the mounds of sand at the playground will be disbursed? S. Koberg responded yes. Sand has been placed for spreading. He reported that it wasn’t in the budget to take on larger projects at the playground and basketball court this fiscal year. We are requesting use of fund balance usage next fiscal year to finish up phases 5 and 6 of the Barber Park Plaza and Pathways Project. If there are saving from this project, we anticipate using this for the playground and basketball court. C. Miller inquired if S. Koberg had any concern about the work not being completed by float season. S. Koberg responded that there are always concerns, but the project is coming along nicely and on schedule. There has been a concrete shortage in the valley, but ESI is able to get higher in the queue when it comes to obtaining concrete. They are able to start early in the morning working with
large crews here in the park. S. Koberg is hoping to do a site visit with the Parks Board at the June meeting.

Event Center Status update. We will have our first event on May 1st. Events of any size will need to submit an attestation form to Central District Health. CDH will approve of this form with different mitigation measures that will be in place. The Board of County Commissioners also requires us to provide the COVID travel CDC recommendations to renters for people that will be traveling from outside the area.

Greenbelt Bid Solicitation update. We have in progress a bid solicitation for the Sunroc Greenbelt Pathway. This is on the south side of the Boise River downstream from Glenwood between Glenwood and Eagle. This was the segment that was damaged during the 2017 flood. This won’t be a complete reconstruction, only a cut and patch situation, not as extensive as other properties. The budget for this is $250,000.00. This would cause short term closures of 3-4 weeks. H. Carter inquired if a closure notification will go out. S. Koberg responded that yes, but only if we are able to obtain a contractor.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

K. Kostka inquired if there were any updates from M. Edwards. S. Koberg responded no, but we are working on trying to obtain seasonal employees for Trails and Parks & Waterways. He went on to explain how difficult it has been to obtain seasonal help. S. Koberg mentioned that one of our budget requests for next fiscal year was to hire 3 new permanent Ada County Employees. One of these positions would be a Trail Crew Foreman. This person would be under M. Edwards year-round. This would allow Mike to take on more of the plan work we need him to do. The other two positions we are asking for are another Maintenance Mechanic and a Program and Education Specialist.

K. Kostka inquired about a Barber Pool update. S. Koberg responded that Rambol and Associates was hired by the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands to create the new master plan for the Pool. The primary piece is the property the Foundation owns but all of the adjacent land owners are involved. We are waiting for this to wrap up. The most recent thing that has happened was passing of the Resolution months ago. Right now much of the discussion is upland restoration and how to reduce invasive weeds. The former Gregerson parcel has some interesting concepts for this property. We plan to install 2 more signs on the Greenbelt. One right above the Gregerson property and another dedication sign regarding the resolution.

C. Miller inquired about use of Levy Funds to do some research in the Park for traditional channels for spawning. S. Koberg responded that we are currently in the draft phase of a feasibility study. The intent is to get it into a place where it can be routed through their Open Space Council for Levy Funds so we can see if it’s a project they will consider funding. We are still working on it and S. Koberg is hopeful for this project.

B. Moore added that Development Services has a survey regarding Expo Idaho and what the public would most like to see at this site. Development Services is also working on a new zoning ordinance update. You can go to their website to leave comments.

K. Kostka is taking suggestions on other site visits. E. Reaves suggested an Oregon Trail site visit. H. Carter suggested Hubbard Reservoir.

K. Kostka is taking suggestions for speakers or other topics. C. Miller commented that with K. Kostka’s Nature Conservancy, would be a logical fit for an Open Space Advisory Board crossover. Is there someone with the Nature Conservancy that we could have as a speaker? She will think on it and get back to the group. S. Koberg suggested Brandy Wilson from Idaho Department of Parks and Lands. It may be a good idea to have her or someone from her group come out and give an overview of the Master Plan. H. Engle added that the WMA is having a hard time with the 10-fold use in usage and she thinks human interface with a wildlife management area and what they are seeing. Parties went on to talk about this in depth.
OPEN SPACE & TRAILS
No report.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.