

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – August 24, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Miller, Hilarie Engle, Eric Plotkin, Chuck Vertrees, Helen Carter

ABSENT: Kari Kostka, Emily Reaves

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Robbie Sosin

OTHERS: Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Sara Arkle

INTRODUCTION:

Advisory Board sat in on Western Idaho Fair (W.I.F.) operations meeting which began at 12:18pm.

W.I.F. Meeting adjourned at 12:34pm

C. Vertrees moved to approve July 27th, 2022 minutes, H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

E-BIKE SAFETY ON THE GREENBELT:

City of Boise Parks Superintendent S. Arkle was introduced and opened the floor for discussion and questions regarding Boise City Greenbelt safety and management. C. Miller mentioned that he's seen minimal speed related signs around the Greenbelt. S. Arkle informed Board that the speed limit is 20 mph according to Boise City Code. She then mentioned that City of Boise went through an extensive assessment of safety of riders and pedestrians alike and spoke about challenges of enforcing speed limits. S. Arkle suggested filing a public records request for police reports regarding incidents related to E-Bikes. S. Arkle affirmed that not many incidents related to E-Bikes are reported on the Greenbelt. She explained that the code was created in case of incident, BPD has a code to enforce safety. S. Arkle mentioned that there has been no real coordination between jurisdictions to extend that speed limit to all parts of the Greenbelt. C. Miller stated that he thinks that there could be better ways to inform and educate public on Greenbelt speed across all jurisdictions, S. Arkle agreed. E. Plotkin asked if City of Boise has had any talks with E-Bike manufacturers to automatically slow down E-Bikes in certain areas like rideshare scooters or speed bumps like on roadways. S. Arkle said that since E-Bikes are privately owned, there is nothing that they can do to regulate E-Bike speed electronically. She mentioned that if a speed limit change were to occur, it would have to go through a public process but there have been no complaints about current speed limits. C. Miller and C. Vertrees mentioned that they've seen reports of E-Bike crashes on the news, S. Arkle said that while these accidents do happen that it hasn't been a widespread issue. C. Miller suggested that since the media is covering negative incidents with E-Bikes more, now would be a good time to get the speed limit messaging out. S. Arkle agreed and had to leave but said that if there are any more questions to email her and she'd be happy to answer any questions. S. Arkle and C. Miller discussed how all jurisdictions could do more to educate the public, S. Koberg confirmed that there is no Greenbelt speed limit in Ada County Code. Greenbelt issues. H. Engle mentioned how she's seen many people speed down the Greenbelt, E. Plotkin suggested several ideas to help control speed such as poles, speedometers, or signage.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Bike Park- C. Miller visited the Bike Park and discovered there are no signs that indicate Junk Yard Trail is a one-way trail. S. Koberg confirmed that there are updates that are in the works at the Bike Park to reflect any changes to trail direction and addition of new trails. Davey Brown, Trail Crew Foreman, is working with counterpart at City of Eagle to get accurate mapping. C. Vertrees mentioned that he was able to edit Trail Forks map of Bike Park to reflect correct directions on trails. C. Miller was able to do the same on Mountain Bike Project.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg mentioned he didn't have much for this meeting but will have much more at the September meeting when he will share some background, data, and framework for Barber Park float season operations. S. Koberg began to speak about ARPA park at Expo Idaho. 6 design firms were narrowed down to 3 which will have a design competition to see which one has the best vision for the site. S. Koberg outlined the potential boundaries of the new park and what the County would like to see from these designs. The submittals will be in a public forum presented to the Board of Commissioners. R. Davidson spoke about how the current structure is used and talked about challenges with jurisdiction of the park as well. R. Davidson expressed his appreciation for input from the Advisory Board. H. Engle asked if there were plans to move the fairgrounds to another location, S. Koberg confirmed that the fairgrounds will stay in its current location for the foreseeable future. S. Koberg went on to say that the Greenbelt behind Expo is County-owned, and it was emphasized to design firms that the County wants to incorporate the greenbelt and the Boise River into ARPA park plans. H. Carter asked if we know what the key demographics of the park will be. R. Davidson responded that he wasn't sure, but wanted to have the park be a park everybody will want to come visit. S. Koberg added that in conjunction with ARPA funds, this park needs to integrate access for underserved populations. C. Miller asked if the Commissioners wanted the park to be more of a destination park like Ann Morrison or a neighborhood park like Northview Park. R. Davidson responded that he'd like it to be a destination that citizens in the entire county will want to visit. S. Koberg added that he expects there to be a diversity of visitors similar to Barber Park and that the county doesn't want an empty park. C. Miller included that there could be a good float section from this area. S. Koberg told the Board that the firms' previous works have been outstanding, and their teams are diverse and creative. C. Vertrees commented that this is a great opportunity to add another gem to the Boise River corridor in the middle of a fast-growing area. S. Koberg wrapped up his report by reiterating that he's looking forward to input from the Board about Barber Park management during next month's meeting. R. Sosin will work with the Advisory Board to create a proper response for people who want to know more about why the air pumps at Barber Park were removed. H. Carter questioned how big of a controversy the air pumps have been. R. Davidson commented that people liked having the air pumps and initially were very upset, but as time has gone on people have adapted and there is now just a slow stream of people that have concerns or complaints.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT

R. Sosin said he will be in communication with City of Boise about end of float season messaging and has been working to flesh out educational materials.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.