

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – February 23, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kari Kostka, Chris Miller, Hilarie Engle, Eric Plotkin, Emily Reaves

**ABSENT:** Chuck Vertrees, Helen Carter

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

**OTHERS:** Brent Moore (Development Services)

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. H. Engle moved to approve the January 26th minutes. C. Miller seconded. Motion passed.

#### **SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:**

No report.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

S. Koberg reported that we are underway with our FY23 budget planning. Our budget will be streamlined due to ARPA funding as opposed to using Capital funds. The Commissioners have provided for a 3% increase for Operating and Capital lines from the former budget year.

S. Koberg provided an update on construction in the park. The fishing pier is still under construction and its slated to be mostly completed by the end of next week. There will hopefully be a lot of publicity around this when it's open in conjunction with the forest loop project. K. Kostka inquired if this was something we could see during the next meeting. S. Koberg responded that we would be able to do that.

As mentioned in the last meeting, our 2 proposed projects, the forest loop and pathways for \$650,000.00 and the Sunroc/JPD Greenbelt replacement of 1.64 miles for \$3 million were approved by the Board of County Commissioners for ARPA funding. We hosted the mandatory pre-bid meeting here on February 10<sup>th</sup> for the bridges and pathway project. We had a good turnout of 8-9 contractors. The bid opening is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be under construction towards the end of March and wrapping up right before the float season opens. This project is the first ARPA construction project in the county. The Sunroc/JPD mandatory pre-bid proposal is due March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be an RFQ with a design team on board for this project. This will potentially be under construction this summer through the fall.

The Penitentiary Canal Greenbelt license agreement with US Bureau of Reclamation expires in May. The USBR is going to a different strategy for how they do agreements. We are currently reviewing a new management agreement which is a 25-year management agreement draft that will require more reporting on our end but will allow for 50% cost sharing for project improvements with USBR. We are also looking at adding 2 acres near Diversion Dam as a new future county park facility on the Greenbelt, tentatively called Diversion Park right as you cross Highway 21 and turn towards Lucky Peak. There is a dirt road to park where you can see Diversion Dam. This would provide for a rest stop on the Greenbelt and serve as a maintenance outpost for our Greenbelt and Waterways staff. C. Miller inquired if this would provide water access. S. Koberg responded that no, it's on the other side of the Greenbelt between the highway and the Greenbelt. C. Miller inquired if there were any cost sharing in prior agreements. S. Koberg responded, no, there wasn't.

E. Reaves reported that there was fresh beaver activity near the Parkcenter bridge. S. Koberg added that the beavers took down a tree near the fishing pier construction site. The parties went on to discuss removing nuisance beavers.

## **OPEN SPACE & TRAILS:**

Oregon Trail- M. Edwards and D. Brown met with Bureau of Land Management on site to discuss completing the armored trail loop on BLM property. Their biologist, archeologist and Assistant Director believe this project should be conditionally exempt. D. Brown is finishing up the armoring project on Simplot property under the license agreement. This should be completed in February. The entrance gate was damaged in early January. We are working on getting that repaired.

Ada Eagle Bike Park- M. Edwards and D. Brown are working on a list of projects including rebuilding berms and jumps on Flow, Storm'n Mormon and Shake'n Bake and clearing and rebuilding all the drainages on the single-track trails. They would also like to meet with the City of Eagle and SWIMBA to discuss a joint volunteer trail day in April. C. Miller requested for M. Edwards to let him know when the trail day is scheduled. E. Plotkin inquired if M. Edwards had heard about the Plastic Program where they are making cinder block alternatives. They are supposed to have a bunch of benefits over traditional cinderblock. M. Edwards will look into this for use at the Bike Park.

Hubbard Reservoir- The draft Hubbard Park Improvement Plan is under review. M. Edwards completed a draft of the Boise Open Space and Clean Water Grant application for consideration. He also met with City of Boise, Fish and Game, US Fish & Wildlife and Idaho Department of Lands as part of a potential reseeding and restoration effort with 100 pounds of native seed we received at no cost. In addition, he also met with Ada County Weed and Pest to discuss herbicide management project on 3 habitat restoration pilot areas. Habitat restoration improvement will include riparian cottonwood forest, grass lands and wetland/dryland areas. Plants will include native grasses, local sage brush and pollinator species.

Planning-M. Edwards Meet with Ada Count Development Services, Spring Rock Development other organizations as part of a pre-application discussion for the Spring Rock Development off Ten Mile Creek road.

M. Edwards continues to work with Development Services on the next phase of Dry Creek Ranch Development and trail locations. B. Moore added that the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Transportation Action Plan. This includes the goal of adopting the various cities' trail and pathway plans. C. Miller inquired if the developers were being more cooperative. S. Koberg responded that they are being more responsive but there is still work that needs to be done. M. Edwards is working with Ada County Weed and Pest to develop recommendations for weed treatment work to be performed at Hubbard, Oregon Trail, Ada/Eagle Bike Park and Echanove.

M. Edwards added that we are looking to hire seasonal help if anyone knew anyone that is looking for work.

## **PROGRAM AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT**

Robbie provided an update on his activities. The Barber Pool Event has been postponed indefinitely. The website is still being updated and he would like some feedback. They can email him directly or submit a contact form. He would like the Parks Board to focus on the Greenbelt page or one of the open space pages.

He is also working on a new issue of the Current Magazine. His deadline is March 21<sup>st</sup>. His theme for this issue is recent projects such as Sunroc/JPD Greenbelt and the forest loop.

He has been working on scheduling social media posts for the rest of this year. He has 155 posts scheduled for various holidays and events during the year.

In April he will be working with Elizabeth Duncan for County Government Month. There will be an outreach event held at the courthouse.

Lastly, he is working on a proposal for hardware and software purchases such as cameras, microphones and editing software to facilitate education and outreach opportunities.

K. Kostka added that she liked the spotlight on the Parks Board members when the Current magazine was originally being published. She went on to inquire about drone footage of the Bike Park. S.

Koberg responded that we have drone imagery that was used to create the online map. She thinks aerial footage of our properties would be nice to see.

E. Plotkin inquired if there is web cam footage that could be used for time lapse footage over the seasons on different properties. He thinks it might be a nice idea.

E. Plotkin inquired about a photo submission contest. R. Sosin responded that in past years there had been a photo contest. He plans to request photo submissions for another photo contest in the new issue of Current.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.**