

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – February 26, 2020 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Danley, Hilarie Engle, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees, Kari Kostka, Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Scott Koberg

OTHER: Brent Moore- Development Services, Julia Whiting-Echanove Ranch HOA, Jeff Wolfe-Echanove Ranch HOA, Eric Holley-Echanove Ranch HOA

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

S. Koberg mentioned that we will try to get the minutes out sooner so the final minutes will be ready by the date of the meeting.

K. Danley voiced a couple of changes to the minutes.

C. Vertrees moved to approve the January minutes with K. Danley's changes.

H. Engle seconded. K. Danley objected due to information not being in the minutes regarding Judy Peavey-Derr's tenure as Ada County Commissioner and some of her background that was not originally mentioned in the meeting but added after the fact.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Bike Park subcommittee met with Carlos Matutes who is the Executive Director of Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association (SWIMBA). C. Miller updated the Board. The topic of the Bike Park being a unique amenity for the Treasure Valley has come up across previous conversations. There is no other place in the valley that has this mix and combination of features and amenities. As we move forward as a subcommittee and part of a larger group, C. Miller really wants to build on the unique features. He went on to say that the Bike Park's relative size is an advantage to adding features that you couldn't necessarily do anywhere else. An example of this is the technical rock trail Carlos mentioned during the meeting with the subcommittee. In addition, Carlos had comments regarding the connector trail from the Bike Park to Dry Creek Ranch. C. Miller was surprised to hear that, for a guy who runs a mountain bike advocacy organization, that this shouldn't be a great mountain bike trail. This is a connection trail between trail systems and needs to be managed for all user groups to minimize conflicts. M. Edwards added that this is exactly the way this trail was laid out-a multi-use non-motorized trail that has long sightlines which will make it easier for equestrians, pedestrians and mountain bikers to all get along. There are a few sections on the south end of the trail where there may be some bermed corners, but the bottom of the turns will all be flat. S. Frey added an analogy as it relates to his transportation background regarding accessibility and mobility. Accessibility is the residential streets that give you access from your home to where you want to go. Mobility is getting from A to B long distance such as the interstate. Trails can be thought of similarly. C. Miller added the idea of an adaptive bike downhill oriented trail. Eagle is also interested in this. Carlos would also like to see this happen. NICA is interested in creating an adaptive bike race in the future. E. Reaves inquired about what exactly an adaptive bike is. C. Miller responded that it is a hand powered bike that people with disabilities use. They are low to the ground and have a tricycle set up. Because of this

extended and low to the ground set, the types of things they can go over is different than a regular bicycle.

C. Vertrees has reached out to various Homeowners Associations near by to get other users' perspectives with no response as of now.

S. Frey didn't have anything to report on actively at Hubbard.

S. Frey added that Carlos would be a good person to have as a speaker for a future Parks Board meeting.

A trail work day with SWIMBA is scheduled for April 5th.

K. Danley added that she agrees with Carlos when he mentions a path that circumvents the Bike Park.

K. Kostka mentioned a possible trail day for the Parks Board members.

K. Danley added that she is happy to help with any trail maintenance. She went on to say that April Millington and her group from the Treasure Valley Back Country Horseman is interested in helping with any trail maintenance at Oregon Trail. They are planning a ride there on April 26th.

K. Danley reported that since we are awaiting a vault toilet installation at Oregon Trail, H. Engle found interior pictures of a couple of other vault toilets in the Teton Valley. This is a great way to discourage graffiti. C. Miller added that the City of Boise Arts Commission plays a part in getting the large boxes in downtown Boise painted. He wondered if their process might be borrowed to have the Oregon Trail vault toilet painted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg supplied an update on the Barber Park Pathways Improvement Project. We have entered fee notations with the highest ranked responder to the RFP, this was Quadrant Consulting. They brought with them JBA Associates who was the original landscape architect when improvements were previously made to Barber Park. They also developed the master plan that is still on the books.

Because of the timeline, it has been determined that we will get through all the permitting and design elements, but construction won't begin until after the floating season is over this year.

Last week our department partnered with Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Boise River Enhancement Network and Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement to eradicate invasive tree species, primarily Russian Olives. Over 600 trees were felled by Sawtooth Tree Company. This was followed up by Ada County Weed and Pest treating the remaining stumps. Our maintenance department then came through and chipped several of the felled trees. The Golden Eagle Audubon Society's objective fits in line with a plan we utilize for our riparian corridor management. They chipped in \$4000 for this project. Photos were shown as S. Koberg talked. There was good media coverage of this effort that shared how this partnership was successful and what the intent was for this project. E. Reaves inquired how far into the conservation area this extends. S. Koberg responded that it included the entire park area that goes almost to Bown Crossing including the portion below Bubb Diversion. We will continue to monitor in the coming years to make sure we are cutting and treating new undesirable growth. E. Reaves went on to say that the Conservation Committee with the Homeowners Association has been interested in removing Russian Olives from the conservation area as well. She will take this back to the Conservation Committee, so they know this is happening. S. Koberg agreed a future collaboration would be great. When Weed and Pest were out last week, they treated for Houndstongue. We have engaged our Weed and Pest Department with mapping and GPS to strategize colonies for treatment and to implement a strategy to apply herbicide as appropriate. Their targets are primarily from the noxious weed list, so we are asking for more support for invasive species in addition to noxious weeds. K. Kostka inquired if the Russian Olives are noxious or invasive. S. Koberg responded that they are invasive.

The Expo Idaho Greenbelt project is under way. There will be a short-term closure Monday and Tuesday of next week. This is so Idaho Power can remove the power poles and lines overhead. At the same time 7 trees will be removed. A fire hydrant has also already been relocated. The old fence will be removed completely and a new green slat, 7-foot fence will be installed 10 feet back to the south. This will do away with the claustrophobic effect that is currently happening there and reduce the shadow casting that causes problems in the winter months. Asphalt will be laid when the asphalt plants open. S. Frey added that the closure sign is great and gives hope for future improvements. K. Danley

thanked S. Koberg for the attention this portion of the Greenbelt is getting. She went on to inquire about the Sunroc portion of the Greenbelt. S. Koberg responded that project is on the heels of the Expo Greenbelt. There is fence work and patching that needs to happen there. Due to the FEMA funds, we can't do a full overlay at this time. There isn't a timeline at this point, but potentially this summer. Victory Wetlands was the focus of various maintenance efforts in recent weeks. A new fence on the Hiawatha side was installed along with kiosks, signage, garbage cans and mutt mitt dispensers. We are currently working on replacing weirs that are no longer functioning properly. Our maintenance staff along with Sheriff Inmate Labor Detail (SILD) has cleaned up downed debris in the area.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities. He showed a PowerPoint presentation as he talked. The muddy season is upon us at the Bike Park. We have in the past had support from SWIMBA and BAMBA for trail closures. Closures are in effect on Shake'n Bake, Flow and Junk Yard trails. He will also put up some informational signage and replace the trail closure carsonite signs that have been removed. This will also be posted on the Ada/Eagle Facebook page. He went on to show photos of closed trails with signs. Spring tune up work will include cleaning out drains on Snoop Loop, D's Chaos, Twisted Sister, Low Rider, Junk Yard, Flow Trail, Shake N' Bake and Stormin' Mormon. M. Edwards met with the City of Eagle and SWIMBA and set a volunteer spring Bike Park maintenance day for April 5th.

Hubbard Reservoir is looking good. Trails are muddy, go early if you go out there. Mutt Mitts also need to be installed out there. Another load of gravel for the parking lot is needed. Another discussion with Idaho Department of Lands is in the future for alternative trails and equestrian parking. S. Frey inquired if there has been more or less use over the years. M. Edwards responded that he typically sees the same people at this park. Primarily used by walkers, bird watchers, pet owners and the occasional equestrian. Rarely a biker will be seen there.

A meeting with Simplot to discuss licensing at Oregon Trail is scheduled in the near future. A survey crew came out and did a survey of all the trails we are asking for license agreements on. We already have a couple license agreements now, but we want to expand this to all the trails that are being used. M. Edwards has also been working on a Trail Master Plan discussing all that has happened at Oregon Trail. The big issue is getting an ADA restroom facility. In addition, M. Edwards has been working on a trail map that should be done by the end of the month. New kiosks will also be installed. C. Miller inquired when the new kiosks will be installed. M. Edwards responded that he is working on the design layout, but before moving any further, the license agreement with Simplot needs to be in place. C. Miller went on to ask if the kiosks will be in addition to what is already there, or will they be replacing them. M. Edwards replied that they will be replacing what is there now. K. Danley inquired as to the BLM boundary. M. Edwards showed the boundary on the Oregon Trail map. K. Kostka inquired if there were any implication with Ada County selling the Barber Dam. S. Koberg replied no, there isn't. There are 5 parcels total and the County will retain 2 parcels for Greenbelt passage. K. Danley inquired if there were any bids on the dam. S. Koberg replied that he was unsure.

Columnar rock was installed this week at the front entrance signage of the park. This rock ties in with the rock at the main kiosk. Another truck load of dirt will be dumped and compacted for stabilization. M. Edwards met with the Dry Creek representatives to talk about some of the new plats they have coming in. The trail system in the 4th plat will be 10-foot-wide and out of the flood plain. They are also in the final stages of approving the trail easement for the Dry Creek to Junk Yard connecting trail. M. Edwards met with homeowners from Echanove to talk about their concerns and wants/needs. Their top concern is that the 10-foot-wide recommended trail is too wide. They are concerned about the approval process for work on riparian area, concern with the liability issues of the new trail and they would like to see seasonal closures during high water and the muddy trail season. The homeowners would prefer a 4-foot-wide native surface trail, no gates or additional fences and if gates are required, the west end neighbor would prefer post and rail and the east end would prefer railroad ties with cable or chain. C. Vertrees inquired about the trail from Junk Yard to Dry Creek as it appears that the trail goes through future platted home lots. M. Edwards responded that we are going to lay out the trail prior to development, the map shows where the trail would go before the homes are developed.

Returning to the topic of the Echanove Ranch trail, J. Wolfe with Echanove Ranch HOA voiced his concern that he didn't feel a 10-foot trail was in the spirit of the easement agreement. S. Frey inquired if this was a 10-foot easement. M. Edwards responded that the easement language is vague and doesn't specify the surface width for the trail. It says that there will be a trail. S. Frey went on to add that perhaps there could be some clarification as to the width of the trail. J. Whiting with Echanove Ranch HOA added that this is a riparian easement and that the easement specifies that a trail would be allowed through here. Homeowners are in favor of a walking trail. The concern is that Dry Creek moves significantly from year to year. It can be extremely hazardous so there are many concerns about safety issues. K. Danley inquired where Echanove is. M. Edwards responded that its on Dry Creek Road between Broken Horn and McFarland. K. Danley went on to say that one of the things to consider for a multi-use trail is that if it will include horses, most places it is a minimum of 6 feet wide because of oncoming traffic with bikes and such. E. Holley with Echanove Ranch HOA added that he hasn't see a horse there for over a year. Maybe when there is more connectivity and usage it will make more sense. The parties went on to discuss this.

M. Edwards and S. Koberg met with Broken Horn Ranch in February. They informed them that if they wanted to put a development there, there is a piece of BLM land where we would want connectivity. M. Edwards has yet to hear back from them.

K. Danley inquired what time they were meeting on April 5th for the Bike Park trail maintenance day.

M. Edwards responded 10AM.

K. Danley inquired if there was any follow up on the directional sign at the T intersection at Eagle Rd. near Hubbard Reservoir. S. Koberg responded that we would follow up on that.

OTHER ITEMS

K. Kostka reminded the Board that Eric Grace with the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley would be attending the March meeting.

In addition, K. Kostka mentioned possibly doing some trail work and a site visit to Victory Wetlands.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:28p.m.