

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – February 24, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** Kari Kostka, Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck

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

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

H. Carter moved to approve the January 27th minutes. C. Vertrees 2nd. Motion passed.

#### **SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:**

H. Engle has nothing to report on Oregon Trail.

H. Carter is in contact with someone who uses the Bike Park as a pedestrian. C. Miller would like to meet with this person to discuss Bike Park issues. H. Carter and C. Miller will work on setting up a meeting.

H. Carter went on to mention that she is in contact with equestrians who use the Bike Park. If there was any interest in meeting with someone from that group, she could assist in setting up a meeting. She went on to say that she could see if she knows anyone living in the subdivisions surrounding the Bike Park and set up a meeting with them as well. C. Miller added that the purpose of speaking with people living in the subdivisions was to see if they were using it for reasons other than biking. A dog walker would be a good alternative due to the change in dog on leash rules.

C. Miller inquired from S. Koberg what the current stance is on equestrians at the Bike Park. S. Koberg responded that the trails that are not downhill mountain bike only specific remain non-motorized and multiuse. Equestrians are still permitted to use these trails. We don't discourage equestrians from using these trails but the use and how its evolved out there discourages equestrian use. This is why we are looking at a potential bypass off the Rabbit Run hairpin turn to the new Dry Creek trail once its established.

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

Yesterday we hosted a meet and greet and site visit with the 2 new Commissioners Ryan Davidson and Rod Beck. We also had the Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane here at the park. Additional staff included Public Information Officer Elizabeth Duncan. S. Koberg gave a quick presentation then they visited the office, Raft and Tube, the beach launch area, the Event Center and the shop. They were able to see the heavy equipment we have along with 2 boats, mules, and vehicles. S. Koberg added that Commissioner Ryan Davidson is our department liaison.

S. Koberg provided an update to the Barber Park Plaza and Pathways Improvement Project. He showed some PowerPoint slides as he spoke. The project we submitted was for 6 plan areas. The bid opening was yesterday at the Open Business Meeting. We received 4 bids, 3 of which were responsive. The lowest bid was from Idaho Site Works in the amount of \$580,000.00. This was a base bid. This means that only items 1-4 will be completed. Add alternates are the bridges, forested loop and the fishing pier that are not within our budget and will not be completed this year. There should be a notice of award to Idaho Site Works this coming Tuesday at the Open Business meeting. The notice to proceed will be sent on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Items 1, 2 and 4 are simple asphalt replaced with concrete items. Item 3 is the plaza and will be completely redesigned with removal of asphalt pathways, modified alignments, and ADA compliant concrete added. The low bid was just within budget for us.

The other 3 bids wouldn't have allowed us to move forward with this project. H. Engle inquired if we knew we would only be able to do the first part of this project. S. Koberg responded that this was why we split the project and added add alternates. We thought we could get an add alternate under budget based on projections from the Operations Department, but it didn't turn out that way. C. Miller inquired if the intent is to get this ready for the float season. S. Koberg responded that that was correct. C. Miller went on to ask in areas 5 and 6 will be done in future years. S. Koberg responded that yes, that is the intention.

Barber Park Groundwater Study. We have been working with a team of experts (hydrologists, engineers, fisheries, wetland scientists, ecologists, and the City of Boise, levy funds) for the past few months. Levy funds aren't just Foothills funds, they are rivers funds in this last package. The City has been having a hard time finding projects to spend this money on. We have been trying to see if the City and county could collaborate on a property like Barber Park to utilize some of these funds. S. Koberg showed the former site plan that's on the books. There is a historic flood inside channel that only functions during floods. There has been a lot of talk about restoring these side channels for fish habitat. The current idea is to place shallow ground water monitors in various locations in Barber Park to try and determine the level of ground water at certain times of the year. This would take place over a couple years. The shallow wells will also help us determine what species may be reasonable to plant within the native ecology of Barber Park. S. Koberg responded that the intent, as far as the Cottonwood Forest, is to leave it alone. Our management strategy for this area is to minimize the human impact. The installation of these piezometers is unobtrusive. There are a couple other sites we are maybe considering getting in with the mini excavator or the backhoe and doing a good soil evaluation and back filling with a deeper water capacity to determine what is going on further down. A couple experts in the valley are Rob Tiedemann and Karl Gebhardt. They are involved in this project along with the county engineer.

FY22 Budget Prep. Budget kickoff happened February 8<sup>th</sup>. Personnel Budget is due April 12<sup>th</sup>. Full budget is due May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Budget presentations will happen in June. This means S. Koberg will be projecting revenue for the 2022 float season before the 2021 season even starts. Budget highlights include working with HR on 3 new positions to our department. One position would be supporting Mike Edwards in Open Space and Trails, the second would be in Waterways. The third would be a Program and Education Specialist with emphasis online and on site. We need to determine if we want to use department fund balance for the add alternate for the Barber Park Plaza and Pathways Improvement project.

C. Miller inquired about Barber Pool and a possible site visit. S. Koberg responded that we discourage access to the site right now. He went on to ask if its like our other properties where we have subcommittees. S. Koberg responded that there is a Barber Pool Advisory Committee that he is on. That was organized by Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands who owns the majority of the property in Barber Pool. Idaho Shakespeare is involved along with Intermountain Bird Observatory and Boise City. The Barber Pool Advisory Committee has been identifying different categories of allies, friends and partners. S. Koberg has been asked to identify who these categories may be from the county. He thinks having the Parks, Open Space and Trail Board involved would be great. Red Hawk would be another property we would look at in the future as it doesn't currently have an advisory committee. C. Miller went on to inquire about the Expo Idaho property and asked if there was anything there that effects what Parks is doing? S. Koberg responded that no, not at this time. He went on to say that he served as a Subject Matter Expert on the Advisory Committee that was put together for that process that was mostly related to the Greenbelt and river items. At this point it's up to the Board of County Commissioners to decide what happens as there were four options proposed. Everyone agreed that the Fair should stay where its at. Everyone was adamant that the Greenbelt be a part of whatever future plans there are. B. Moore added that they were all in agreement of sprucing up the area along the river and adding a little more green space. One of the proposals was a possible Ada County Administration Building on this site as they are being pushed out of the courthouse.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**C. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.**