

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – January 27, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Miller, Hilarie Engle, Chuck Vertrees

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX: Helen Carter, Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

ABSENT: Kari Kostka

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck

OTHER: Commissioner Ryan Davidson (Via WebEx), Brent Moore (Development Services) (Via WebEx)

INTRODUCTION:

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

H. Engle moved to approve the December 9th minutes. C. Vertrees 2nd. Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nothing to report for the Bike Park.

H. Engle didn't have much to report only that herself and M. Edwards are still working on the poop pickup day.

S. Frey added that since M. Edwards is working on a Hubbard Park Improvement Plan, that he could contact S. Frey as he would like to be involved and help in any way he could. He went on to say that he has had people contact him about what's going to happen with Hubbard Reservoir. The Golden Eagle Audubon Society may be a good place to look for some input and insight. He would like to help M. Edwards in any way he can by tying in this information.

H. Carter added that she will be out at Hubbard tomorrow to visit the space with M. Edwards. She went on to ask if there was a way we could post a list of Board Members and which subcommittee they were on. F. Frey went on to say that he did a writeup about a year ago when a group tour was conducted. There were some follow up items that were proposed. He volunteered to share this information.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg provided an update on the Barber Park Plaza and Pathways Improvement Project. A new master site plan modification and application was submitted. A new radius notice was sent out along with email correspondence to all neighbors, agencies and interested parties. He presented a You Tube live stream video of the project on January 14th from the courthouse. This video is still available on the Ada County You Tube channel. There have been 91 views of this video. Development Services has the 15 day comment period open but this will close this Friday, January 29th. We anticipate a decision by Development Services next week. Barring any appeal from the public, we will move forward with the Plaza and Pathways Improvement Project. Legal notice for the bid process has been published and there will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting that will happen here at Barber Park on February 4th. This meeting will be a good indication of who the players will be. Bids will be due February 22nd, so Scott will be able to report on this at our next Parks Board meeting. The recommendation for award is scheduled for March 2nd. The notice to proceed is scheduled for March 17th. If everything goes to plan we have a final completion date of June 18th, right before float season typically begins. H. Carter added that she had a couple people on social media that are passionate about this. She thanked S. Koberg for the outreach and the correction email that went out. E. Reaves echoed these comments. S. Koberg requested that Board members email Brent Danielson indicating support for this project.

On the topic of Ridge to Rivers, S. Koberg inquired if anyone participated in the Zoom outreach meeting hosted by David Gordon. The video is available online for viewing. The survey that was mentioned in the meeting is now live and able to be completed. He urged everyone to take this survey. C. Vertrees participated in the Zoom meeting and indicated that it went well and that it was worthwhile. He thinks it is something they should plan to do yearly because its more of an outreach and education opportunity. C. Miller mirrored C. Vertrees comments. He believes himself to be pretty knowledgeable about what's going on in the Ridge to Rivers system. He feels like he is up to date on a lot of things but there were a number of things he learned from this meeting. He thinks the opportunity for people to understand the difficult nature Ridge to Rivers has in managing not just the five entities plus private land owners is really complicated. Another thing that was eye opening was the two projects that were delayed due to other user constituent groups, primarily the conservation minded groups. He is unsure what their objections were as they are being reviewed by the BLM, but he thinks its important for people to understand that the delay in building some of these trails is not because of Ridge to Rivers, Ada County or the Forest Service, its due to our own neighbors that have legitimate items that they are concerned about. It's not a simple scenario for anyone to navigate. H. Carter inquired who our Ridge to Rivers representatives are. S. Koberg responded that he, as the Director, is the designated Ada County representative for the Ridge to Rivers partnership. The City of Boise is the lead coordinating partner per the interagency MOU and David Gordon is the program manager responsible for meeting the needs of each of the 5 partners.

Special Use Guidelines. The Special Uses Guidelines that we talked about last month is now a final draft and includes guidance for virtual events. Limitations on number of proposed events and participants is clarified in the new guidance specifically for mountain bike races, virtual mountain bike races and foot races. Virtual mountain bike racing is allowed on all Ridge to Rivers trails that currently allow bikes, with a few exceptions including the City of Boise reserved slow zones, the BRWMA and 9 trails that are identified as uphill only if you are going to use them in a virtual event. Participation limits are no more than 100 participants per day for the length of the event. These guidelines will be signed by all partner agencies and ratified in the coming days. The partnership has provided this draft to the Boise Trails Challenge organizers and will provide it to other organizers currently considering sponsoring a virtual event, to ask for their feedback to see what their thoughts are on this draft. C. Miller inquired what the nine trails were. K. Koberg responded Lowers Hulls Gulch #29, Bobs Trail, Red Cliff's Trail, Kestrel Trail, Table Rock Trail, Old Pen, Dry Creek, Shingle Creek and Sweet Connie. These are based on recommendations from David Gordon and the Ridge to Rivers Trail crew. C. Miller went on to inquire if this was also based on the popularity of the trail. S. Koberg was unsure as they didn't get into specifics on each trail but he thinks its due to congestion as well as other factors.

The Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution during a public hearing earlier in January designating the Red Hawk property as open space and conservation area reiterating that we aren't anticipating building any new trails on the property and we are anticipating protecting this property for wildlife and natural resources in perpetuity. This property already includes the Landslide Loop trail that is seasonally closed for wildlife protection. This is about 250 acres of prime habitat. C. Vertrees added that a couple months ago he indicated that there was more use on the double track trail out there that comes out of the cul-de-sac. Has anyone checked that out? S. Koberg responded that there has been a gate there for some time. He went on to say that he was there 3 times recently and he hadn't noticed a lot of usage based on the way the gate was built. C. Vertrees went on to comment that since this area is closed for wildlife management for a certain number of months, a sign may be a good idea.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards updated the Board on his activities. One of the projects he has been working on is the Hubbard Park Improvement Plan. The introduction is finished, and he is now working on the history and background. He is starting to look at the different components for improvements. Next Tuesday at 9AM he will be meeting with Carlos from SWIMBA to walk through an area where M. Edwards would like to build some additional trails. He would like to get some of the user groups to help build

these sections. This would be the sagebrush section that is in the southwest corners of the Park. He thinks a mile loop would be nice for kids to ride flat trails near the riparian area. He invited anyone who would like to participate to join him. He plans to meet H. Carter out there on Friday for a walk through.

Final proofs for the Oregon Trail signage were just received back from Advanced Sign. The resolution of the PDF's weren't high enough. He wants to get a thumb drive from them with the higher resolution proofs. Once this is done, we should be able to sign off and have the signs made.

M. Edwards went out and picked up almost 15 gallons of poop at Oregon Trail. He thinks it's time to put up additional signage and cite some of the Ada County Ordinances and Idaho State Laws dealing with trash and not having a poop bag with them.

M. Edwards has also started to develop a 1-mile trail to propose to the BLM that is off East Columbia Road close to the housing development. He will bring a Google Earth map at the next meeting to show where this is. When looking to build a new trail, M. Edwards starts by mapping them on Google Earth then goes out to do a site visit to incorporate some of the features that are there. He will go through 2 or 3 renditions of figuring out how to wind a trail through an area, see the best sights all while keeping the trail at a 5% climbing and descending so there aren't a lot of maintenance issues.

There have been several complaints about dog off leash at the Bike Park. He went on to say that it's time for dog on leash only. Additional signs will be posted along with social media postings. The City of Eagle is putting in an off-leash dog area at the bottom of the Park. This is south where the RC car area is. This will be a fenced area. S. Koberg inquired where this was in relation to the BMX track. M. Edwards responded that it was northwest of the BMX track.

Over the past few months we have been looking at turning Junk Yard into a one way trail. He received 34 comments on the Facebook page. 24 of these were supportive. He has had phone conversations with people who are concerned with the reduced mileage as they are riding out there. The two people he spoke with weren't opposed to it, they were just bummed they would lose mileage. C. Miller added that if and when we get the connector trail over to Dry Creek Ranch, this issue will be moot.

The biggest issue at the Bike Park has been the muddy trails. M. Edwards shared photos from the Ada/Eagle Facebook page that he took earlier this week. There were 94 comments and 43 shares on this post. His inclination is to close these trails for the winter. He thinks this issue will continue no matter what they do. He is unsure what to do to keep people off these trails during this time of year. It's not a lack of education as these are advanced riders using these trails. Board members went on to discuss this topic.

C. Vertrees added that Boise City is experimenting with fines with muddy trail use. Is there a way Ada County could piggy back on that? S. Koberg responded that is Ada County Code and Eagle City Ordinance so there are a couple different mechanisms. There currently isn't an agreement with City of Eagle for enforcement or citation at the Bike Park. We have brought that to their attention in the past and met with the Sheriff's Deputies assigned to this area. We are open to figuring out how to more effectively manage the site when it comes to code enforcement. There wasn't a lot of interest at the time. H. Carter added that this seems to be a sticky issue, but she thinks it would be great to think about a partnership between Eagle and Ada County and focusing on a particular area. The feedback she is getting is if they focused on a few trails and made examples out of people in terms of a fine, the word would spread. M. Edwards added that because we are moving forward with dog on leash, he will be sitting down with Steve Noyese from City of Eagle to work out what Ada County's code says and what City of Eagle's ordinance says and moving on with enforcement. E. Reaves added that she appreciates what Mike is doing. She sees the benefit of enforcement. She went on to offer help if it was needed. C. Miller added that we talk about several issues year-round. He wondered if the Advisory Board could divvy those issues and do some best practices research. S. Koberg thinks it would be useful for some issues, but not all. Some places may not have the same issues we are having, so it would be difficult to compare. M. Edwards would appreciate the input on these topics and would be happy to provide a list of topics. C. Miller added that this could be an agenda item for February or March and be discussed at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.