

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – January 26, 2022

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

ABSENT: Kari Kostka, Emily Reaves

STAFF PRESENT: Candy Hahlbeck, Robbie Sosin, Mike Edwards, Davey Brown

OTHER: Commissioner Ryan Davidson

INTRODUCTION:

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Davey Brown introduced himself.

No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. H. Carter moved to approve the December 15th minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

No report.

OPEN SPACE & TRAILS:

D. Brown has been working on hardening the trail out at Oregon Trail with reject sand. He has been passing out business cards to trail users as a way of routing comments to our Director. They have also been forwarding these comments to BLM, as they have been reluctant to allow us to finish the loop at Oregon Trail. Currently, M. Edwards is in discussion with BLM on whether this specific trail is under an agreement. He has dug up many old emails and sent over to BLM in hopes of getting the thumbs up from them to complete the loop on this trail. C. Miller inquired on the distance of this trail. M.

Edwards responded about 2 miles. It a scenic all-weather trail. H. Carter inquired what the BLM's issues is with completing the loop trail. M. Edwards responded that the BLM is sued a lot so if they allow the county to proceed with the loop trail without a public process, someone will sue them. They are looking for plans or a discussion where we have come to an agreement that they can rely upon as part of the public process that this has been discussed before. Another approach is the fact that the BLM has been part of Ridge to Rivers. Oregon Trail was looked at in the original development of Ridge to Rivers and included in maps of the trails we are working on.

M. Edwards has been spending most of his time working on the Hubbard Improvement Plan. There are 8-9 different projects he would like to do out there including armoring trails and identified trails to shut down. The next step is to sit down with partners like Idaho Department of Lands and Fish and Game to make sure we are on the same page. Scott will review and we will discuss the matrix at the next Parks Board meeting. C. Miller inquired if we have anyone in the Hubbard Reservoir subcommittee besides Helen. E. Plotkin said he would be interested in joining this subcommittee.

Helen will be the Chair. A site visit may be held in the spring if the weather cooperates. Some projects that needs completed are new fencing, new gravel in parking area, trees near entrance, kiosk and maps, bridges, benches at entrance and riparian area, armored trail and habitat restoration. C. Miller inquired if the trails were signed. M. Edwards responded that they weren't yet. C. Miller inquired if maps will be published. M. Edwards responded yes, eventually. E. Plotkin inquired if the maps will be tied into any of the map services. Parties went on to discuss this. R. Davidson inquired if M. Edwards planned to apply for ARPA funding. M. Edwards responded no. Perhaps when we get to the phase where there are large scale projects. Right now, the individual projects aren't large enough to go through the process. H. Carter inquired about a kid's trail at Hubbard. M. Edwards responded that yes, it's a ¾ mile loop in the southwest corner that would work well.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

R. Sosin supplied a report in S. Koberg's absence.

The 2 projects that were submitted for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding were approved by the Commissioners. This included the JPD/Sunroc project and the Forest Loop project in Barber Park. The Barber Pool ribbon cutting has been rescheduled due to COVID. It has preliminary been scheduled for February 23rd after the Parks Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.