

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – July 27, 2022

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

ABSENT: Emily Reaves

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Robbie Sosin

OTHERS: Commissioner Ryan Davidson

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. C. Vertrees moved to approve the June 23rd minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed. C. Miller wanted to add a discussion on E-Bike safety on the Greenbelt

E-BIKE SAFETY ON THE GREENBELT:

C. Miller has concerns with speed of E-Bikes on the Greenbelt. His concern is that this issue will become more prevalent and there are going to be real injuries. The simple solution would be to create speed limits or lower the existing limits and have some education. S. Koberg explained that in terms of enforcement and control, the County isn't actively involved. The jurisdiction that has staff out there is Boise Parks with Boise Police staff on the Greenbelt as well as volunteer patrols that overlap onto County property. S. Koberg agrees that it's become an issue. Back when E-Bikes started to be a thing, Ada County took steps to approve E-Bike use on the Greenbelt. Next steps may include re-engaging City of Boise and how we can collaborate with them as far as outreach, signage and speed limits. C. Miller thinks that education and enforcement can be intermingled to get the message across. S. Koberg will reach out to Boise City staff to potentially have them come out to our next meeting to discuss.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Bike Park-C. Miller commented that there has been some discussion if Junk Yard is a one-way trail. C. Miller went and looked at the apps and they are a mixed bag for being correct. He inquired if there has been any follow-up.

S. Koberg responded that we aren't going to spend time with unofficial mapping apps because our County maps are accurate. The parties discussed various options for updating the physical maps on site. We want to steer the public to our site, which will be correct. K. Kostka added that she thinks it would be a good idea to reach out to the popular apps and updating the physical maps to start with. We can re-assess if we see improvement. E. Plotkin inquired if there are QR codes at trail heads that link to the maps. S. Koberg said he didn't think there was. H. Carter added that she thought QR codes were a good idea.

Hubbard-H. Carter inquired if Hubbard should be put on the back burner due to her knee injury. S. Koberg responded that it was up her. We are still working with City of Boise for levy funding. Helen and Eric will plan to visit the site in September.

E. Plotkin inquired if it was possible to find out how many people are visiting the online map. S. Koberg said he could look into it.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

FY23 Budget- The Ada County Board of Commissioners presented the FY23 Budget to the public last night, one more time before adoption on August 16th. S. Koberg went on to say that it was a well-run and transparent budget process this year.

2 Supplements submitted were approved. The first was the Parks Open Space & Trails plan update. S. Koberg expects the Open Space and Trails Board Advisory Board to be involved with this. This will be \$150,000.00 this year and another \$100,000.00 next year.

The playground equipment replacement was approved for \$200,000.00

County employees will be getting a \$1.00/hr. increase in addition to a 5% increase across the board.

The total cost for this is over \$14 million.

S. Koberg showed how Ada County residents are able to see how their tax dollars are being spent via the Budget Tool on the Ada County website.

S. Koberg showed a video of Trent Triple talking a bit about the budget and taking a deeper dive into the budget.

Float Season-Float season started on June 27th. We have so far experienced 5 of the 10 highest vehicle entry dates in history. That will probably change after this weekend. S. Koberg estimates we have seen 60,000 visitors to Barber Park. R. Sosin will be here for 4 hours on Saturday counting the number of floaters from the fishing pier. S. Koberg is going to try and calibrate the number of floaters at the fishing pier with vehicles entering through the kiosk. Ultimately, he would like to pass on this information to BSU to conduct a broader scale visitation study.

C. Miller inquired about the new rental concessionaire. S. Koberg responded that it's called Boise River Runners, LLC. An investment group called the Galena Group purchased the company. The former owner is working as a consultant for this season. The front door experience hasn't changed. They have hired another business manager named Dawn O'Connell who is getting her toes wet on how things run here in the park. It appears the long term plan is for her to be the general manager. Commissioner Davidson commented that a neighbor close to Barber Park sent the Board of County Commissioners Ring Doorbell footage. Floaters parked in front of their house and plugged into their house to blow up their raft.

E. Plotkin inquired if the shift in narrative from Boise Fire and others will cause the BOCC or others to start pushing back. Can more of the data that's been collected be leveraged to create a narrative that shares the other side of the story? S. Koberg responded that yes, we can create a narrative. We are actively doing this in the background. We utilize a Boise City Plan called the Boise River Resource Management and Master Plan. Every step S. Koberg takes leading up to the float season is under the guidelines approved by Boise City Council in 2014.

Expo Idaho Park Development RFQ-The BOCC has elected to go with a design competition format for building a new vision of a park at Expo Idaho once Lady Bird Park is moved closer to the river. There were 6 responsive submitters from all over the country. Commissioner Davidson added that we are having them compete against each other for a grand vision. He is hoping they can integrate the river into the concept. The contract was just signed to have the horse stalls demolished. This will be a slow process because they still have to get approval to move Lady Bird Park near the river. C. Miller inquired if there was an opportunity to rename the park with something having to do with the Valley. Commissioner Davidson thought this was a possibility. S. Koberg went on to say that he is on the selection committee to bring the 6 down to 3 and the 3 will be brought to the Board for consideration. The 3 will be provided a stipend to show what they can do. S. Koberg thinks it would be nice for the Advisory Board to see the submittals.

Trails-Davey, Eli and Vernon are now working 4 10-hour shifts. They have improved the overlook out at Oregon Trail that was brought up at the last meeting. They have been spending a lot of time maintaining and improving trails at the Bike Park.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.