

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – March 22, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kari Kostka, Chris Miller, Hilarie Engle, Emily Reaves, Eric Plotkin, Chuck Vertrees

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Brent Moore, Robbie Sosin, Davey Brown

INTRODUCTION:

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

AGENDA CHANGES:

C. Miller will not be attendance for the April. He suggested a short discussion on elections that will be held at the April meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

C. Vertrees moved to approve the February 22, 2023 minutes. E. Reaves seconded. Motion passed.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

Oregon Trail: No Report.

Bike Park: C. Miller wrote a letter regarding the trail connection between Ada/Eagle Bike Park and communities in the unincorporated portions of Ada County. The letter also made its way to the Eagle Mountain Bike Teams and the family of the young boy that recently passed. They were appreciative of the efforts being made.

GREENBELT SAFETY:

Letter sent to Commissioner's on February 24th. S. Koberg will mention it again at his Staff Meeting on April 19th.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Fiscal Year 24 Budget process has kicked off. S. Koberg met with the new Clerk of the Court Trent Tripple. He has set the tone for how budgets will be submitted this year. Parks & Waterways budgets will be submitted on May 4th.

Our staff has met to plan and strategize our seasonal employees. Larger scale planning includes trail maintenance staff, Waterways staff, grounds maintenance and kiosk staff. We are hirings at \$16hr.

D. Brown and S. Koberg discussed Davey's trail workload with seasonal staff that will be hired as we approach Dig Days at the Bike Park and beyond. This includes inventory work that needs to be done to determine conditions of trails, fencing, signage, carsonite posts and everything needed going into the season.

D. Brown and S. Koberg did a site visit with BLM and with also with David Gordon from Ridge to Rivers to evaluate all weather trails and also Oregon Trail specifically. They learned that what they used for reject sand at Oregon Trail just missed the mark. It's been a perfect year to evaluate all weather trails because of the moisture we've had. The site visit with BLM was mucky and the trail held more moisture than we would have liked. The site visit with David included a visit to Eagle Ridge in Military Reserve. It's held up well. They have decided to use the reject sand as a base and moving forward use David's Mix for all weather trails. Davey will be amending the Oregon Trail piece and finishing the pieces we didn't do at Oregon Trail. C. Miller inquired if that will include BLM portions. S. Koberg responded not yet. The next place we will use the mix will be at Hubbard. C. Miller inquired about the steep section of Eagle Ridge. D. Brown responded that it looked good. E. Reaves inquired about the timeline. S. Koberg responded that the Bike Park is the top priority. Then move to

the amendment project when the seasonals come on. Emily suggested having a dog waste cleanup day at Oregon Trail as other groups have gotten together at other sites to do this. E. Plotkin inquired if there was any takeaway from the tours of the all-weather trails. S. Koberg responded that the mix on Eagle Ridge Trail is performing well. Its performing better but differently than the Bethiene Church trail.

Hubbard Reservoir Recreation Area: Idaho Water Engineering's Dave Tuthill, Steve Sweet and Doug Hill and others have approached the County about Hubbard Reservoir. They wondered if it would be possible to take water from the New York Canal and purposefully discharge into Hubbard to expand the footprint and recharge the aquifer. There will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss the topic. We hold the lease through 2027. Once that lease is up, he imagines we will re-apply again. He thinks having more water out there is mostly a good thing. This discussion might give some traction for more water means more wildlife means other good things for this area. E. Plotkin inquired about the impact. S. Koberg responded that discharging into this location would be a larger, more persistent seasonal footprint for Hubbard from April-October. C. Miller inquired if he had a sense of how much more land space this would take up. S. Koberg responded that the flowage easement is based on elevation. This extends into private property north of the reservoir. Acreage wise and acre feet he was unsure, but it could be a big footprint.

Expo Idaho Park Project: S. Koberg continues to participate in the Expo Idaho Park. They have been in the process of reviewing multiple schemes and designs as well as discussing budgeting. They are at a critical point where they don't know what the BOCC is willing to chip off from the ARPA budget. On April 26th, PORT will be back to present a bare bones park presentation. H. Engle inquired if the Commissioners got feedback from the Stakeholder group? S. Koberg responded yes, and that there were four iterations recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The Forested Loop bridge project is now complete. Syman was not able to finish the seeding and mulching that we needed.

We just wrapped up the JPD/Sunroc Greenbelt streambank repairs. This was needed before we consider fixing the path. This required a temporary Greenbelt closure.

New Construction: Projects include a small-scale office remodel. A row of offices will be put in along the wall that faces the west side.

The exterior roof on the north side of the Administration building will be extended. This will eliminate the columns that obstruct the follow of people and provide more shade in the summer.

A concrete apron will be extended at the shop maintenance yard.

We have started the process and now have a contractor signed to do crack filling, seal coating and striping at Barber Park and Oregon Trail. We are hoping this will happen in May.

The old playground equipment has been removed and the new equipment will be installed in the coming months. H. Engle inquired if there will be a social media post regarding the removed equipment. R. Sosin will post an update.

Float Season: We continue to strategize and prep for the float season. Our new rafts have been delivered that were delayed due to COVID.

We do not yet have an executed contract. The contractor intends to take over the Snack Shack.

Boise City's app/story map project is still in the works. We continue to work with them on this.

Dry Creek Trail Connectivity: C. Miller's letter regarding connectivity between Dry Creek and the Bike Park was sent to the BOCC on March 9th. Since this letter was sent, S. Koberg has met with Development Services staff and the BOCC to follow up on a specific item. Commissioner Beck met with Leon from Development Services yesterday and will be meeting with Jim Hunter today to communicate more of the items that were in the letter. B. Moore added that the main objective was to get Boise Hunter Homes to allow a temporary easement through their property for the trail until that area gets platted. C. Vertrees added that it looked like there was some utility work being done there and asked if B. Moore knew what was going on. He didn't. He said he would look into it.

K. Kostka inquired about the replacement Board member. S. Koberg responded that he had reached out to Matt Reed at the Commissioner's Office but hasn't heard anything. S. Koberg reviewed 12 applications and picked 5 applicants he thought would be suitable for interviews.

MASTER PLAN: S. Koberg brought up the Social Pinpoint site for the master plan. We had a huge turnout for our Focus Group sessions. We had 4 Focus Group sessions and 6 Stakeholder interviews. C. Hahlbeck did a good job with outreach with fantastic responses and support for Focus Group members. BerryDunn has shown S. Koberg what the report will look like, but we don't have a finished product. S. Koberg recently reviewed the draft demographic analysis, and he thinks they have some work to do. Once that draft and summary of the meetings is provided, S. Koberg would like the Advisory Board to review and provide comment. He added that community members have been leaving helpful comments and ideas on the Social Pinpoint site. E. Plotkin suggested adding a large QR code near the floater put-in to ask users to participate in the Master Plan process. E. Reaves inquired when the survey will be available. S. Koberg wasn't sure but could track it down. C. Miller would like an opportunity to review the survey before it goes live. As would E. Reaves. K. Kostka shared some feedback about her Stakeholder interview with BerryDunn. The parties went on to discuss this. S. Koberg asked that if others had feedback to shoot him an email. E. Plotkin inquired what the implications are for the Boise River, Greenbelt, and streambank repairs because of all the moisture. S. Koberg responded that there aren't great projections for anticipated stream flow. We will get up to 2000 cfs in the next couple weeks. This is a very fluid situation at the moment. S. Koberg went on to talk about the process of filling Lucky Peak, Diversion, and the canals. Then went on to discuss snowpack levels. E. Plotkin inquired about overall impact from Treefort especially in Julia Davis Park. S. Koberg didn't know but offered to follow-up. C. Miller added that organizers have an event at a city park, a fair amount of money must be put down for damages.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin reported that he is working on the Spring Current. Continuing to put out the word for the Master Plan site and working with Development Services for the Duathlon at the Bike Park. This is scheduled for September 16th.

OTHER ITEMS:

Davey reported that April 4th through April 9th is Dig Days at the Bike Park from 5-7PM. This will be to resurface the trails and clean out drains. In addition, he has been cleaning up the plant cages from the Sagebrush and Bitterbrush that was planted after the fire last year.

K. Kostka mentioned that on April 18th the Andrus Center is hosting an annual conference called Managing Recreation on Public Lands. There will be state and local perspectives and federal.

C. Miller will not be in attendance at next month's meeting when elections will be held. He is happy to continue to serve.

The parties discussed having an Advisory Board Dig Day at the Bike Park in either May or the fall.

There will be a community trail day at Hidden Springs on April 22nd.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.