

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

ABSENT: Helen Carter

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Robbie Sosin

OTHERS: Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Brent Moore (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. E. Reaves moved to approve the September 28th minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

E-BIKES:

C. Miller expressed that his concern is E-Bikes and safety on the Greenbelt. C. Miller inquired if there should be a speed limit and how hard it would be to enact this across all entities that maintain the Greenbelt. K. Kostka inquired if there is any value in having a speed limit. C. Miller added it would be easier to do public outreach then to get all Greenbelt entities to agree on a speed limit. C. Miller went on to say that when the trail system isn't available to use during the winter, this brings more dog walkers to the Greenbelt, which can cause more accidents. C. Miller inquired what the Board's roll is when it comes to this issue. S. Koberg responded that encouraging the county to engage some of the municipality leadership groups. This could include a broader scale public outreach campaign, beyond signage. K. Kostka added that she hesitates to characterize this as just an E-Bikes issue as she has come close to accidents with motorized scooters and the single wheel scooters. She thinks this could be a broader campaign going beyond just E-Bikes. K. Kostka inquired if there was anyone interested in coming together to put a recommendation on paper. E. Reaves volunteered to lead a subcommittee. H. Engle volunteered to help. S. Koberg added that next steps would be to collaborate with City of Boise and well as City of Eagle. If we can engage the City of Boise perhaps, they could spearhead a campaign. K. Kostka suggested that E. Reaves and H. Engle put something on paper that the board could vote on during the next week. This would be framework to help engage with the City of Boise.

S. Koberg went on to speak about the quarterly Ridge to Rivers meeting and the topic of E-Bike conflicts becoming more of an issue. There was a long discussion between Forest Service and BLM regarding E-Bikes on the trails. By federal definition E-Bikes remain motorized vehicles. The parties discussed the recent signage at Wilson Creek regarding E-Bikes.

E-Plotkin inquired if there are any studies that prove or suggest that E-Bikes are a safety risk for the public? S. Koberg isn't familiar with extensive studies on this but there isn't a lot of support for additional safety messaging and other issues on the trail systems.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Parks & Waterways Master Plan RFP. The second publication will go out tomorrow. H. Engle and C. Miller volunteered to be on the RFP evaluation team. Proposals are due November 14th. They will be opened at the Open Business Meeting on November 15th. The evaluation will meet on November 18th. We expect to have a contract signed before the end of the year. Master Planning will likely start at the beginning of 2023.

EXPO Idaho Park Development. The BOCC has entered into fee negotiations with Port from Philadelphia. They met with them this morning to refine what Port is being asked to do. Josh Brown, Bob Batista and Scott will represent the County as the Client Group. S. Koberg will update the Advisory Board on a regular basis. K. Kostka inquired if this park will fall under Parks & Waterways management. S. Koberg expects this park will fall under EXPO's management, but we may advise on some management issues. C. Vertrees thinks Port was the best choice in part because they have ideas on how to help pay for this park. R. Davidson went on to say that the number 1 and 3 presenters were really close when scored by the selection committee, but Port came out on top. S. Koberg went on to say that the ARPA funds need to be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026 for the first phase of this project. R. Davidson is looking for help from the Advisory Board for suggestion or research on what some of the amenities should be.

Boise River Float Season-We have continued ongoing coordination with City of Boise including Boise Fire and Boise Parks and Recreation. We expect Boise City to be more engaged leading up to next years season. Boise City would like to take the reins on public safety outreach and perhaps a broader campaign. E. Plotkin inquired if they are pushing for any fundamental changes as in what's allowed, not allowed, enforcement etc. S. Koberg responded that there won't be radical changes, but positive changes such as outreach for potential parking impacts, and internal shuttle busses at Ann Morrison. S. Koberg is trying to facilitate all parties targeting a start date of June 20th, the day following the Juneteenth holiday, every year. This has already been the average opening date for the past 20 years. Flow might be a factor with this, but we will continue to include Idaho Department of Water Resources, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps and the Boise River Watermaster in outreach and coordination for flow predictions. City of Boise has been dis-engaged from float season for some time, but they are re-engaging. C. Miller inquired what he attributes to the re-engagement. S. Koberg responded that it was likely the issues that they saw coming to their doorstep, change in leadership and recognizing the increase in the volume of users. R. Sosin met with the City Communications Manager yesterday. They are going to try and hit the messaging earlier so that people are more prepared by the time the season starts. E. Reaves inquired if the data that was presented during the last meeting would be made available somewhere. S. Koberg responded the time lapse video was posted and some of the data will come in to play as we approach next season. S. Koberg has conducted the season ending closeout report with the rental concession contractor. Changes for next season will include modified hours of operation resulting in 2 more hours of rental availability daily during the week. There will also be discount days on Tuesday and Wednesdays in an effort to reduce overcrowding on the weekends. Parking fees may also be reduced on the discount days.

Open Space & Trails- S. Koberg conducted site visits to Hubbard, Oregon Trail, Victory, Bike Park, Redhawk and Echanove with Trail Crew Foreman Davey Brown. They discussed priorities and strategies in the draft site plans and refined the priorities for implementation this fiscal year.

OTHER ITEMS:

Hawkins Loop is open but not on the Ridge to Rivers maps yet. The trailhead is still under construction. It will remain open for a short time before its seasonally closed for wildlife for 5 months through April 30th. This trail is located 2 miles up Bogus Road from the Dry Creek trailhead on the west side and is a 5-mile loop.

C. Miller added that there is a memorial ride this weekend at the Bike Park for a young rider who was killed by a semi-truck on Highway 55 while riding to the Bike Park.

E. Plotkin inquired if Ada County has any involvement with the trail system near Avimor. S. Koberg responded that the county doesn't have any trail easements on this property with the exception of those that are internal within the development. It seems as though Avimor is likely trending towards Eagle incorporation.

The parties discussed the potential of Avimor incorporation into Eagle.

B. Moore added that the Spring Rock community submitted their planned community in southwest Boise next to the Falcon Crest golf course. It would be 760 acres with a 35 acre park site along with a 2 mile bike path along Ten Mile Creek. This is about a mile east of Hubbard Reservoir.

B. Moore added that Avimor has requested annexation to Eagle. This could go to public hearing in December.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin touched on some of his accomplishments over the past year. E. Reaves inquired if he had a course catalog. R. Sosin shared that he has lesson plans with built in information regarding how long the lesson is and a preview of each lesson.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.