

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – October 28, 2020 Barber Park Education and Event Center**

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

**ABSENT:** Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Scott Koberg

**OTHER:** Brent Moore; Development Services via Webex, Commissioner Patrick Malloy

#### **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 September 23rd minutes. H. Carter Seconded. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:**

H. Engle noted that she has been seeing a lot of dog poop at Oregon Trail. She asked Emily and Mike about having a cleanup day out there and if there were anyone else interested now and again in the spring. K. Kostka added that she would help.

C. Miller made contact with a trail runner that is interested in participating in the interview process for the Bike Park but there is some confusion on whether he will do the interview or someone else will.

#### **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

S. Koberg let everyone know that we will continue to meet at the Event Center because of COVID and that all events through the end of the year have been cancelled per the BOCC Open Business Meeting on 10/27/20.

There has been some discussion about potentially planting Milk Weed and other pollinator friendly species at Hubbard Reservoir or possibly another site we manage. S. Koberg thinks that the Victory Wetlands property would be an ideal location for this. It's a smaller acreage park with irrigation on site. We would also collaborate with Ada County Highway District as parcel owners of a portion of the site. Hubbard Reservoir isn't as ideal because its larger piece of property and Idaho Department of Lands would need to be involved.

In the last meeting there was discussion about on/off leash at the Bike Park. S. Koberg displayed the Ridge to Rivers interactive map to share that all trails we manage at the Bike Park are now identified as "Dog on Leash". Just outside the Bike Park boundary, REI Connector and portions of Veterans Trail on the BLM 40-acre parcel remain designated as "Off Leash". S. Koberg will bring this to the next Ridge to Rivers Partnership Meeting for "On Leash" consideration. It's a logical next step to designate these as "On Leash" trails. The Ridge to Rivers meetings have recently been cancelled due to COVID and other scheduling issues. C. Miller thanked S. Koberg for showing this map. It's helpful to see areas that are still "On Leash".

The Board of County Commissioners passed a new ordinance for open space and conservation areas. It's a place holder as of now because there is no specificity to the ordinance. It sets the table for the county to dedicate specific, already owned properties as designated open space for various purposes. There are currently two specific properties that the Board is interested in creating a resolution related to the ordinance. A resolution requires a public hearing with public comment and various restrictions. One of the two properties under consideration include the 35 acres that the county owns in the Barber Pool Conservation Area that is upstream from the dam. It is adjacent to the Penitentiary Canal on the north side of the river between the former Gregerson property and the Boise State Intermountain Bird

Observatory property. S. Koberg has reached out to all the other stakeholders including the Idaho Foundation of Parks and Lands, Shakespeare Festival, Boise State Intermountain Bird Observatory, Boise City and the Barber Valley Neighborhood Association. He anticipates everyone's support. It would also be nice if we could get some comments from the Parks Advisory Board during public comment or before the public hearing regarding their thoughts on the county moving forward. The ordinance defines passive and active recreation. For the Barber Pool parcel, passive recreation will be proposed meaning that dogs off leash aren't allowed, starting fires is prohibited, and motorcycle or mountain bike riding is also not allowed, among other uses. It's more for bird watching on a designated trail. K. Kostka asked how permanent this resolution would be. P. Malloy responded that once the resolution is passed it would have to be rescinded by another resolution. C. Vertrees inquired if this parcel has river frontage. S. Koberg responded that it currently doesn't. He showed exactly where this parcel is on the map. S. Koberg sits on the Barber Pool Advisory Committee and the Signage Subcommittee for this group. This committee was formed by the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands which is the majority land owner. They are really close to finalizing the sign that will be used to educate the public about the Barber Pool. Parks and Waterways will install 3 signs on the Greenbelt that will highlight the Barber Pool property. P. Malloy added that if there was an area used for ingress and egress to a location, that this access isn't cut off without strong justification. The second property under consideration includes various parcels of Red Hawk. H. Carter inquired where Red Hawk is. S. Koberg showed on the map where it's located. Its between Hidden Spring and Avimor. Parties went on to talk more about Red Hawk in depth.

### **2020 Float Season**

S. Koberg supplied a review and PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Float Season. The official season opened July 1<sup>st</sup> with approval from the Board of County Commissioners, Central District Health, Boise City Parks and the Boise Mayor's Office. Official operations were closed on September 7<sup>th</sup> with a total of 61 operational days. Parks and Waterways did not make a lot of social media posts this season due to COVID concerns. The gross revenue for the equipment rental and shuttle contract was \$970,249. Ada County's share was \$229,050. This was just under \$100,000 more than we anticipated in the budget. S. Koberg reviewed the equipment that was rented by the numbers and revenue totals. C. Miller inquired when the \$130,000.00 of anticipated revenue was put into the budget. S. Koberg responded May of 2019. K. Kostka inquired if the float season surplus will help with the decrease in event revenue. S. Koberg responded yes. He went on to say that he thought it was about a \$60,000 loss between the alcohol portion we take and rental of the event center. S. Koberg went on to show data from past years equipment rentals, shuttle, and parking. There was a decrease in shuttle riders this season because every other seat was blocked off with large boxes. Air stations may be retired all together after this year. They are a point of drinking, smoking and fighting as well as clogging up the launch point. We expect another record-breaking year next year as we continue to see growth in the Treasure Valley.

### **Barber Park Pathways and Parking Project**

This continues to be worked on. We have some design drawings we are looking over. January is the target date to hire a construction contractor. S. Koberg went on to say that the Alta Harris Park that Boise City was planning on building across the river has been put on hold because the bid responses came in at \$3 million while their budget was just under \$2 million. All bids were rejected, and they are headed back to the drawing board. We may be in the same situation when it comes to the cost of construction.

### **OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:**

M. Edwards supplied an update on his activities. He showed a PowerPoint as he spoke. Trail work accomplishments for Oregon Trail included completion of Oregon Trail Master Plan and public process, new entrance way signage and rock features, new licensing agreement with Simplot, moved kiosk for Oregon Trail historic education info, developed kiosk-Kelton Trail history and Women of

Oregon Trail, installed carsonite trail posts and signage, dug test pit at future pit toilet location and annual maintenance of cutting back Sweet Clover.

Hubbard trail work accomplishments include cutting back Sweet Clover around the parking lot trails and removing Houndstongue weeds around the riparian area.

Bike Park trail work accomplishments include rebuild of Rabbit Run, Treasure Valley Traverse and Low Rider, raising and reestablishing drainage, rebuilt all the jumps on the Flow Trail and replaced the last three jumps on Flow Trail. Shake'n Bake upgrades include rebuilding the berms on the first four bermed corners, rebuilding the two railroad tie jumps, rebuild all the berms and jumps on lower section below the fly-over bridge and cleaned out all the trail drainage features after every major storm event.

Dry Creek trail work accomplishment was the trail easement and flagging of the trail.

Echanove trail work accomplishment include built half a mile of trail and entrance fence/gate. M.

Edwards showed some photos of before and after the Echanove trail was built. P. Malloy added that when the Board approves development of anything through Development Services and Planning and Zoning, any amount of conditions can be pinned to some of these items. If there were ever consideration for new development in an area where they may be trail connectivity, this can always be a condition of development.

Fall/Winter projects include:

Oregon Trail: Install signage including new kiosk maps, install pit toilet, work with BLM on EA for trail re-route and trail armoring and install wagon wheels near entrance signage.

Hubbard: Write Hubbard Reservoir Park Improvement Plan, work with Idaho Department of Lands on lease agreement and proposed improvements and work with Hubbard Advisory Subcommittee.

Bike Park: Clean drains following rain events until ground freezes.

Dry Creek Ranch: Continue working on trail easement and write RTP grant to pay for trail development.

H. Carter thanked M. Edwards for the tour of the Bike Park. She went on to inquire if there was an opportunity to have a journalist write an article about the Bike Park. She offered to put a proposal together. P. Malloy added that he doesn't think the users are aware of how many jurisdictions own and maintain portions of the Bike Park. C. Miller likes the idea of promoting the areas but thinks we should be clear about what our objectives are. Not necessarily build awareness of the Bike Park but awareness of things within the Bike Park such as land ownership, the changes to "Dog On Leash" and the fact that all the trails aren't multi-directional. Whatever the issues we are dealing with at the Bike Park. K. Kostka added that the article could be about a couple different places in the valley, not just the Bike Park. Typically, this is done by reaching out to journalists to see if there is any interest.

C. Miller inquired that since the Developer doesn't want to build a trail until he is done building the Dry Creek Ranch area what is his perspective as to why he wants to build the trail later? M. Edwards responded that he would need to rebuild sections of trail after he levels the ground and builds new lots where there once was a trail. He will have to come back in and reconnect the trail and that will be an added expense. They would prefer to do it at the end of the project. C. Vetrees added that it is ten times more difficult to add trails after homes have been built because you will have so many opinions. It's not impossible, but you have to be much more diligent to the process.

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

**K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:17p.m.**