

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – September 22, 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** Helen Carter

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

**OTHER:** Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Brandy Wilson (Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands)

### **INTRODUCTION:**

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. H. Engle moved to approve the August 25<sup>th</sup> minutes. C. Vertrees seconded. Motion passed.

### **BRANDY WILSON-BARBER POOL CONSERVATION AREA**

Brandy Wilson with Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands talked with the Board about the Barber Pool Conservation Area. Brandy referred to a map of the Barber Pool area as she talked. Back in 2002 the US Army Corps of Engineers did a master plan for the conservation area. When the original master plan was done in 2002, there was a group called Friends of Barber Pool that lasted 2 years. This had representation from city, county and environmental groups. The idea was that they would take forward the master plan. As time has moved on, there has been development pressure in the Barber Valley, and this has started to impact the Pool. In June of 2018, Stephani Hilding who is on the Board of Directors of the IFPL asked Brandy if she would start a Barber Pool Advisory Committee to convene all the stakeholders around the Pool and start to talk again about what they should be doing to cooperatively manage this area. They started by looking at the 2002 master plan. One of the larger things they decided to do was to have and revisit the master plan and create vision for the area that they could take forward with their various jurisdictions. For Phase 2 of the master plan there are 2 groups of people they are working with. Partners are the first group. This includes city, county, Fish & Game, Suez, Shakespeare, Bird Observatory and IFPL. The second group is Friends. There are people that have a strong interest in the area. The Partners got together on September 15 and looked at opportunities and constraints associate with these properties. They talked about where they want people to be and zones that are exclusive to wildlife and how do they use that to cultivate the stewardship ethic within the community so they can get ongoing support. It was really remarkable how these partners have a common vision for this property. From the partners meeting last week, they are creating a map and a planning document that will be presented to the Partners and Friends on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be shared on Zoom. In November the Friends and Partners will get together for an in-person session. In December the Partner will get together to discuss what the Barber Valley should look like. There may be another Friends of Barber Pool organization created. H. Engle inquired if the private landowners are brought in now to help them understand what they can and can't do. Brandy responded that the Barber Valley Neighborhood is in the Partners group. She went on to say that some of the development requirements for when a home is purchased is that buyers are supposed to receive a packet on wildlife conservation. K. Kostka inquired if the WMA or Fish & Game part of the Friends Group. Brandy responded that they are in the Partners group. C. Miller inquired how large this area is. Brandy responded that its 700 acres inclusive of the full planning area with everyone's properties. IFPL portion is 400 acres. C. Miller went on to inquire from S. Koberg how large the County's portion is. The large portion on the map is 35 acres. This is the portion that was dedicated as an open space and conservation area. He is not sure of acreage total owned by the county near the dam. S. Koberg went on to say that the IFPL is doing a great job coordinating the effort and bringing all the partners together and coming up with a cohesive vision for the Pool. He went on to talk about signage off the Greenbelt we manage and access points to the Pool for the public. R. Davidson inquired if we need

more signage in this area. Brandy replied that we will at some point. Once they get through the master plan, they will want to upgrade some of this signage. S. Koberg added that the Commissioners signed an agreement for Warner Construction to cross the Greenbelt near the Intermountain Bird Observatory side channel project. There are protective measures in place for the new pathway that was just built. C. Miller inquired who owns the land downstream from Barber Dam. S. Koberg responded that there is an Idaho Power corridor where Idaho Power retains ownership. Further down river will be Alta Harris Park maintained by Boise City. There is also expected to be Greenbelt through all of this. When the master plan is done, they want to let the general public know how they can help at that point.

### **SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:**

No report.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Scott supplied and update to the Board.

There were a total of 8 applications for the Trail Crew Foreman. 12 applications total for the 2 Maintenance Mechanics positions and 11 applicants for the Education and Outreach Specialist. Applications are being reviewed and interviews will be scheduled soon.

3 interviews were conducted for the vacant position on the Parks Board. The interview panel decided not to move forward with any of the applicants. This position will remain open to new applicants.

### **OPEN SPACE & TRAILS:**

Mike supplied and update to the Board.

Oregon Trail-Mike and his crew have been working on hardening the Ezra Meeker Trail. The first step is leveling the trail. The trail ranges between 4-5 feet wide. M. Edwards showed before and after photos. They will start putting ¾ inch reject sand on the trail towards the end of the month. M. Edwards talked with Columbia Village home owners about the trespass and damage on the Kelton Trail. They talked about options. He has also talked with the P.A.'s Office. One way to go about this would be to do an easement which would spell out how far residents can trim and cut grass and how far from their fence they can remove woody material. There is a similar easement with the Farewell Bend that is not far from this location. The downside of this easement is that if there was a fire, this opens the county up to more liability. Typically, the developer would have a set back on their property. In this instance they didn't. They relied on us to handle it. The homeowners he spoke with seem amenable to working with us.

Dry Creek Ranch-There has been a new version of the trail easement from Dry Creek Ranch. This includes a 6-month trail closure, dog on leash, ability of land owner to close trails following livestock harassment and trail corridor which is only 10' instead of 20'.

Ada Eagle Bike Park- M. Edwards added addition signs for mountain biking only to all down hill trails including Flow Trail, Stomin n' Mormon and Shake n' Bake.

There were a lot of people on the last bermed corner on Shake n' Bake riding over the berm and not using the cross walk. They wanted to use the berm as a way to slow down riders and redirect them to the crosswalk. They decided to add large rock to this area to promote riders using the crosswalk.

On Shake n' Bake, the crew replaced a portion of rebar that was coming out of the railroad tie.

A new dump trailer was purchased last month. This will be used to bring soil out to Hubbard and Oregon Trail.

Waterways purchased a new water pump that M. Edwards will be able to use to water down trails. Waterways will use it to clean off the docks at Lucky Peak.

E. Reaves inquired when there will be more work on Oregon Trail. M. Edwards said October if she wanted to come out and lend a hand.

K. Kostka inquired if a site visit at Oregon Trail would be a good idea next month. M. Edwards said this would be good.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.**