

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – September 28, 2022

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

ABSENT: Kari Kostka, Helen Carter

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Candy Hahlbeck, Robbie Sosin

OTHERS: Brent Moore, Development Services

INTRODUCTION:

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

No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members. E. Reaves moved to approve the August 24th minutes. C. Vertrees seconded. Motion passed.

Chris, Eric and Chuck will be re-appointed to the Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board at the October 4th Open Business Meeting.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

C. Miller talked briefly about the speed on the Greenbelt. He went on to say that a media report he saw said there wasn't a speed limit on the Greenbelt. During the last meeting Sarah Arkle mentioned there was a speed limit. Doug Holloway said in a story that there wasn't a speed limit. It's very confusing.

C. Miller would like to monitor this issue and have it put on the agenda for next month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg mentioned that Tuesday at 1PM is the Expo Idaho design competition presentations. This will be live streamed on the You Tube channel. He invited the Board to tune in.

Master Plan Update-S. Koberg talked about the schedule for the RFP process. 4 consultant groups have been targeted but others that provide this service will also be eligible to submit for the RFP. The submittals need to be reviewed and scored by an evaluation team selected by the county. S. Koberg would like 2 Board members to make up a part of the 5-person evaluation team. C. Miller and H. Engle volunteered for this group.

C. Vertrees moved that C. Miller and H. Engle volunteered to be a part of the evaluation team to pick the Master Plan consultant team. E. Reaves seconded. Motion passed.

S. Koberg went on to talk about the Boise River Resource Management & Master Plan. This plan belongs to the City of Boise. This is important because we took a lot of criticism from the City of Boise this summer due to the lack of continuity of this plan and process. Boise Parks & Recreation Board of Commissioners approved the plan on August 21, 2014. Boise City Council adopted the plan via a resolution on December 16, 2014. There are four management areas-Public Safety, Recreation, Natural Resources and Information/Education. S. Koberg went on to speak in detail about these four management areas and showed a PowerPoint presentation as he spoke.

S. Koberg went on to talk about Barber Park and parking. Barber Park sits on 68 acres of public park property. Its been actively managed by Ada County since the 1970's. We had major infrastructure upgrades in 2004-2007 with significant infrastructure upgrades 2020-2022. Barber Park is the headquarters for the Parks & Waterways Department as well as the Barber Park Education & Event Center. There are four key components when deciding when to open the float season. This includes outside air temperature, existing and projected river flow, river debris and obstructions and Barber Park staffing, and training/ logistics. Starting in 2015 S. Koberg took over the Boise River Float Season partner meeting. In the past, opening day included Ada County Sheriff, Boise Fire, the Raft &

Tube contractor and the Commissioners. This has not been the case in recent years. S. Koberg is hoping to get back to re-engagement of these departments for future years.

Ada County Parks & Waterways float season data spreadsheet goes back to 2001. This highlights the date, average daily flows for the Boise River and the daily high air temperature.

S. Koberg went on to talk about queue management and how the new plaza allows river floaters to spread out and access the Boise River when they are ready. E. Plotkin inquired if he had thought about involving Boise State Engineering Department. There have been conversations about this, but nothing implemented yet.

Barber Park visitors come from all over. In 2021, over 3 days, S. Koberg got pictures of license plate from all the states except Delaware, Ohio, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

Daily parking data includes date, day of week, and number of vehicles from 9:30AM-7:30PM. We also track the average number of vehicles per day. Parties went on to talk about parking at Ann Morrison.

S. Koberg went over the 2021 parking and shuttle numbers as well as parking efficiency and turnover numbers.

On July 30th, it was 103 degrees, and the flow was 1,289 cfs. R. Sosin positioned himself 200 feet downstream from the launch area and counted the number of floaters going downstream. From 1:05PM to 5:09PM there was approximately 995 floaters per hour on the Boise River.

S. Koberg showed timelapse drone footage from Saturday, August 20th 2022.

H. Engle inquired if MAV works the Boise Ave./Eckert intersection to help with congestion. S. Koberg responded that they have a couple employees that are certified traffic specialists that can work in the roadway, but they don't do traffic control on Boise Ave./Eckert Rd. MAV personnel are at the entrance to the park. MAV and park staff are consistently in radio contact and can do right turn only out of the park. They are watching for shuttles and equipment trucks and try to get them in the park.

E. Reaves inquired if this information would be published? How can we use this? S. Koberg responded that this could be posted with messaging on different platforms. R. Sosin is willing to help with this. C. Miller inquired when the meetings with the Boise Agencies would happen. S. Koberg thought early October. S. Koberg will keep the Advisory Board up to date on these meetings.

PROGRAM & EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin will be working with the City of Boise's Communications contact moving forward for the Float Season.

The National Guard may also help with messaging when it comes to proper use of life preservers.

He has also been working with the Re-Wild partner Plot Leads to be sure they have all the information they need to be successful.

The latest Current Magazine will be out soon. The photo contest will go until December due to lack of entries.

In addition, he is working on the Education Program and events to try and make connections.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.