

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – September 23, 2020 Barber Park Education and Event Center

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

VIA WEBEX: Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck

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

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

K. Kostka welcomed Helen Cater as the new member of the Parks Advisory Board. The group introduced themselves and Helen told the group about herself.

C. Vertrees moved to approve the July 22nd minutes. E. Reaves Seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

C. Miller went through the subcommittee purpose and Board Members who are on these subcommittees.

C. Miller went on to give an update on the Bike Park subcommittee. He was able to make contact with someone who represents the trail user community. He plans to set up a meeting with this person to get their perspective on the Bike Park from a trail runner's perspective including any issues they would like to discuss.

H. Engle didn't have any updates, but she is excited for the new pit toilet. She added that her Oregon Trail Subcommittee gave some feed back on the signage to be used at the Oregon Trail. M. Edwards appreciated their input. He particularly liked the idea of adding a QR code to the kiosk signs so users could scan the code to get additional historical information. K. Kostka added the Danger-Cliff Sign was gone. This sign belongs to BLM and M. Edwards will touch base with them.

S. Frey didn't have any updates on Hubbard but re-emphasized that the Golden Eagle Audubon Society contacted him about further discussion on Hubbard improvements. He went on to request an evaluation of Hubbard from Scott and Mike in the off season. M. Edwards added that he plans to do a Park Improvement Plan for Hubbard as he did for Oregon Trail. He went on to say that S. Koberg liked the idea of additional Milk Weed for butterflies and moths, but he thinks it would be more appropriate at the Victory Wetlands property instead of Hubbard.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards supplied an update on The Bike Park. He showed a Power Point presentation as he talked. Work includes: trimming Sweet Clover on all trails, rebuilt Rabbit Run, Treasure Valley Traverse and Low Rider and fixing and re-establishing drainage, rebuilt jumps on Flow Trail, Shake'n Bake and cleaned out all the trail drainage features after every major storm. In addition, M. Edwards and his crew have been putting Dog on Leash signs up due to dog owners not being able to maintain control of their dogs leading to injuries. C. Miller added that this issue has been brought up with constituent groups. There is also a lack of consistency between the City of Eagle and the County and it's confusing to trail users. It would be beneficial if Ridge to Rivers trails were also dog on leash because people don't think of these trail systems as 3 different trail systems. C. Miller inquired if there has been any conversation with Ridge to Rivers to make their trails dog on leash. M. Edwards responded that there hasn't been, but he thinks it time.

M. Edwards added that there was a death on Stormin Mormon. It's not known exactly what happened, just that it didn't happen on any of the large jumps. The paramedics that responded started a small fire and M. Edwards is watching this area for future social trail development.

There has been discussion with Carlos from SWIMBA on doing a trial run with Junk Yard being a one-way trail. This will happen in October. C. Miller inquired what SWIMBA's interest in this was. M. Edwards responded that there isn't a preponderance of once way cross-country trails throughout the Foothills and they want some evidence that it's a viable option that will improve safety.

Oregon Trail work included: trimming back Sweet Clover, pulled several informational pieces on wildlife from small kiosks, relocated two kiosks to locations where they will discuss women of the Oregon Trail and history of the Kelton Trail, installed carsonite sign posts with trail names and directions, working with sign company to have small kiosk signs, maps and informational signs printed, dug a test pit to identify future location of a restroom facility and completed the public outreach meeting for the Oregon Trail Master Plan. Recently, we have been having a lot of trespass issues off Columbia Road to Oregon Trail. Someone drove off the Kelton Trail ramp and onto the Oregon Trail. They also cut the gate and drove through where some of the best tracks from Oregon Trail and Kelton Trail are located. C. Vertrees inquired about security cameras. M. Edwards plans to talk with S. Koberg about it. It's become a real issue.

M. Edwards has been speaking with Dry Creek Ranch. He has been reviewing their trail plans and hopes they are getting close to signing an easement that would connect the Bike Park and Dry Creek Road and eventually to Avimor and to Hidden Springs.

M. Edwards has also been in contact with Echanove. He is hoping to cut a trail between McFarland Road and Broken Horn Road in October. The trail will be 3 ½ feet wide.

Work at Hubbard included: removal of Hounds Tongue weeds, fixing broken fence rails and weeding of the entrance way. More weed trimming needs to be done. Horse manure in the parking lot continues to be a problem. M. Edwards plans to put up signs. H. Carter inquired what equestrians can do with the horse manure. M. Edwards responded that they need to take it home. C. Vertrees inquired if M. Edwards had inquired about sheep or goats to control the weeds. He hadn't, but he will look into it. C. Carter inquired how long the major trail rebuilds will last. M. Edwards responded that the Bike Park has been there since 2004 or 2006. Trail patches have been done since then. It will probably be another 10 years before we will have to repair areas that are really cupped. Repair on areas with poor soil are done every other year. S. Frey inquired about the fatality at the Bike Park this summer. There is no information on the cause at this point. S. Frey went on to inquire about any record keeping that is done when these accidents happen. M. Edwards responded that he gets word about these accidents from a couple of fire fighters that ride at the Bike Park.

E. Reaves requested that it may be a good idea to do another tour of Ada County Properties especially since we have a new Board Member and since additional improvements have been made. K. Kostka agreed that this was a good idea and was open to feedback. H. Carter added that she was available to help with trail work. C. Miller inquired about trail work with COVID-19. M. Edwards responded that it is pretty easy to stay socially distanced while on the trail.

K. Kostka inquired if there was any information on how the County is handling the large increase in Greenbelt use. M. Edwards responded that he didn't have the numbers, but both the County and Ridge to Rivers has seen a huge jump in the number of people using the Greenbelt. The COVID pandemic has brought many people outdoors. C. Miller added that when COVID first hit in April/May, there wasn't really much to do, so people went outdoors. M. Edwards added that there has been a huge uptick in the number of E-Bikes all over. K. Kostka inquired if Ridge to Rivers is revisiting this issue. She went on to say that she is nervous on the Ridge to Rivers piece and the potential implications for easements and access to certain areas of land owners aren't on board. M. Edwards agreed with not only for the reasons K. Kostka mentioned, but because of the way the Federal Land Managers are managing the trail system and their planning process is motorized and non-motorized. M. Edwards will be digging into this this Winter to see where this E-Bike issue is going.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:02p.m.