

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### **Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – November 14, 2018 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Suderman, Julia Kertz-Grant, Karen Danley, Chris Cook, Kari Kostka, Scott Frey

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**OTHER:** Chris Daly (Development Services)

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

C. Cook called the meeting to order at 11:59 a.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

K. Danley noted clarification changes she would like made to the New Trail Proposal of the October minutes. Minutes will be updated with these changes.

**Motion: S. Frey moved to accept the minutes subject to changes as discussed. K. Kostka seconded. Motion passed.**

**Motion: S. Frey moved to add further discussion on the Veteran's Complimentary Trail proposal to the agenda. K. Danley seconded. Motion passes. This will be placed under Old Business.**

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

S. Koberg updated the Board on procurements for FY19. A 2019 F450 4x4 Ford truck will be purchased for our Waterways Department. The truck that is currently being used, a 2003 F-350, will be transferred to the Parks Department and will be used by M. Edwards.

We have also purchased (2) 2019 Kawasaki Mules that will be used in Barber Park and on the Greenbelt on a daily basis.

6 new rafts will be purchased, (2) 4 person rafts and (4) 6 person rafts. These will replace rafts that will be retired. 175 Rocktabomb tubes will also be purchased. These will replace the old tube cover style tubes that are no longer serviceable. The Raft & Tube contractor plans to add additional inventory as well.

S. Koberg met with the Chief Operating Officer of Maravia as well as the Production Manager. They are going to build us (1) 4 person and (1) 6 person demo rafts for use in our fleet.

Prior to the end of last fiscal year we purchased a 2006 International Bus. This will be used in the shuttle service fleet and will more than likely replace one of the current buses in the fleet.

The final procurement for this year's budget is the Red Hawk Trail build. Feedback was received from both Legal and Procurement teams. It was decided that we didn't need to do the full open bid process. A simple quote process would be sufficient.

S. Koberg mentioned that our department has been standardizing our kiosk sign configuration starting with Barber Park. Signs include a header sign, sight features, amenities, a site map and park rules. Header signs have been purchased for Oregon Trail, Hubbard and Victory Wetland.

S. Frey inquired where Red Hawk Trailhead was. S. Koberg responded Red Hawk trail comes off the existing Red Tail Trail north of Hidden Springs. The procurement is to build a 2 mile trail. J. Grant inquired if we are seeing an increase in our overall budget. S. Koberg responded that we previously had 2 years of increase based on additional staff and large capital projects. This year we are back to no major projects. J. Grant went on to ask if we requested the same amount for Red Tail that we had in

the past. S. Koberg responded that previously we had asked for \$60,000. This year we asked for \$45,000. She went on to ask why the reduced number. S. Koberg responded that initially we were looking at trailhead development. We aren't looking at that this fiscal year. Instead we need to get the trail laid out and determine if there is a good trailhead location on County property.

S. Koberg clarified that the legend on the Stack Rock Trail map indicated that it was a motorized multi use trail. This is actually a non-motorized trail. He used the yellow simply because it stood out the best. The Forest Service is committing \$40,000.00 to this project. Ridge to Rivers is expected to chip in possibly \$20,000.00. This will go through a Ridge to Rivers procurement process. The intent is to have it built before the end of this fiscal year. S. Frey asked who will own the trail once it's built. S. Koberg responded that it will be a Ridge to Rivers trail.

S. Koberg brought the Board's attention to the Trail Use Separation Examples Form Other Open Space Management Programs handout. This is a follow-up from last month's Ridge to Rivers report. This feedback is from David Gordon. S. Koberg commented that if there was feedback for the Ridge to Rivers partnership, to contact him or M. Edwards.

S. Koberg pointed out the new beta map on the Ridge to Rivers website. Ada County's GIS team pulled this project together. C. Daly inquired if the map would work with the GPS on your phone. S. Koberg pointed out the portion of the map where you could choose what kind of device you are using (mobile phone, tablet, desktop, etc.) S. Koberg went on to say that there is a trail etiquette page on the Ridge to Rivers website with videos. J. Grant added that there is a real need for social norming pictures, people of different size, abilities, ages and ethnicities, represented on the Ridge to Rivers website. K. Danley suggested adding equestrians on maps, signs (ie: Bogus Basin and Oregon Trail signs do not include equestrians), and logos. The Ada County logo includes hikers and bikers but not equestrians. When equestrians are included other users will expect equestrians and equestrians know they are welcome.

S. Koberg and M. Edwards met with Boise Hunter Homes regarding the Dry Creek Ranch planned community. The meeting was discouraging as far as the connectivity through this community. A draft plat map was provided that has not yet been submitted. There are quite a few homes planned for the southwest portion that abuts the landfill property. There isn't a place for the proposed trail. He is unsure where this is headed, but himself and M. Edwards are meeting with ACHD, ITD, Avimor, COMPASS and the City of Eagle. There is a lot of concern over non-motorized connectivity between Avimor and Dry Creek Ranch and the Bike Park

Both the Penitentiary Canal and Warm Springs Greenbelt Projects were submitted for a couple of awards; C. Daly submitted it to COMPASS Leadership in Motion award and Stanley Consulting, the engineer for these projects, conducted an interview with Scott because they wanted to submit both projects to the Idaho Engineering Excellence Competition as part of the American Council of Engineering Companies.

S. Koberg updated the Board on the Alta Harris Park. He provided a map for reference. Ada County owns a small Greenbelt Pathway corridor where this park will be. The Greenbelt alignment through this location has option A, which is ideal and option B, which is not ideal. City of Boise staff came to S. Koberg's staff meeting with the BOCC to find out if the BOCC wanted to move forward with option A. The BOCC supported option A. The City also wanted to know if they would want to grant an easement for this pathway. The intent was always to bring the path closer to the river. This will allow it to happen.

The BOCC has not scheduled interviews for the Parks Board vacancy.

2 new Commissioners will be sworn in in January. J. Grant commented that Diana Lachiondo inquired about the Parks Board. J. Grant thought that was encouraging.

M. Suderman inquired if C. Cook would be at the December meeting before his planned departure from the advisory board. C. Cook will be at the December meeting and officer nominations can happen in either December or January.

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

M. Edwards supplied an update on what he has been up to in the last 3 weeks. He pulled up a PowerPoint presentation to reference photos as he talked.

Trail braiding is still an issue at the Bike Park. M. Edwards installed 22 short posts with signs indicating no walking or trail braiding. He has 11 more posts to install on Stormin' Mormon. He will also have to do another section of fencing on the south side of Treasure Valley Traverse.

Hubbard Reservoir culvert project has been completed. He was able to dig the pipe down lower so water would run through the middle of the pipe. Reject sand was used instead of ¾ mix because reject sand is round. ¾ mix can be sharp and tends to be rough. M. Edwards also ran a plate compactor on this area but moisture is still needed for better compaction.

At the last meeting M. Edwards spoke about a conservation easement. The easement is 100 feet on either side of Dry Creek. He met with 2 of the land owners yesterday to talk with them regarding some of their concerns. He also wanted to walk the site before setting any flags. Their concerns included trash with increased trail use and drug paraphernalia in the area. Another concern was the width of the trail path, which would be 10 feet wide. The land owners have posted private property, no trespassing signs in an area that has a trail easement through it. That will be a future discussion. C. Daly inquired what the width of the actual easement is. M. Edwards responded that it is 100 feet from the center of the creek to the property line. J. Grant inquired if Ada County has the conservation easement, who owns the property? M. Edwards responded that there are 5 private landowners that own to the center of the creek. M. Edwards noted other obstructions in this area. Because the landowners have been treating this easement as part of their property, a different variety of grass will need to be planted when the trail is put in. J. Grant inquired if that was included in the easement. M. Edwards said that it was. There are also suggested types of plants in the easement. C. Daly inquired if the trail was public because of the conservation easement. S. Koberg responded that there has been communication with Commissioners and Sheriff's Office trying to determine the best way to enforce this since users have used this without a trail because they are aware of the easement that exists. The solution is to install a trail where it should be. The recommendation to the property owners is to use reject sand and have a 10 foot wide trail. You don't want the trail too narrow because people will get off the trail and braiding will occur. C. Cook inquired if this was in the budget for next year. S. Koberg responded that we are going to see where we are at as we have saved money on a couple of procurements projects so far. Mike will meet with the home owners again on Tuesday night.

M. Edwards and S. Koberg met with Dry Creek Ranch. M. Edwards had flagged a trail but was told by Dry Creek that houses would be built where the trail was flagged. In order to get around this for connectivity, he will begin walking the hillside in the landfill property. A connection will need to be made close to Broken Horn and Hidden Springs. K. Danley inquired if the trail will be multi-use. M. Edwards responded that it will. M. Edwards pointed out on the map where ranch type homes with horse barns will be built. An arena is also planned. All the trails will be 10 foot wide pavement trails. There isn't much connectivity between the homes with horses. He went on to say that he explained to them that if they continued with this, they would have horses walking down the road and defecating. C. Cook added that the Board recommended that they have soft surface trails in a letter roughly a year ago. S. Koberg added that he thought the letter was more than a year ago but recommended that along Dry Creek on the north and south side that one was paved and one wasn't. There was also discussion about the wildlife corridor at that time. J. Grant added that the Urban Land Institute which is an organization of developers nationwide just put out a report. They are doing webinars about the value of trails and open spaces in developments. She would like to forward this to Scott and possibly follow up with another letter to Boise Hunter Homes with this report attached. S. Koberg responded that the representatives weren't familiar with Ridge to Rivers trails or trail design standards. He went on to say that we need to bring them up to a level of understanding about how important this piece of property is in the grand scheme of connectivity. S. Koberg and M. Edwards are meeting with them again today.

M. Edwards directed the Board's attention to the survey in their packet. After he received a draft survey from Jonathon, the BSU student Mike is working with, he went out and looked at other states to see what they are doing. Specifically he looked at Summit County and Jefferson County in

Colorado. He also received copies of the last major trail survey from David Gordon. The survey was trimmed back quite a bit with only a couple questions regarding E-Bikes. He thinks another survey in mid-summer would be appropriate, leaning towards E-Bikes. J. Grant asked how this would be implemented. M. Edwards responded that we will be using volunteers like Jonathon Davis and another gentleman who would like to help out with trail side surveys and also a Survey Monkey survey which will be advertised on the Ada/Eagle Facebook page. In addition, Jonathon is with Fly Racing, a company that makes mountain bike/motorcycle equipment. They may host it on their website as well. J. Grant went on to say that she would encourage him to have plenty of volunteers. C. Cook inquired if Eagle would be doing a survey. M. Edwards said he would send the survey to them and get their input. He is not aware of any surveys they have planned. C. Cook went on to ask why there is a gender question. J. Grant responded that it had to do with demographics. Are we making this area friendly for men and women, different age groups? She also suggested adding a question about zip codes. She went on to express her interest in what recreational assets are being provided to different parts of the community. C. Daly added that adding an option for not applicable for some of the questions may be appropriate.

K. Danley inquired what the weight capacity of the pipe used for the culvert project is. M. Edwards was unsure, but stated that it was really thick as it was used in the Penitentiary Canal project. C. Cook added that, for the survey, if there should be a question about dogs off leash and if people agree with dogs not being allowed on the downhill only trails. M. Edwards responded that when he writes these questions, he tries to get input from the user, but not lead the user to what tools we want to use. If we see conflicts that come from the baseline survey, the tool will be added in future surveys to address the conflicts.

#### **ADVISORY BOARD FIELD TRIP REPORT:**

K. Kostka shared that she visited Victory Wetland and Hubbard Reservoir. She commented that the culvert project looked great out at Hubbard Reservoir. At Victory Wetland, she mentioned it would be nice if the map oriented you as you pulled up to the property.

S. Frey visited Hubbard Reservoir. He mentioned that this site could possibly be a future site for a Mountain View High School Mountain Bike Team that doesn't currently exist. He also visited Oregon Trail. He mentioned that there wasn't a left hand turn bay onto the Oregon Trail property from the highway.

C. Cook visited the Bike Park.

#### *NEW BUSINESS*

#### **PARKS AND PROPERTIES TOUR SCHEDULE:**

S. Koberg asked the Board's opinion of when they would like to see these properties. Site visits could happen during regular scheduled meetings or at other times. M. Suderman responded that he would prefer doing these tours at regular scheduled meeting times but was not opposed to evenings. K. Danley and S. Frey agreed. K. Kostka would like to visit these sites sooner rather than later. M. Suderman suggested everyone think about when they would like to start visiting these sites.

#### *OLD BUSINESS*

#### **VETERANS COMPLIMENTARY TRAIL DISCUSSION**

S. Frey wanted to follow up regarding this topic from last meeting. He wanted to know what more needed to be done. C. Cook responded that with anything that is proposed, that it can be FYI, or something that is voted on. At times there are specific items that are asked of the Board and maybe a motion is made. It really depends on what is being presented. S. Frey inquired what the expectation from the presenter is and the intention of the Board and Director. K. Danley stated the Ada County Commissioners requested she inform the Board of the Veteran's Complimentary trail which they unanimously approved of on February 21, 2018. S. Koberg responded that the original proposal was brought to the Ridge to Rivers partnership in August 2016. It was evaluated throughout the partnership

and including the owner of the existing access point which is the Veterans Cemetery. At that time the Landfill Director was also included. The resulting action was that the existing Veterans Trail was modified to add safety features. K. Danley received a letter in December 2016 and was cc'd to the County Commissioners reflecting the decisions that were made. This letter also provided background on the original trail easement that the County held on the Veteran's State property which is a single trail easement. Recently, K. Danley brought the trail proposal to the Board of County Commissioners and they approved of moving forward with the trail proposal on landfill property. The catch is that they agreed to provide a license agreement to a neighborhood association that K. Danley is a part of, to put it on the association to build and maintain that trail. This is what S. Koberg was referring to when he said in the last meeting that his department wouldn't be involved, that it would be the responsibility of the home owners association to build and maintain per the license agreement that was drafted. M. Suderman added that the committee's involvement, in a broader sense, is to discuss the information. If it is something that needs to be further addressed, then that can be brought to the table to discuss. If it is determined that it is something that we should be suggesting to the Commissioners for consideration, that can be done. S. Koberg added that he represents the county in the Ridge to Rivers partnership that handles requests related to Ridge to Rivers associated trails. This partnership includes Boise City, Ada County, US Forest Service, BLM and Fish and Game. They did consider what was proposed and the current easement provided by the Veterans Cemetery to Ada County. K. Danley added that she originally rode the Veterans Trail on her bike. She has since moved and now has horses, which is where another component comes in, the blind corners. K. Danley has ridden Veteran's trail on both her bike and horses as well as hiked it regularly. The blind corners negatively affect all users. K. Danley went on to read an excerpt from a letter from Tim Breuer, supporting the complimentary trail. The parties went on to discuss this topic.

#### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**C. Cook adjourned the meeting at 1:41p.m.**