

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – October 23, 2019 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Danley, Hilarie Engle, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees, Kari Kostka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Scott Koberg

OTHER: Brent Moore, Development Services, Commissioner Rick Visser

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

Brent Moore introduced himself.

K. Danley moved to approve the August 28th minutes. H. Engle seconded. Motion passed.

K. Danley moved to approve the September 25th minutes with her requested changes. C. Miller seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

C. Miller supplied an update from the Bike Park subcommittee. They've developed a set of objectives they would like to accomplish. C. Miller passed around a 1 page document outlining the objectives and approach. This is centered on community involvement that breaks down into 2 general groups; involvement with the City of Eagle and constituent user groups. They are open to feedback.

C. Miller has met with Rob Hollerman and Steve Noyes with the City of Eagle to get their perspective. They are excited to partner with the County when it comes to the Ada/Eagle Bike Park. The City of Eagle thinks of the Bike Park as a park, not an open space area. They aren't committed to single track and want to be more inclusive than that. An idea they have is to build a 4 foot wide trail from the parking lot to the top of the Flow Trail to allow for handicapped accessibility. Eagle wants to develop more, not preserve open space. They would like to have more dialogue with the County when it comes to development ideas because they are limited on space. There isn't much more Eagle can do unless it ties in with something the County is doing.

Dogs off leash is another topic that was discussed. Eagle is 100% committed to dogs being on leash due to the types of activities that occur at the Bike Park. It's too dangerous for dogs to be off leash. Eagle hasn't been very successful in implementing this and there's not much enforcement, but they are open to ideas. They are also very committed to E-Bike use in the park. As E-Bike usage grows, Eagle has a responsibility to provide opportunities for all user groups. They believe the Bike Park is the best place for E-Bikes to be used.

S. Koberg added that it's important to recognize where we have come from since the cancellation of the lease by Eagle 5 years ago. There are a lot of differences on how Eagle wants to run the front end of the Bike Park. It's been an interesting evolution how the Bike Park took off in the last few years. It's one of our busiest and well used parks. We consider the park a public recreation area not just a bike park because of the cross country, multi-use component.

C. Miller inquired what other types of events are held at the Bike Park. S. Koberg responded that enduro races, 5k's and the Wednesday night races are held there.

K. Kostka inquired if it was just the Department of the Interior that has re-classified E-Bikes. S. Koberg responded that that was correct. He went on to say that we want to make sure that the easements in the Ridge to Rivers portions of the Foothills aren't put in jeopardy by allowing E-Bike usage.

K. Kostka went on to ask if any of the partners were concerned with the sweeping re-classification in that it's not tiered or distinct between classes? S. Koberg responded that there were speed tests done on the Greenbelt to determine any danger. Accidents were also a consideration. In the end there wasn't much concern for all classes of E-Bikes as opposed to Class 1.

C. Vertrees added that the BLM just released a statement regarding E-Bikes and how they will handle it.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg updated the Board on the Victory Storm Water Basin and Constructed Wetlands. The black and white signs have been replaced with 7 new interpretive layback signs. We have also formed a partnership with the Boise Community Library that is close to this site. We gave them the ability to install a story walk at the site.

The judge has made a ruling on the BLM EA appeal for Red Hawk. The BLM didn't see any issues in proceeding with the trail design for Landslide Loop to Avimor trail connection phase 2. Currently we are proceeding with a winter trail design using Ridge to Rivers program assistance. It will probably be between 2-3 miles when completed. The intent is to utilize a contractor and start the build in late spring/early summer 2020. S. Koberg provided Commissioner Kenyon a tour of this site 2 weeks ago and was invited to a legal staff meeting to discuss this property.

There has been an agreement for the seasonal closure for Landslide Loop. This will take place December 1st to March 31st. Signs are in development and will be installed prior to the December 1st date. C. Vertrees added that Hidden Springs is on board with these dates. He mentioned in an email to David Gordon that because the beginning and end of the trail is on Hidden Springs property, this is where they would like the signs to be so it's clear that the entire loop is closed not just the Ada County portion. This has been communicated to the Hidden Springs community. C. Vertrees went on to say that his group within Hidden Springs has been using the app Trail Forks for trail management. C. Miller added Trail Forks and MTB Project are used by people who don't know the areas well, so it won't be a go to source.

We have received some feedback from Echanove Ranch in the form of letters from the HOA President and another homeowner regarding the trail planning efforts on site. At this point we have requested input from legal and the Board of County Commissioners before we proceed. C. Vertrees inquired if there has been a reply to the letter. S. Koberg responded that we have not yet responded. We will respond as soon as we receive additional guidance. K. Kostka added that she could put a short acknowledgment email letter and respond to Echanove Ranch.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities. He showed a PowerPoint as he talked.

K. Kostka mentioned that she visited the Bike Park and had a hard time finding Snoop Loop. She suggested adding a sign so it could be found a little easier. C. Miller added that he had a conversation with the City of Eagle regarding the maze of trails near Snoop Loop. He inquired if they plan to clean this up. They said no.

M. Edwards has been busy preparing the trails at the Bike Park for winter. Long term fixes include rebuilding berms on Shake'n Bake, rebuild rock drops on Shake'n Bake, rebuild jumps and landings on Storm'n Mormon, address trail cupping on Storm'n Mormon and paint the shed.

There was a trail day with NICA and SWIMBA with about 18 people participating. They did a great job cleaning out the drains.

There is a lot of shortcutting going on at the Bike Park so rocks have been installed. On Treasure Valley Traverse both on the north and south sides 18 posts/signs and rocks were put in to slow this down.

Due to rutting on the Shake'n Bake, M. Edwards has been revamping the rock drops. He showed some photos and explained how important it is to make sure the rocks are locked into place so they don't move. M. Edwards showed a video of riders using this new feature.

Trail cupping continues to be an issue on Shake'n Bake. M. Edwards used equipment to cut the outside edge of the trail. Now it's a nice wide trail.

The weeds have been cut and removed from Hubbard Reservoir. There is an issue with equestrians leaving their horse waste at the site and throwing it over the fence. K. Danley mentioned that that's what they were told to do. She asked what M. Edwards would like done with it. M. Edwards said it needs to go back in the trailer when they leave. M. Edwards asked K. Danley to spread the word. M. Edwards is still working with the National Park Service of signage. He has also checked with ITD regarding the entrance sign with the horse symbol, it's still on the to-do list. In addition, M. Edwards has been working with BLM on rerouting the trail due to erosion.

M. Edwards showed the map of the drone fly over at Oregon Trail. Both Mike and Scott have been working on this map to make sure it's correct. This will be an interactive map when it's done and will incorporate some of the items the Oregon Trail Reserve Subcommittee is working on. C. Miller inquired if M. Edwards had gotten the approval he needed to name the trails. M. Edwards responded that he has taken these names to the Ada County Historic Preservation Committee and getting their input. K. Danley identified some barbed wire that needs to be pulled. This wire is not on Ada County property, but belongs to the BLM. She will need to contact the BLM to have this removed. She went on to ask if additional electrical had been added to the parking lot. M. Edwards responded that nothing has been added. K. Danley said she had a picture and would show it to him.

M. Edwards has been flagging and marking the trail that will connect the Bike Park with Dry Creek Ranch. He has been working with Ada County IT and survey crew.

OTHER BUSINESS:

K. Kostka welcomed ideas for meeting topics of interest for the upcoming months. K. Danley suggested a report on the distribution of funds and time spent on each of the Ada County Parks, Ada/Eagle Bike Park, Oregon Trail, Hubbard Park, and Barber Park. M. Edwards added that he likes to do the development plan and identify the issues that need to be dealt with in the winter. He thinks there will be more work done at Oregon Trail in the near future.

K. Kostka added that she would like to hear about the Greenbelt, JPD and Sunroc.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:25p.m.