

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – September 25, 2019 Ada County Parks and Waterways Administration building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Danley, Hilarie Engle, Emily Reaves, Chris Miller, Chuck Vertrees, Scott Frey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kari Kostka

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck, Scott Koberg

GUESTS: Brenda Mittleider, Equestrian.

INTRODUCTION:

K. Danley called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

K. Danley suggested edits to the August minutes. These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

C. Miller supplied an update from the Bike Park subcommittee. Since the last meeting the subcommittee members have identified different groups they would like to receive input from and they have been in the process of contacting them for feedback. C. Vertrees has made contact with Kim Lyons who represents the downhill mountain bike community. C. Miller reached out to Rob Hollerman. He also spoke with a member of the Dirt Dolls and received names for women who represent the female beginner group. Another group he has wanted to speak with are representatives from NICA. He thinks it would be better to speak with the coaches who are working directly with the kids. C. Miller has put together a list of objectives that has been talked about, but he hasn't given it to the subcommittee yet. He plans to do this soon. M. Edwards added that he has been in contact with SWIMBA and they are having the Boise NICA team do trail work on October 1st. C. Miller went on to say that NICA has launched a program called Teen Trail Corps. The objective is to get the kids who are big trail users out to be advocates for the trails through building and maintenance. Ridge to Rivers has been receiving negative feedback due to trail impact from the NICA members. E. Reaves inquired if the feedback that is being received is negative? The negative feedback has been about congestion on the trails.

K. Danley supplied an update on the Oregon Trail Reserve subcommittee meeting. One of the top priorities is education perspectives. This includes interactive kiosks, a history reenactment and a possible reading and recording of a poem. There are markers for the Oregon Trail that are throughout the east side of Boise. A map of these sites would be a nice addition. The National Park Service is providing signs that will be put up sometime in October. The locations are already marked on the ground. This is waiting on trail licensing agreements with Simplot. The all-weather trail and the restroom will take place sometime in 2020. The hazardous cliff area sign will be replaced. The spike strips may create an issue with longer horse trailers between the road and the spike strips. This will be looked at. Survey observations- interesting that 83 percent of the users are equestrians, hikers, runners and sight seers. This is opposite of the Bike Park. The committee talked about establishing a Friends of Oregon Trail Reserve to have the subcommittee continue, in a sense. K. Danley has been talking with Barbara Urder who is an Oregon Trail expert and David Anderson with the Peregrine Foundation. There is 120 acres of land at the Oregon Trail. H. Engle suggested that the inside of the restrooms be painted with artwork. E. Reaves inquired if the 2020 time frame was when the restroom and trail

would be started or finished. M. Edwards responded that the restroom should be done but the NEPA process for the all-weather trail may cause it to take longer. C. Miller added that Barbara Urder is a botanist and a fascinating person. E. Reaves added that Barbara could be a good person to ask about flora and fauna. E. Reaves inquired about the turn bay coming from the south. K. Danley responded that we had talked about this at the last meeting and we are working with the state for the signs specifically for the north and south. M. Edwards don't know if there has been any movement of the turn bay.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

S. Koberg supplied an update on E-Bikes. An Executive Order from the Secretary of the Interior dated August 29, 2019 was issued. The intent was to simplify and regulate the use of E-Bikes on federal land managed by the Department of the Interior. This includes Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. E-Bikes are defined as non-motorized bicycles. All 3 classes are included and qualify as an E-Bike. The county was more restrictive when the new ordinance was adopted for Class 1 E-Bikes. The Executive Order permits E-Bikes to be ridden wherever bicycles are allowed on these federal properties. We are still within 30 days of the order so implementation, communication and comment is still ongoing, but closing soon. There is also a 14 day timeframe for department heads to implement this order. C. Miller elaborated on some questions he had-if the BLM and Forest Service say that all E-Bikes are allowed, it will be virtually impossible to police them being banned on some trails that are county or city land.

S. Koberg summarized the 2019 float season with a PowerPoint presentation.

S. Koberg played a short video clip that the City of Boise put together for the 50th anniversary of the Greenbelt which included all Greenbelt partner agencies.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COORDINATOR REPORT:

M. Edwards provided an update on his activities.

Snoop Loop, D' Chaos, Twisted Sister, Low Rider, Junk Yard, Flow Trail, Shake 'n Bake and Storm'n Mormon will all have fall tune up work performed to prepare for winter. Long term trail fixes that occurred this summer included rebuild berms and rock drops on Shake n' Bake, rebuilt jumps and landings on Storm'n Mormon, address trail cupping on Storm'n Mormon and the shed got a new coat of paint. M. Edwards showed photos as he talked. C. Miller inquired if there is more work done in the spring and fall. M. Edwards replied that that was correct. A lot of his scheduling for work is weather dependent. The biggest project this summer was rebuilding the rock drop on Shake'n Bake.

Eagle Scouts built berms on Shake n' Bake with the help of family and friends.

A new plate compactor was purchased to offset the cost of renting one when needed.

Numerous events have occurred at the Bike Park including a veterans run and fund raiser for 9/11 Remembrance Run that spilled over onto the Ridge to Rivers trail system. We will be working with the City of Eagle on fine tuning the permitting process and possibly creating some courses that are plug and play. Currently, most of the permitting process occurs on the City of Eagle side.

High water at Hubbard Reservoir caused lots of weeds. In order for trail users to access the trails, trail trimming was done. In addition, fighting weeds in the entrance parking lot and fixing fencing on the northeast corner also occurred.

Oregon Trail work includes working with the Nation Park Service on signage, working with ITD to update entrance sign with horse symbols and working with BLM on rerouting trails due to erosion. Work completed at Oregon Trail includes sealcoat and striping of the parking lot, cutting back shrubs on the Oregon Trail ramp and clearing Kelton Trail wagon tracks. M. Edwards worked with Ada County GIS to do some aerial mapping of Oregon Trail. He has also been working on the legal description for the license agreement with Simplot.

OTHER BUSINESS:

K. Danley suggested creating a trail that circumvents the Bike Park that connects the Dry Creek trails to the north of the Bike Park to the trails south of the Bike Park. This trail would run north and south in general and be on the east side of the bike park. This way runners and equestrians can access trails

north and south of the Bike Park without having to go into the Bike Park. The positive result would be lower user conflict.

According to the Ada County Bike Park survey conducted the fall of 2019, 89% of the respondents were cyclists. The Ada/Eagle Bike Park trails are also 15 out of 29 (52%) bike only trails. It is wise planning to allow non-bike trail users an option to circumvent the bike park. As an equestrian, the only way to reach the trails to the north of the bike park from Veteran's trail is to go to the center of the bike park.

K. Danley is also a board member of the North West Neighborhood Association. The NWNA Board received a \$50,000 grant to create a neighborhood plan. The grant included a survey. In the survey, NWNA members requested more trails in NW Boise as there is in North End and East Boise. Outdoor activity connectivity is one of the NWNA goals. NWNA residents are willing to help with volunteer hours.

M. Edwards responded that the sightlines are long and he doesn't expect user conflicts until we have such high usage that it becomes an issue. He thinks this will be some time down the road. The parties went on to discuss this topic.

C. Miller inquired what goes in to naming a trail. S. Koberg responded that the most trails at the Bike Park were already named when Eagle canceled the lease agreement. There were only 3 names that S. Koberg created for the trails that were nameless at the time-Low Rider, Snoop Loop and Treasure View Traverse. There currently isn't a procedural guideline for trail naming, but S. Koberg welcomed any suggestions for trail names.

K. Danley inquired if the survey results can be found on line. M. Edwards is working to get these published. The results have been shared with the City of Eagle.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Danley adjourned the meeting at 1:28p.m.