

MEETING MINUTES

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – September 27, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kari Kostka, Chuck Vertrees, Eric Plotkin, Emily Reaves, Hilarie Engle, Chris Miller, KC Shedden

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Scott Koberg, Robbie Sosin, Candy Hahlbeck, Brent Moore

INTRODUCTION:

K. Kostka called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

C. Vertrees moved to approve August 23, 2023 minutes, H. Engle seconded. Motion Passed. No agenda changes.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Oregon Trail: No Report.

Bike Park: No Report

Hubbard: K. Shedden may have an interest in joining the Hubbard Subcommittee.

A request was submitted to Development Services as part of their planned review process that Spring Rock work with Ada County Parks & Waterways to potentially invest in making improvements at Hubbard Reservoir per previous planning processes and site plan design drafts we have come up with. We aren't asking for much inside Spring Rock, but knowing we have this space at Hubbard we asked to be at the table for what improvements they may be able to invest in. B. Moore added that there is a request for the developer to expand the parking area as there is currently only parking for 8 cars and 2 trailers. It went to the Planning & Zoning Commission last month. The Planning & Zoning Commission didn't add that condition as part of their recommendation. The Developer did push back saying that they are adding a 30-acre park with several miles of trails. Planning & Zoning sided with the developer. B. Moore went on to say that Spring Rock has a Conservation Fund. There is a certain amount of money that is put into this fund every year for different projects. This money can also go to surrounding properties such as Hubbard Reservoir. S. Koberg inquired as to percentage of funds from the sale of homes that goes to the Conservation Fund. B. Moore couldn't recall the number. K. Shedden inquired if there is a master plan for Hubbard. S. Koberg responded that there is and also a site plan that was developed years ago. There are some planned improvements such as increasing the size of the parking lot and trail work at the southern entrance. B. Moore added that there will be a two-mile trail through the development. K. Kostka inquired about equestrian access. S. Koberg didn't think it was intended for equestrians, but it will be a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail.

E. Reaves inquired about the damage that was done to the Oregon Trail by a homeowner dumping unwanted dirt on to the trail. Parks staff repaired this damage. S. Koberg went on to talk about the other access point off Columbia and BLM reaching out to propose a trail connection at this site. We requested this access point ten years ago but was shot down by BLM. It sounds like BLM is coming back around to this idea. The parties went on to discuss in more detail.

GREENBELT SAFETY:

R. Sosin reported that he has been collecting survey responses. So far only 2 people have answered. He has been posted up on the Mesa GB segment and the Barber Pool GB segment. He has also been posting on social media. K. Shedden offered to volunteer on weekends if needed. K. Shedden inquired about who owns the Greenbelt section on the west side of Barber Park. S. Koberg responded that City of Boise performs some maintenance but thought HOA did some maintenance. E. Reaves added that HOA doesn't do any maintenance.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ADA COUNTY PARKS & WATERWAYS MASTER PLAN:

We weren't able to get an Advisory Board float due to several factors.

We are working on an after-action report for the Float the Boise partnership with leadership. There will be a final meeting with the Mayor's Office Chief of Staff, Ada County COO and other leaders with Boise Fire and other agency partners. This will happen the second week of October. The message for this year was that this was one of the smoothest seasons with a lot of collaboration from agency partners. The Float the Boise page was a huge hit. At the upcoming meeting they will discuss what improvements may arise next year along with thoughts and ideas for that.

The camera on the entry gate is still under construction. Next year we should have a more accurate estimate of total visitation and vehicle exit count. This was not a record-breaking season. There was some cooler weather in August along with other activities going on locally. For anticipated parking revenue we fell short of our target. We also have additional revenue from the Event Center and alcohol sales that makes us whole. E. Reaves added that the Float the Boise page was fantastic. He thinks next year we will use more of the live reporting of hazards/new hazards. C. Vertrees inquired if the lower parking numbers are due to higher shuttle riders? S. Koberg responded that shuttle ridership was right on track with previous years. He went on to say that people made other plans to not park in Barber Park. There was a high presence of Uber this year at Barber Park. E. Plotkin inquired if there was an opportunity to add rental availability on the Float the Boise Website. S. Koberg thought this may be possible but would defer to the Raft and Tube contractor for that. C. Miller inquired if there were any complaints about the air stations. S. Koberg responded that these complaints were minimal, and behavior has changed. We did offer manual pumps around the parking loop. These pumps disappeared quickly. Floaters continue to make use of the outlet at the Beach House.

EXPO PARK:

We are in an aggressive time frame to get this park permitted and built. There have been some issues with the permitting process. There have been some changes to the site that include introducing some water from the river to the site for something called ecological uplift to create the lowlands part of the site. The site for the all-wheel sports garden will include a flat oval for roller derby use among other things.

OFFICE REMODEL:

The office remodel is under way. Inside there will be 2 new offices and a collaboration space. Outside there will be a roof extension on the north side of the building. This should be done late October early November.

PROGRAM AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST REPORT:

R. Sosin reported that he had a brief meeting with Jeff Milkes. Jeff said that people going to the survey to answer on their own is low. The data looks good so far, but they are still analyzing it. There is a meeting in the next week or so and they will discuss their findings. From there they will go forward with their recommendations and collaborate with us.

On September 16th S. Sosin assisted at the Duathlon at the Ada/Eagle Bike Park. It was successful event with 220 kids that participated. No incidents were reported. Next year's event will be held at the same location.

R. Sosin and S. Koberg met with a member of Weed, Pest, and Mosquito to talk about installing some owl boxes at Hubbard. These owl boxes are designed to only attract Barn Owls. The way the opening is cut into the box only attracts these kinds of owls. The owl box will go on a 12-foot pole. Once a year Pest Abatement will service these boxes. The boxes are on a locked pulley system, so a ladder is not needed. The owl boxes will be a holistic approach to pest control at Hubbard. There would also be some form of education information in the area. K. Shedden added that this would be a neat interpretative item. He also thinks bat boxes would be good to see out there.

OTHER ITEMS:

C. Miller inquired about the role of the Master Plan Committee. There hasn't been much activity in the last 6 months. S. Koberg responded that there is a lot going on behind the scenes and the process hasn't been project team based lately.

E. Reaves inquired about the survey being low. What does that mean? R. Sosin responded that out of the surveys they send out, 90% or more responded. There was a number they were aiming for, but responses were below this number. E. Plotkin added that this seems questionable. C. Miller asked for clarification. There were surveys that were mailed out to residents. This is where there was a good response rate. There was also a general online survey, which was where there wasn't as good of a response rate. S. Koberg invited Board members to attend the check in meeting via a Teams meeting. This is typically a quick meeting, but with an open agenda.

The group briefly discussed the meeting dates for November and December. This meeting dates will be nailed down at the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Kostka adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.