

Ridge to Rivers
2nd Quarter Partnership Meeting

Minutes

January 11, 2017

Partners present: Sara Arkle, Boise City Parks and Recreation (City); Holly Hampton, Boise National Forest Service; Tate Fischer and Larry Ridenhour, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Stephen Dempsey, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; David Gordon; Ridge to Rivers. Mark Iverson, minutes recorder.

Others present: Karen Danley.

FY 17 2nd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

Ridge to Rivers received funding to surface trails in the Table Rock and Castle Rock area with a ¾-minus road mix/top soil mix. These trails would be forty-eight to thirty-six inches wide.

Updated 2017 Trail Planning Goals

As the snow recedes, Ridge to Rivers plans to design alignments for trails to be built over the next several years. Specialists will survey these areas for sensitive plant species this spring. The connection from Watchmen Trail to Three Bears Trail was an area of focus, as well as the Hawkins Ranch property and the Redhawk area.

Winter Program Update

The Table Rock trail closures system is in place, and currently the trails remain open. The Idaho State Historical Society, the East Boise Community Reentry Center and Warm Springs Golf Course are assisting Ridge to Rivers when it is necessary to change signage for closures. Ridge to Rivers' crews pruned numerous trails prior to heavy snowfall and have been working on tool refurbishing and vandal proofing signs.

2017 Professional Trail Builders Association (PTBA) Sustainable Trails Conference

In March of 2017 the Ridge to Rivers team will be traveling to Bend, Oregon to present at the Professional Trail Builders Association's Sustainable Trails Conference on collaborative management, the Ridge to Rivers Partnership, and work with non-profit organizations.

Ridge to Rivers Special Use Policy Update

The Ridge to Rivers Special Use Policy is in stage two of the draft process. Travis Miller, City Special Events Coordinator, Dee Oldham, City Admin/Property Manager, and David Gordon with Ridge to Rivers worked together to write the first draft of the policy. Once all the feedback is received, formatting and final editing of the policy will begin, followed by final partner agency review and approval process.

Ridge to Rivers will not be as involved in managing trails around the Bogus Basin ski area. They will assume a consulting role for trail-related races and events held within the Bogus Basin Ski Area Special Use Permit Area boundary. If an event also includes trails outside of that boundary, Ridge to River's special use policies will be adhered to. If the new policy is approved, areas outside of Bogus Basin such as Stack Rock Reserve, Eastside, Sinker Creek and Mr. Big would be available for mountain bike racing. To utilize Entrance Exam Trail, the new policy would state that race promoters need to gain private owner authorization through the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV).

Race applications for 2017 needed to be submitted by December 31, 2016. Races applied for in 2017 include XC12K Race from Idaho Nordic, Resort to Rock Race, Foothills 50K Frenzy, Dirty Dog Trail Marathon and the Idaho Enduro Series. Even though many of these race promoters have multiyear permits through the Forest Service and BLM, they still needed to submit an annual race application.

Stack Rock Trailhead

Through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), funding was provided by Federal Highway Administration, administered through the Ada County Highway District, in partnership with the Forest Service, to improve some pullouts along Bogus Basin Road and to construct a trailhead for the Stack Rock Trail System. The Forest Service is working on a design for the trailhead and a location has been identified. LTTV was involved with the trailhead project because they hold private land easements on the section of trail lying between the trailhead and Forest Service property accessing the Eastside Trail and Stack Rock. Forest Service staff stated that they would prefer to have these easements held by the City.

Joe Samer, of Idaho Power, contacted Ridge to Rivers regarding the Idaho Power Line 412 Project to discuss how the project might affect trail systems. The project entailed replacing certain power poles, tightening guide wires and installing new insulators. Some issues discussed were the introduction of heavy equipment to certain parts of the trail systems, how they will access the poles to be replaced, and how to mitigate any damage to the trails. If old road cuts did not remain or exist, the topic of airlifting replacement poles and equipment was discussed as a possibility.

Additional Ridge to Rivers Partnership Updates

Boise City

The City plans to run fiber cables to the Jim Hall Foothills Learning Center in March and April, 2017. There is a possibility of trenching, but this would not affect trails.

The levy that was passed in 2015 has raised ten-million dollars in the course of two years in order to acquire open space and to conduct improvement projects in the Boise Foothills and on

the Boise River. The Boise City Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee was established over the fall of 2016 to manage the money intended for open space and Boise River projects for which there was to be an application package to utilize these funds.

Healthwise and the City have formed a temporary agreement for access to the Hillside to Hollow trail system behind their campus, which includes parking for trail users. As the Healthwise campus expands, permanent access to the Hillside to Hollow system may still need to be addressed. The new Full Sail Trail connection from Hillside Park to the Hillside to Hollow trail system helped with this access issue.

The City and BLM met with Representative Phyllis King to discuss the topic of electric bikes (ebikes). A thoughtful discussion needed to take place by all interested parties pertaining to the use of e-bikes in the Boise Foothills, to see whether these would be approved and if these would be defined as motorized or non-motorized vehicles. The City would oppose such legislation.

Idaho Fish and Game

Deer populations are having trouble feeding over the winter and Idaho Fish and Game may institute a feeding program. Fish and Game is considering closure of the Wildlife Management Area Trails for the winter. Deer that come into yards should not be fed as this could kill deer and elk.

Bureau of Land Management

The majority of updates for the new Ridge to Rivers maps have been completed. Due to feedback from the trail plan survey, many new features had been added to the new maps.

Forest Service

The Bogus Basin Forest Health Project was signed and will likely affect traffic on Bogus Basin Road. Spotted knapweed along Watchman Trail is an issue and was treated in 2016. Collaborative efforts to treat more knapweed infected areas were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.