

**BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS SECOND QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 8:00 A.M.**

Partners present: Sara Arkle and Doug Holloway, Boise City Parks and Recreation (Department); Megan Impson, Boise National Forest Service (Forest Service); Brent Ralston and David Draheim, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Peter Ott, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG); Stephaney Kerley, (Boise National Forest Service); David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers (R2R). Brenda Reynolds, minutes recorder.

Others present: Dennis Swift, Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association (SWIMBA); Tim Breuer, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV).

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY 18 2nd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

Minor updates had been made to the 2018 Budget/Work Plan. Two new pickup trucks had been provided by the Department to replace two older ones. R2R had been able to retain one of the older trucks. Two new mountain bikes and a Bob Trailer had been purchased as a result of increased 2017 funding by the Forest Service.

B. Winter Trail Condition Update

Weather conditions had not allowed trails to freeze in the mornings, and crews were trying to communicate, through media sources, which trails were acceptable to use as Bucktail, Polecat Loop, and Lower Military Reserve trails were already damaged. Due to trail conditions, Table Rock had been closed and even though signage had been in place and information had been broadcasted, people were still using the trails. The decision had been made to close and lock the gate as erosion made the drain dips ineffective at shedding water.

A group through 10 Barrel Brewing Company and Boise Trail Runners had started posting trail conditions on social media. D. Gordon reached out to these groups in an effort to tie them into the R2R messages and webpage to ensure that accurate information would be shared.

The all-weather trails that had been completed this past fall were in great shape.

C. Winter Projects Update

Contract crews had completed the Castle Rock all-weather trail. Previously closed areas had been seeded. A report on the Idaho Power Line 412 replacement and mitigation was given.

Crew bikes and the bob trailer had been modified to make them more tool-carrying specific. The old outhouse trailer had been modified and designated as the volunteer tool trailer.

D. 2018 Projects Update

GPS data had been collected along trails in the Lower Halls Gulch in an effort to provide a 2-mile 100% all-weather route by next winter. A contractor would work apply the all-weather where necessary along existing trails, and also replace a number of failing fences in Lower Halls Gulch.

Ridge to Rivers crew would install a chicane at the upper end of the Mountain Cove Trail to alert mountain bikers that it will now be designated as a slow zone due to high congestion.

Work had been scheduled to replace one or more bridges in Lower Halls Gulch. Plans had been made to spend time in Shingle Creek to restore failing sections of trail. Crews were helping staff at Bogus Basin to re-crown the Deep Point Turnpike during summer 2018.

The Curlew Connection was on the work schedule, but awaiting BLM NEPA review and UXO clearance.

Two flow trail options were identified and an easement is being worked on for the portions that cross private land. BLM is conducting NEPA analysis for these trails, as both cross their jurisdiction. Private funds may be available for construction of at least one of these trails. The Freestone Flow Trail would be designed by Ridge to Rivers staff and a private contractor, who would then construct the trail. The Army Corps of Engineers required the ground be reviewed for unexploded ordnances once the trail had been pin flagged. This requirement would also include the Freestone Flow trail.

The possibility of trails outside of Hidden Springs were discussed and would connect to the Avimor Trails. They would largely be on Ada County property and contained high wildlife values. The details were being worked out and Ada County had funding for the trails.

There were discussions about an expansion project at Cartwright Trailhead and the Department would be sharing the new design plans with BLM. Funding had not yet been acquired.

Projects that were scheduled a year out included a trail concept in Hawkins Reserve. It would cross BLM property and possibly private property so there were discussions regarding an easement acquisition. Trail design for the Stack Rock trailhead was discussed and a new trail route would be laid out from the trailhead to Sweet Connie saddle. The design schedule was discussed, but there was no funding for the trail yet.

E. Easement Efforts

An easement agreement between the Terteling Co. and the Appleton Family was discussed for land between the Polecat Trails and the Hillside to the Hollow trails as this remained a high priority in the Trail Management Plan. There were efforts to obtain possible connection easements for a trail linking the Seaman Gulch trails to Cartwright Road involving several land owners.

F. E-bike Discussion

Council had approved e-bikes with electric motors no more than 750 watts that did not exceed 20 miles per hour. Areas of use on City property and agency lands and future federal changes were discussed. If legislative changes permitted use, Forest Service's policy would take time to change. Twenty-five R2R trails on City-owned property had been identified for e-bike use with a permit. On the remaining non-motorized Ridge to River trails, e-bikes are not allowed; There would be a continued effort to educate users and efforts had been made to reach out to e-bike vendors in order to educate their customers on e-bike use.

G. R2R Map App Update

Ada County had offered to provide the staff-time needed to develop a better interactive map for the R2R system. There would be a mobile app version of the interactive map with trail condition notifications. A drone would be used to obtain photos of the trail system. Phase One would be a directional information push with hope for a roll-out next winter. The Department would be the lead for marketing and fundraising had been discussed with Ada County's development group. There would be a cost to house the imagery in cloud based storage, as well as administrator costs, in the amount of. about \$40,000. 10 Barrel Brewing Co. had supported a similar effort in Bend, OR and there were plans to reach out to them to partner on this project. In 2018, the Department would be updating the R2R website, adding an option to donate to trail maintenance and possibly purchasing merchandise such as R2R hats and trail maps online. Last year's map sales were the lowest ever as more people seemed interested in digital options.

Trail Condition Reports by other user groups

An earlier discussion regarding other groups providing trail condition reports was discussed. D. Gordon had contacted the group associated with 10 Barrel Brewing Co., who had an Instagram page which posted photos and conditions, but he had not heard back from them. Emphasis had been placed on having these groups direct their followers to link to the R2R webpage for accurate trail information. Even though 10 Barrel Brewing Co. called themselves the "official beer of the Boise Trail System", they were not affiliated with the R2R program but would be invited to become involved in the trail maintenance days. Anheuser Busch, who owns 10 Barrel Brewing Co., would be contacted in hopes to speak with someone at a corporate level. R2R would be willing to offer a one-hour class to teach people how to report accurate trail conditions.

H. Ada County Ordinance Process Regarding Upper 8th Street

There had been conversations with Ada County Parks and Waterways and BLM regarding the on-going camping at the upper 8th Street ATV trailhead. BLM said it was not illegal to camp there, but there was a fourteen-day limit on the length of stay and campers were leaving trailers there for over the time limit. Partner agencies had hoped that Ada County would come up with an ordinance to address this situation, which would be enforceable and would include the ATV lot. The Land Use Plan was another avenue as an option to address this situation.

I. R2R Partnership Updates

Forest Service

Forest Service had a meeting planned with Bogus Basin to enter into an MOU allowing a third party contractor to review two new master plan proposals for the multi-use trail system. They wanted D. Gordon to be involved in the conversation when the data gathering process would begin later this summer.

An agreement had been reached with Ada County Highway District and Forest Service for hauling logs.

IDFG

Updated information regarding motorized and non-motorized trails had been sent to the Department. The fence at Homestead Trail had been repaired about fourteen times. Efforts would need to be addressed to either mitigate or stop trail damage. Other stakeholders were involved, such as the Harris Family and education efforts regarding closure of the trail had been discussed.

BLM

There would be continued work on the NEPA projects regarding trails. They would be moving forward with their R&P, with a meeting planned in February with other agencies. Information regarding fire assistance mitigation would be looked into.

City

The Department would like to present a timeline to Boise City Council with all of the activities that would be taking place along Bogus Basin Road.

East Side Trail would be affected due to a timber sale as it followed an old logging road. There would be times when the trail would be closed and road traffic would be affected. Information regarding this possibility had been conveyed to the public.

The City had been approached by a developer who had purchased property off Pheasant Lane after the Table Rock fire. Trail connectivity from Warm Springs Rd. through Boulder Heights and Mesa Reserve may be a possibility.

The City bought 840 acres adjacent to Stack Rock. There was no anticipated timeline for trail development in that area. Hawkins Ranch Reserve had been purchased in 2015 and 2016, however, no new trail development was planned for this reserve for a number of years. This reserve contained wildlife habitat, native plant species, and clean water elements associated with the Levy Funds. There had been eight Open Space and Clean Water Improvement Projects requested for a total of \$900,000. City Council would be examining those applications. None of those projects affected trails.

I. Opportunity for questions from Non-partner agency meeting attendees

There was discussion to link trail conditions to the SWIMBA webpage. The start of Bob's Trail was explained. Having R2R maps with Stack Rock trails was also discussed.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Partnership at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.