

Ridge to Rivers
4th Quarter Partnership Meeting

MINUTES

August 7, 2014

Partners present: Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways, Doug Holloway and Julia Grant, Boise City Department of Parks and Recreation, Stephaney Church, Boise National Forest, Larry Ridenhour and Tate Fischer, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Krista Mueller and Steven Dempsey, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Will Taliaferro, Ridge to Rivers. Presenters: Glenn Rummler and Maureen Bolton, Boise Trail Works. Merlani DeVries, minutes' recorder.

The meeting commenced at 8:06 a.m.

- 4th Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review
- Summer/Fall Work Update

W. Taliaferro gave an update on the Urban Connector – the Mark Urban Memorial – which is now complete. About 50 forest service jumpers, BLM jumpers, and retired jumpers were involved in the project which was much appreciated. A week later the jumpers jumped that same spot in his memory. T. Fischer commented that it was a very special moment for the jumpers as it gave closure to many.

W. Taliaferro explained that one of the accomplishments this summer was the completion of the Bogus Basin maintenance. They decided not to extend the Around the Mountain trail because it did not seem necessary. The single track was getting ridden in and grassing nicely and where they wanted to put the extension was below the cat track and wouldn't really do anything for the experience. They also worked on the corners and other portions of Around the Mountain trail that had not come back as hoped after winter.

Repairs to Buck Tail trail, in the Military Reserve, are now complete. This project was contracted out and the major difficulty with this project was going to be how large of a corridor of impact this was going to have on the trail. Since then, 90% of the trail is healed and grass has filled in the area nicely. People seemed to be pleased with the outcome.

The maintenance and cribbing for Cottonwood Trail, in the Military Reserve, is also complete. This is a narrow trail with steep sides on both sides of the trail. They removed the old wood cribbing and replaced it. J. Grant commented that the last time the woodwork was replaced was ten years ago. They are also working on the Cottonwood Trail steps, which is part of the steep hillside. They are working on placing the stonework for these steps. J.

Grant commented that she had pictures that would be posted on Facebook to show the intense work that it takes to build these steps.

W. Taliaferro explained that the same maintenance will begin in Hulls Gulch where much of the cribbing needs to be replaced. They will be hauling in timber and stone in order to put in a vertical edge wall. They have reached out to the Southwest Idaho Mountain Bike Association (SWIMBA) for volunteers as this is their Adopt-A-Trail.

W. Taliaferro state that one of the fall projects is the Central Ridge Spur Trail in the Military Reserve as it is really rutted out. They will be working on in-fill and rerouting this part of the trail.

On Chickadee Ridge Trail there is a steep, fall-line trail that is eroded and has widened quite a bit. This is a pedestrian-only trail so they will be building steps to fix this.

There is also an issue on Deer Point Trail, where a big tree fell on a bridge along the trail. They were able to move the tree off the trail, but there was damage to the bridge that they will be fixing. S. Church asked if this was private land. J. Grant confirmed that this was part of the Bogus Basin bowl.

L. Ridenhour asked where they were getting rocks to do these various projects. W. Taliaferro responded that they have gotten river rock from the Boise River Park construction project. They also have contacts at Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to get Rocky Canyon Salt stone which are great, big stones. Some sandstone was also purchased

- Volunteer Efforts

W. Taliaferro commented that volunteer work is somewhat slow in the summer.

After losing the Adopt-A-Trail volunteer group for Cottonwood Trail, the Boise Fire Department's Station 1 stepped in to help rebuild this trail in the Military Reserve. Firefighters have hauled in wood, crushed stone, and dirt which isn't an easy haul. They will also be brushing this area. There have been six to eight firefighters, mainly off-duty, who have volunteered their time.

Fairmont Specialty Insurance Group volunteered with an infill, tread-breaking, stone-coping project.

There are some Eagle Scout projects to help replace fencing from the fire near Table Rock, as well as over at Castle Rock, Eagle Ridge and Eagle Rock.

Ulrich Kamm has been pruning while on patrol. Ultimate marathon runners have a certain number of volunteer hours to obtain and they have also been doing special pruning.

- Trail Ranger Program

W. Taliaferro commented that trail rangers have noticed slower use of the trails due to the heat. He also informed the Ridge to Rivers partners (Partners) that the trail rangers are transitioning to the volunteer system and have begun to log their hours and patrols in the system. For May through July, there have been 467 ranger patrols, and approximately 4,000 users have been counted. There has been a big increase in dog waste on the trails, especially at Table Rock.

- Daniels Creek Property Trails

J. Grant gave some background about the Grossman family, from Arizona, who, after many years of discussion and thanks all of the work of Paul Woods and Chuck McDevitt, have donated a trail easement of about 13 miles. R2R partners will tour the proposed trail locations in September. Federal agencies will need to look at the portions located on their property from a NEPA standpoint. The goal is to have these trails signed and mapped within twelve to eighteen months.

D. Holloway explained that there may be a conservation easement for the east side of Bogus Basin Road but nothing concrete has come from this yet. They are working with Land Trust for a potential agreement to have a trail on the east side, but nothing is in writing yet. D. Holloway has assured D. Gordon that they will not take on any more trails unless the financial resources are available. K. Mueller requested that, if anything comes from the discussions regarding this easement, IDFG be would like to be involved with the plan to make sure that the habitat is not affected.

- Hillside to Hollow Open Space Planning Process Update

J. Grant explained that the next public meeting will be Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm at Hillside Junior High. They took previous public feedback and have streamlined the initial fifteen maps to one main map that has the consistencies from the various maps. This one main map will have up to five multiple choices in various areas for people to choose from to get general opinion.

- City Open Space Reserve Planning Process

D. Holloway explained that they met with the consultant, Agnew Beck, who will begin the planning process for the City Open Space Reserve Plan in October, which is approximately 4,000 acres of reserves, and will be presented to City Council the first week in September to keep them abreast of the process and objectives. The study should be complete by the summer of 2015. It was decided that there should be a City Open Space Reserve Plan as each Partner already has an open space management plan for their land and the City of Boise does not. Agnew Beck will also complete the Open Space Management Plan that has been in the works for a while. The consulting firm is very knowledgeable with open space plans and is also assisting with the Hillside to Hollow Open Space Plan. ERO Resources Corporation will still be involved with the technical writing for the Open Space Management Plan and

each agency will receive the final draft for approval. Agnew Beck should be done with the Open Space Management Plan in December. Once the final draft is complete, there will be one more public meeting for the Open Space Management Plan after which the Partners will receive a copy of the plan.

- Ridge to Rivers Master Plan

J. Grant gave an update regarding the Camel's Back Chute. David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers Division Manager, had applied for a grant through the Recreation Trail Program (RTP). The grant was denied because RTP felt that this is a City of Boise green parks project and not part of the Ridge to Rivers trails system. They will continue to look for funding for this project.

D. Holloway stated that, once the reserve is done, the City has committed help fund the Ridge to Rivers Master Plan which will begin in the summer of 2015. This will take about nine months to complete. Agnew Beck will also be working on this master plan. J. Grant explained that they had received a \$25,000 grant from Wells Fargo a few years ago for this, but that they had not yet found the matching dollars. She asked that if there are any other cost-share grants through any of the agencies to let her know. K. Mueller said that the new cycle for Wells Fargo grants starts in the fall and that there may be other financial opportunities for the J. Grant to look at. IDFG had received the \$25,000 grant in the past and will apply for it again.

- Polecat Trailhead Update

Julia stated that the first solar gate has been installed at Polecat Trailhead. This trailhead was reopened last week and is getting a lot of use. They had talked about connecting the trail to the trailhead, but it had to drop down so much that this transition couldn't be made. From the parking lot, there is a pass-through that leads to the trail. The gate is only open during certain hours, but if someone is in the trailhead afterhours they will still be able to leave. W. Taliaferro asked if there were any comments from the homeowners association regarding the final product. J. Grant answered that there was concern that the gate was very noisy which has since been fixed. They are also planting trees for the homeowners and in return, the homeowners will provide the irrigation to maintain these trees.

- Boise Trail Works and Marketing Ideas

G. Rummler presented that the idea of Boise Trail Works is to create neutral, nonprofit support, to help increase awareness of Boise trails to those in the Treasure Valley who aren't users, as well as the younger generation, in order to teach them the value of the open space that is unique to Boise. M. Bolton explained that the word "neutral" in this instance is used so that it supports all users; whether they are cyclists, ATV/motorized riders, horseback riders, bikers, runners, people with dogs or the nonusers. She noticed that people did not realize the value of the trails, how it enhances surrounding property and that, even though there are many cycling organizations, there wasn't a group that would promote all users and who could help anticipate issues that may arise as the trails are used more.

G. Rummier added that the main purpose is to support/assist and partner with open space managers and to be an additional resource for them. Resources such as fundraising will be a main goal of the organization. The funds raised will also help develop and design educational resources, materials, and signage that could reach a larger audience and help increase general awareness. The organization could also help update an identity for Ridge to Rivers that can be protected. The current Ridge to Rivers logo cannot be trademarked because, visually, it isn't unique enough. Boise Trail Works could also help support and generate volunteerism. As more projects arise they could also be involved and offer supervision for the various volunteer programs.

M. Bolton said that another purpose of this organization would be to provide a link between the community and trails so that the public can have a way to provide suggestions and feedback. An idea to help with communication would be to segment areas into groups with a representative who could give Boise Trail Works feedback from trail users. An instance to link businesses with the trails system could be to offer them items such as t-shirts to sell which in return be a fundraising opportunity. Collaborating with Boise State University (BSU) who also has resources that pertain to trails would also be a good relationship, the goal being to find the best way to accommodate all users.

J. Grant explained that Friends of Boise Trails would be the same as Boise Trail Works. It would just be a name change and asked if anyone had feedback for Boise Trail Works.

S. Church said that having a "Friends" group that could fundraise and educate is a great way to connect more people with the trails system. S. Koberg agreed that this could be very positive. J. Grant also agreed that this organization could be a public liaison.

K. Mueller explained that this would be helpful for agencies such as IDFG and BLM so that these agencies can connect and communicate more with the public, which is lacking right now. D. Holloway stated that forming an advisory group, to help educate and communicate why things are done in a certain way, is very helpful. The other part is that agencies can't ask for money so having a group who can raise the funds for them is important. He is glad to see an organization like this involved again, along with the additional team members who have joined.

D. Holloway's concern is the name change. Everyone knows what an organization is with a title that includes the word "Friends of". G. Rummier explained that the strategy behind changing the title "Friends of" is to target a different demographic for education and communication. Part of the demographic would be tourism and younger generations. These groups may be more willing to be involved if "Trail Works" was used instead. J. Grant commented that the bulk of trail users are in the older demographic and are familiar with "Friends of" organizations. M. Bolton reiterated that in this instance BSU could assist in obtaining a more accurate demographics study. She explained that this is not geared to the regular users, but more to engage all users, especially nonusers. G. Rummier explained that

they are also focused on the younger demographic so that they will be involved in the future of the trails system.

S. Koberg did not have input regarding the name, but appreciated the value of focusing on non-trail users who do not know what it entails to maintain trails. It is shocking that there are a number of people who have lived in the Treasure Valley most of their lives and have never set foot on a Ridge to Rivers trail. He explained that there are opportunities for similar trail systems to the west, which is why it is important to set the tone here and help educate future trails that will be developed in other areas of the Treasure Valley.

J. Grant informed the Partners that G. Rummler will send the presentation to her so that she can forward it to them.

- TrailSmart

Julia gave an update regarding fundraising through TrailSmart. TrailSmart is now up and running. People can go to the website, watch the educational videos and donate. A weekly report is sent to Matt Johnson and Brian Wiley so that they can keep a list of donors and get information to donors in a timely manner. TrailSmart has been advertised on Facebook. There is also a television station that would like to interview trail users about TrailSmart. The next phase will be to have sandwich board signs out for a month informing trail users about TrailSmart. These will be put at the twelve trailheads where the surveys are usually done. The goal is to have these signs out in late August for the entire month of September.

- Discussion Items

J. Grant gave an update on the Foothills 20/20, which is an organization created by the biking community. D. Gordon met with Chris Eder with Foothills 20/20 to learn more about who they are, and what they are hoping to see and do in the Foothills. Among many discussion points was the current mountain bike race policy. C. Eder had not seen the policy, so D. Gordon sent a copy to him following their meeting. K. Mueller asked if the policy was online. J. Grant explained that the policy has since been posted. When meeting with C. Eder, the Ridge to Rivers Master Plan was also discussed and D. Gordon suggested that Foothills 20/20 be involved with giving feedback on behalf of the portion of the biking community that they hope to represent.

S. Koberg and L. Ridenhour had attended a meeting on behalf of D. Gordon with the Boise Chamber of Commerce, which was supposed to promote biking in the City, but instead the meeting was primarily about mountain biking, especially bike races, and not about roadway biking. Most who were present were bike shop owners and mountain bikers wanting to be educated on mountain biking policies. It was clear that the community does not understand the policies and the partnerships among the agencies involved with Ridge to Rivers.

K. Mueller updated the Partners that the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Management Plan is complete and in the process of being signed. Public comment, which was included in

the WMA Plan, had comments from four mountain bike race planners who wanted more bike trails for racing purposes. K. Mueller would like to be involved with any additional communication and/or meetings with the biking community so that she can help educate that there is only one biking trail in the WMA for Ridge to Rivers and that there aren't plans for anymore trails once the WMA Plan is signed.

J. Grant explained that she and D. Gordon have discussed educating the public about the Ridge to Rivers Partnership by posting it on Facebook maybe two to three times per year. S. Koberg agreed that fostering an understanding of Ridge to Rivers is so important, especially educating people on the race policy and the future Ridge to Rivers Master Plan. L. Ridenhour commented that it is also important to explain to the public that each agency has its own policies that need to be abided by. K. Mueller suggested that a link to each agency's master plan be included in order to help the public understand the legal mandates that are in place.

J. Grant informed the Partners that they received notification that Idaho High School Mountain Biking has been accepted.

J. Grant updated the Partners on the Avenza map, which is an online Ridge to Rivers map that can be downloaded for \$4.99. The concern being that the paper map is almost double in cost. L. Ridenhour explained that Chris Clay, who helped with this map application, pointed out that people who purchase the paper maps use these for a different purpose than those users who want the electronic version. An electronic version is also cheaper to reproduce than a paper one. Another point was that even though the electronic version was a little less than what most charge for a map like this, this charge could be revisited next year and increased. Also, the Avenza map is only one side of the paper map, and does not have the features of the paper map. McCall has done something similar and they charge similarly; \$12.99 for the paper version vs. \$6.99 for the electronic version. C. Clay also suggested that they look at the marginal cost difference between the electronic and paper map and then adjust the charge accordingly. S. Dempsey commented that the GPS capability, with the Avenza application, is a major selling point. L. Ridenhour said that overall, feedback was that the GPS feature also helps people stay on the right trails and could be beneficial in an emergency to help find the quickest way back. T. Fischer agreed that the "just in case" situations was the biggest reason he downloaded it and added that the Avenza application was very reasonable. S. Church commented that the community will always have some who prefer an electronic version, some who prefer the paper one, and others who will use both.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27am.