

**BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS THIRD QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017
8:00 A.M.**

Partners present: Sara Arkle, Boise City Parks and Recreation (City); Megan Impson, Boise National Forest Service; Tate Fischer, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Krista Biorn, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; David Gordon; Ridge to Rivers; Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways; Stephaney Kerley, United States Forest Service; Marcie Hernandez, minutes recorder.

Others present: Rick Surkamer and Tim Breuer, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley; Mark Tate, Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association; Karen Danley.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY17 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

For Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017) the following revenues and expenditures were projected under the Ridge to Rivers operating budget:

Projected Revenues:

Ada County	\$ 42,000
Boise City Base	\$ 377,023
Boise National Forest	\$ 30,000
<u>Bureau of Land Management</u>	<u>\$ 42,000</u>
Total	\$ 484,023

Projected Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 396,854
<u>Maintenance and Operations</u>	<u>\$ 87,169</u>
Total	\$ 484,023

September Heritage Trust Fund Balances:

Foothills Map Sales Account	\$ 31,173
Trail Maintenance/Construction Account	\$ 63,413

B. Spring Trail Maintenance Update

The trail maintenance looked the best that it had in 10-years, immediately following the winter snow melt. Those conditions changed drastically, due to the rain and runoff that had caused extensive amounts of erosion. Those circumstances directly impacted the struggle with trail maintenance. There were not many trails where drain dips had failed, but there were still massive amounts of erosion between the drain dips. There had also been a huge difference in trails that had been constructed by Ridge to Rivers (R2R) crews, compared to the trails that had been given to them to maintain. The trails constructed by the R2R crews had little to no erosion and required, essentially very little maintenance. The historical routes that had been picked up to maintain were very time consuming and costly.

There had been a large amount of adopt-a-trail opportunities that had taken place and R2R tried to maximize the amount of work that could be done with the size of staff that was available. A group of 40 students from the College of Idaho would be doing a short reroute from Kestrel up to Red Cliffs, which totaled about a quarter of a mile. Due to excessive grade, there had been many requests to reroute this section of trail. Onion bulbs were collected during construction to add an educational piece to the project; the onions would be transplanted in another area. Land Trust of the Treasure Valley would oversee another volunteer effort for Currant Creek Trail. Many volunteer projects needed to be rescheduled due to the amount of rain that was received.

C. 2017/ Project / Planning Update

Trail-Related Goals:

- Ada County was assisting with the Redhawk Area Trail expansion which was still ongoing. They were looking for a route linking the Red Tail lower area up to Avimor. Only Ada County property would be available for use of the connecting route. A larger parking lot may be added as well, for equestrian use.
- Trying to relocate Trail #16, Table Rock Loop: The access from the Boulder Heights neighborhood had to be closed due to the sale of private property.
- Up to three puncheon bridges would be constructed on Dry Creek Trail at priority crossings. Construction would start late May 2017. The construction material would be delivered as close as possible to the construction date to avoid material sitting, therefore making it harder to work with.
- Summer projects for Dry Creek Trail included armoring the second tier crossings as well as crib and tread work on priority areas.
- Maintenance of banked turns and additional out slope to in slope transitions were planned for Around the Mountain Trail this summer.
- There would be reconstruction of the crib wall at Kestrel Trail and tread improvement at Shane's Loop off of Rocky Canyon - both were planned summer projects.

- Tread improvements were ongoing along Bucktail Trail and almost completed along Kestrel Trails.
- Red Cliffs Trail was a large project; the trail was built by hand, and due to use when the conditions were muddy, alignment had shifted and the trail had widened substantially.
- Closing trail braids and switchback cuts along Seaman's Gulch Trails was complete.
- The Camel's Back chute project was complete. The rock steps had worked great, but had stopped too soon and further wood stepping was needed. The current steps created too high of a step. People were cutting a trail around the side to be able to get up to the stone steps. Parks and Recreation crews would be adding wood steps to resolve the problem.
- The ADA and all weather project at Lower Hulls Gulch Reserve was changed to Castlerock Reserve. The contract was awarded to YRU Construction and the project would be complete fall of 2017.
- Tread improvements, out slope re-establishments and improved drainage were Big Spring Loop projects that would be completed spring of 2017.
- Reconstructing the stone steps on Quarry and Table Rock Quarry Trails were projects that may fall off of the schedule, due to other projects that would take priority.
- The R2Rcrews would be training the Bogus Basin trail crews on trail maintenance. The Bogus Basin crew would maintain the ski resort's trails from this point on, with assistance from the R2Rcrews as needed.
- Eastside Trail crossing armoring was an upcoming summer project.
- The placement of additional stones on Peggy's Trail corners was completed.
- Tread improvement along Sweet Connie Trail was planned for the summer.
- Last month the chicanes, at key locations in Lower Hulls Gulch, were completed and turned out well. They were implemented to slow down mountain bikers. Chicanes may also be added to Military Reserve in the fall of 2017.
- Gates had been installed at key locations around Table Rock to facilitate trail closures when conditions were muddy.
- Rock Garden Trail on lower Table Rock, was a very large project. A major repair and maintenance contract had been awarded to YRU Contracting. The construction would consist of a lot of crushed stone, filling and trail reroutes. Completion was set for the summer.
- The cleanup efforts at Peggy's and Sweet Connie Trail junctions was completed.
- Speed-slowing stones and "Caution" signage on limited visibility corners had been added to Veterans Trail.

- The Currant Creek Trail addition had been completed in April with help from REI, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley and Hidden Springs Town Association Assistance.

Trailhead Related Goals:

- Due to BLM staffing changes, the Cartwright Trailhead had dropped in priority and would be revisited at a later date. T. Fisher would like the Femright-Watchman connection to take priority.
- The Lower Bogus Basin Trailhead at Dry Creek was a dirt pullout and was being utilized more as people discovered this area. Money needed to be raised to put in curbing and pavement. S. Arkle offered to ask ACHD if they were planning any projects above this location.

Trail Planning Goals – Trails with Respective Land Management Agencies and Ridge to Rivers Program Assistance:

- City of Boise was taking the lead on the Hawkins and Gehlkin property trail development.
- The Polecat to Hillside to Hollow ranked very high in the trail plan and was also a City of Boise project. This would be a key connection that would require an easement from the private land owner. The trail will be difficult to design.
- The Polecat to Seaman's Gulch property had an existing trail on private property. S. Arkle approached the land owner to see if they would be interested in an easement agreement with R2R and the City of Boise for the property with the existing trail. This agreement was in the negotiation process. S. Koberg offered financial help from Ada County to help to pay for the needed easement to make this trail connection possible.
- The Lower Foothills Flow Trail may not be possible due to private land issues, but should be explored closely before backing away from the concept.
- A non-motorized trail from Femrite's Patrol Trail #6 to the Watchman Trail #3 would be an incredible asset and had rated very highly in the Management Plan Survey and had been requested for many years.

Ridge to Rivers Special Use Policy Update:

Each agency was given a copy of the Special Use Guidelines; the wording was changed from "Policy" to "Guidelines." This was a necessary change by the BLM. The hope was that all agencies were in agreement of the final update. S. Arkle stated that the Special Use Guidelines would be brought to the City of Boise Parks and Recreation Commission to be adopted as a departmental policy.

R2R continued to get requests for non-competitive events and these Special Use Guidelines would help address these events.

Idaho Power 2017 Line 412 Project Update – BLM:

The project was still in review. They were still working with Idaho Power on the project.

Bogus Basin Road FLAP Project Update – USFS:

This project was still planned for 2018. The design plan of the project included equestrian parking and turn around. Paving the parking lot would not be in alignment with any other design that was in the system which raised the question of who would maintain and pay for the maintenance. USFS would not have the funding for pavement upkeep.

D.

Ada County Parks and Waterways:

S. Koberg stated that the flooding had been a strain on the county and the department, but it had been tremendous to see how the agencies came together. Ada County hoped things would dry up so as not to interfere with the Boise River float season revenue. Ada County budget process was coming up for Fiscal Year 2018 and \$42,000.00 was contributed last year to R2Rand the same would be requested this year.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

T. Fisher reported that the department had approved a 120-day detail and that he would request another 120-day detail as well, to cover their Outdoor Recreation Planner vacancy. Two new full-time staff had recently been hired, which had helped with the recent loss of a key employee. He would work in the interim on completing requests in a timely manner.

Boise National Forest Service:

M. Impson stated that the Bogus Basin Forest Health Project has been pushed back to 2018. There would be struggles in 2018 due to road maintenance, trail building and logging all taking place at the same time. They had worked with Ada County Highway District on an agreement for a route that the logs would be hauled down. This project had been implemented under the Good Neighbor Authority, in conjunction with Idaho Department of Lands. The Forest Service had also dealt with washed out and damaged roads.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG):

K. Biorn stated that the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was currently closed to all access. 90% of the fawns were lost in the Boise area this year and 80% had been lost state wide. Due to the harsh winter, the deer population had decreased significantly compared to numbers from 2016.

Homestead Trailhead had an estimated 11,000 people utilizing the trail even though it was closed. Enforcement efforts had increased for closed trails. Trailhead cameras had been destroyed by fires and would be replaced, which would help with trail enforcement efforts.

The partners suggested to maximize the exposure of trail and area closures by posting it on the front of the IDFG website. K. Biorn stated that she would review this option with their State office.

City of Boise:

S. Arkle stated that the City of Boise had been working with private landowners to do a property exchange in the Military Reserve near the Military Reserve Connector Trail. It had also been announced that the City received a grant for \$92,000.00 from the BLM to do some fire mitigation, invasive species management and reseeding. The Open Space and Clean Water Committee had approved an application process for improvement projects. This application process was developed to give agencies the opportunity to access the \$10,000,000.00 levy fund which was for improvement to the water quality in the Boise River and improvement to the habitat in the Boise Foothills.

Chad Crippe with the Idaho Statesman had started doing weekly write-ups on hot topics that impacted the local open space and habitat and was looking for more topics.

D. Gordon wanted to acknowledge the tremendous support and donations from local companies that had been given to the Ridge to Rivers Program and for the foresight into how important this organization was.

Opportunity for questions from Non-partner agency meeting attendees:

K. Danley had asked IDFG why the fawn population was 20% lower in body weight this year. K. Biorn responded that there had been more animals and less food this winter, and that fires were also a contributing factor.

T. Breuer, with the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, commented that the work that had been done at Table Rock after the fire had gone well. Stack Rock was likely to stay closed through spring due to ongoing logging. He also shared his view for the need for improved pullout parking along Bogus Basin Road.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Partnership at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 A.M.