

BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS SECOND QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
TUESDAY, April 17, 2018 8:00 A.M.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY 18 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

There were no comments or questions regarding updates to the Budget and Work Plan Review.

B. Partnership Recognition for BLM and USFS

Chris Clay, Matt Hamilton and Tom Lilly with the BLM were recognized for their efforts related to Ridge to Rivers map development. The new 5-year partnership agreement with the Forest Service had been signed. Megan Impson and Brenda Williams were instrumental in moving this process through to completion.

C. Trail Condition/Maintenance Update

Maintenance was continuing on the trails while weather conditions were favorable. The drain dips were working, but erosion had occurred between the drain dips.

Volunteer projects included Eagle Scouts replacing a two-rail fence with a three-rail fence at the Old Pen trailhead. At the Oregon Trail Reserve, an Eagle Scout was going to install closure fences to mitigate damage from users not staying on the trail. Another Eagle Scout project centered on closing social trails in the Lower Halls Gulch Reserve, to prevent further parties and illegal camping from occurring. R2R staff had removed large amounts of trash from that area and the lower Military Reserve; Boise Police bike patrol had more of a presence in the reserve area to deter encampments.

A National Trails Day Project will entail construction of a quarter-mile neighborhood access trail into the Hillside to the Hollow Reserve. Development had occurred in that area since the original master plan, and information would be shared with the public and Central Foothills Neighborhood Association via social media.

The Terranativa Trail on the back side of Table Rock had been scheduled for rerouting with work done by volunteers from the College of Idaho and Boise Brewing. Micron Young Professions and the EPA, along with the adopt-a-trail groups, would be working on various trail maintenance. Two scout groups were scheduled to work on Seaman Gulch and Shingle Creek trails. Fifteen volunteer trail rangers started on April 1; one of these rangers would be on horseback.

Several donations had recently been received and other companies or organizations had made commitments for donations. These funds went into Heritage Trust and would be used for materials for amenities such as bridges, as well as grant cost-share funding related to future construction projects.

D. 2018 Projects Update

The City had been working on a new website design for R2R. It would be active sometime around the first week in May. It would contain the same information but with a more streamlined appearance.

Lower Hulls Reserve would move ahead with all-weather surfacing of 3500 linear feet of trails. Cuddy Mountain Trails had been awarded the contract. R2R would complete the resurfacing of one section with Cuddy Mountain Trails completing the remainder before the end of September.

Slow-Zone designated work was scheduled for completion on Mountain Cove Trail with signage and chicanes.

Improvements were scheduled for Red-winged Blackbird Trail with all-weather surfacing of approximately 400 feet. Fall would be the target for the potential extension of trail loops in the Hidden Springs area. Ada County intended to submit the budget request in June. Data collected on big game in the area had prompted plans to adopt measures for seasonal closures with Ada County continuing to work closely with IDFG.

E. Ada County/BLM Foothills Camping Closure

At the request of the Ridge to River Partnership, Ada County had met with their legal staff to discuss development of an ordinance to address overnight camping in the lower Foothills. Their legal department had developed draft amendment language which would be routed to the agency partners for review. Possible seasonal closures were an option. Concerns about officers being able to enforce code violations across boundaries was discussed. Data collection would begin on usage in the areas of impact by Ridge to Rivers crews, along with documentation of any police incidents, to develop and implement future ordinances that would allow for the enforcement without over restricting. Specific areas of concern were 8th Street and Rocky Canyon. Well-defined boundaries and areas of impact would be reviewed before presenting in a public hearing.

F. Trail Etiquette Campaign

Due to a number of concerning incidents related to speeding mountain bikers, several local bike shop owners and a SWIMBA representative met with R2R staff in an effort to generate ideas to curb behavior that created ill-will toward other trail users. Drake Cooper was contacted to put together an educational messaging strategy that would be multi-faceted to reach out to all trail-users with components for mountain bike users, hikers and those who use the trails with their pets. Funding for the marketing would most likely come from Heritage Trust.

G. Easement Efforts Update

Efforts to obtain easements in the 36th Street to Polecat Reserve area were ongoing, for access to land that would link Hillside to the Hollow to Polecat Reserve.

The Highland Land and Livestock easement agreement had been signed by both parties. The easements would allow for purpose built mountain bike trails to be built in Upper Military Reserve and west of 8th Street, if BLM NEPA and City outreach proved favorable. These trails would also need UXO clearance from an Army Corps of Engineers contractor before being allowed to be built. Efforts had continued for possible easements involving several landowners for a trail linking Seaman Gulch to Polecat Reserve.

H. Mountain Bike Purpose Built Trail Update

Since the last quarterly meeting, it was determined that the UXO removal would need to be pursued through the Army Corp. of Engineers. If they were able to accommodate this request, a review of the trail and the Curlew Connection area would possibly occur next spring. A contractor would identify all possible UXO's along the trail route and remove them. The trail could then be built if BLM NEPA and City outreach proved favorable, and funds were obtained. Surveys by BLM staff were scheduled to take place this spring regarding plants and wildlife. R2R staff had made themselves available to help with this process.

I. Bike Park

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation had donated funds towards building a bike skills park in the lower basin at Military Reserve. Due to the confidential request by the Foundation, the donation and proposed plans could not be disclosed before City Council gave their approval and the agreement had been signed. Once the signed agreement had been approved, a public meeting was held. The East End Neighborhood Association expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed plans due to parking and traffic concerns. The City would be able add features such as cross-walks and other traffic control measures.

The basin at Military Reserve had previously been used as a dog off-leash area. A dog park with agility obstacles and water features would be built in the adjacent basin which had been the Archery Range. The Archery Range would be moved to an area next to Military Reserve Cemetery. Alpine Bike Parks was awarded the contract to design and build the bike skills park. The dog park would be paid for by the City and would cost around \$250,000. The City would pay for the move of the Archery Range to its new location.

J. R2R Partnership Updates

Ada County

Ada County was moving forward with an e-bike ordinance which allowed the use of Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on the Greenbelt within their management areas. The ordinance contained language regarding area usage on the R2R Trails System. Public input requested that Ada County have further discussion with R2R partners to allow for more e-bike access. The majority who testified was in favor of e-bike use. Informational material had been shared with the public. The City of Eagle had also begun drafting an ordinance, and Ada County had expressed interest in having consistency. Non-motorized designation was important for areas that were owned and/or managed through license agreements.

Forest Service

The contractor has been selected for construction of the Stack Rock Trailhead and work may start in June. The Bogus Basin Forest Health Project under the Good Neighbor Authority had been working with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to award the contract for sale; logging in the Eastside Trail area may not happen until this fall.

Ada County Highway District will start the safety improvements on Bogus Basin Road this summer.

The Farm Bill CE for Bogus Basin Forest Health did not cover all of the insect and disease issues so two more projects are going through the NEPA process now. One is called Sinker Creek and the other is called Boise Ridge. More information to come at future meetings.

A permit will be issued to 10 Barrel for a one-time event; there are concerns that staff will not have the ability to monitor the event as well as they would like.

A proposal had been received from Bogus Basin Ski Resort for a multi-use trail system and will be discussed with the partnership before authorization.

IDFG

Krista Biorn and Peter Ott would be stationed out of the Regional Office during the construction of a new office/shop beginning mid-May.

SWIMBA/Army Corp of Engineers would be moving forward with the Lake View Trail. IDFG had provided their recommendations and concerns.

The Wildlife Underpass Project under State Hwy. 21 was scheduled to be completed by the end of May. Specialized wildlife guards had been installed on Spring Shores Rd. The guards would accommodate the migratory season and bikers during the off-season. In 2021 Idaho Transportation Department and IDFG were planning a \$3 million overpass project a mile up the road.

BLM

The City of Eagle had annexed former BLM land. The BLM budget was passed with an \$8 million increase. R2R agreements had been sent to Washington D. C. for review. The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley had purchased Cartwright Creek which would close the loop from Avimor to the R2R trails.

City

There were no complaints regarding e-bike use since City Council passed the ordinance. A six-month analysis of Greenbelt use would begin in May with Boise Police bike patrol and volunteers helping to obtain surveys and gather data.

City's legal staff had sent a cease and desist order to Ridge 2 River Realty due to trademark infringement on the R2R logo. Two other entities had used logos similar to the R2R logo and Legal would be in contact with them as well.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Partnership at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.