

BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS FIRST QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 8 a.m.

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

Others present: Tim Breuer, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY 19 1st Quarter Budget and Work Plan review

The additional \$40,000 from the Forest Service was ear-marked for the Stack Rock Trail Head connection to Freddy Stack Rock Trail.

The trail map budget account was down due to decreased hard copy map sales and significant sign replacements that occurred this past summer.

B. Trail Condition/Maintenance Update

An assessment for the fall maintenance list had been completed. Prior to heavy rainfall, trail conditions had been good. Since then, additional trails had to be added to the maintenance list and drain dips would need to be cleaned to avoid erosion problems.

C. Completed Trail Projects FY18 4th Quarter

The all-weather trail project in Lower Halls Gulch Reserve was complete, which would provide an all-weather loop from Camel's Back to Kestrel. A relocation of the north half of Red-Winged Blackbird Trail was complete and fencing at the summit and trailhead of Table Rock was also complete. Work had been done at Rock Island and sections of the deteriorated retaining wall had been removed and rebuilt at Cottonwood Creek. Replacement bridges at Lower Halls Gulch and Red Tail Trail was complete and the new bridge to the Highlands trail was finished. E-bike signage had been installed throughout the trail system.

D. Volunteer Projects/Donations/Community Engagement

The owner of Café Mule' had begun donating a portion of sales from two different coffee beans that were being sold at the Boise Co-Op. The Co-Op would match Café Mule's donation contribution. Milostees had raised \$1,000 at the Hyde Park Street Fair selling "Boise Single Track" tee-shirts and had donated those proceeds. The Race to Robie Creek donated \$2,000 and Meriwether Cider continued to send monthly donations from the sales of the Foothills Cider.

Fall Adopt-A-Trail volunteer projects would include a group from Riverstone International School who would start the process of removing fencing in Hillside to Hollow Reserve. Brush would be placed in areas that did not have sufficient re-growth. A small loop by Barber Valley would be built by a local high school cross country team.

E. Stack Rock Trail Concept

The design was complete which included approximately 3.75 miles of trail. Contractors would look at the alignment this fall with anticipation to build next spring. The Forest Service would contribute \$40,000 towards the construction and additional funding would come from the Heritage Trust Fund and other funding sources to be determined.

F. Foothills/R2R Open House and Survey Re-cap

A summary of the open house survey results would be ready this fall with the collection of 1,324 responses. Responses showed that 55% were in favor of separation or use management strategy, 65% had said no to dog restrictions, 54% had supported the idea of reserve acquisitions with levy funds that would not focus on recreation. There was support for construction of single use trails. Rerouting trail sections for resource and maintenance concerns had received significant support.

G. Separation of Trail Use – Are We Ready?

Comments and requests from the public on new trail designs and concepts were discussed. Options included building new trails and re-purposing existing trails. The possibility of a new route from Table Rock had been discussed at the open house. The Idaho State Historical Society was open to the suggestion of such a trail on their property. Tribes would most likely have concerns regarding wildlife and botany in the area. IDFG had concerns for the wildlife management areas (WMA) and potential conflicts of interest with their constituents which might adversely affect trail connections between agencies. Possible solutions might include separation of use, directional use and designated days for different user groups. Private property land owners would affect where future trails could be built. The planned bike skills park might alleviate pressure for the addition of a downhill-flow purpose-built trail.

The impact of the mountain bikers who had begun using various shuttle companies to reach the top of the trails had created concern. There were questions they had obtained the necessary permits to provide this service and the increase of trail use due to the service. Concerns regarding trail etiquette was addressed and educational efforts would continue along with the roll-out of the Happy Trails campaign.

H. National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) Meeting

R2R partnership had met with Eddie Freyer, Idaho League Director, to discuss concerns about the number of participants using the trails for practice. R2R would partner with NICA on educational efforts through videos and speaking engagements with the coaches and teams. Ada County would reach out to NICA for trail work and trail cutting.

I. 2019 Trail Plans

Stack Rock Trail construction was planned to begin in April. The Curlew Connection was planned for next year, but would be NEPA dependent. Upon approval, the trail would be flagged during the winter. The Army Corps of Engineers would walk the flagged line checking for UXO's. There would be an addition to the Red Tail Trail on Ada County and Hidden Springs property upon approval from the Hidden Springs Town Council. A NEPA document should be approved by the end of October that would create an opportunity to build a purpose-built trail from Corrals Trail to the dam on Bob's Trail.

J. R2R Partnership Updates

Ada County

Formerly with the Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association, M. Edwards had been hired as the Open Space and Trail Coordinator for Ada County. Ada County's seasonal budget had been increased to allow for two seasonal employees who worked primarily at the Ada/Eagle Bike Park from April through October.

The proposal to close the upper portion of Redhawk and construct a loop to the south and east had been rejected by the Hidden Springs Town Council and their Open Space Committee. The two-mile loop west of Red Tail had received positive comments. Funds had been allocated in the budget to move forward with a trail-build contract once it was approved.

The City of Eagle had passed a new city ordinance allowing for Class I e-bikes on the foothill trails and the greenbelt within the City of Eagle which also included a portion of the Ada/Eagle Bike Park. Ada County had not made any changes to their ordinances and would post more robust signage at key

points of trail connections between Ada County and the City of Eagle. A news release would be prepared.

Idaho Fish & Game

Plans to install an archery range on the WMA near Highland Valley Road were shared. An area for parking had been identified that would accommodate approximately twenty vehicles. Forty 3-D targets would be installed with plans for up to eighty more as demand increased. Bow hunters and archery clubs had volunteered to help with maintenance and to provide some funding.

Forest Service

A ribbon cutting ceremony had been planned by Ada County for the Stack Rock trailhead prior to the connecting trails being completed. There was anticipation that there might be negative feedback from the public due to the fact that no formal trail currently leaves from this trailhead. Tribal concerns and sustainability for wildlife and plant communities would need to be balanced with the pressure of continued population growth when considering new trails. There was concern by the agency regarding unauthorized trails in general and how those were affecting vegetation and their planned projects, along with concerns about motorized versus non-motorized use of the trails.

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

Tim Breuer (LTTV) expressed his appreciation for the partners and the work that was being accomplished to keep the trails accessible to the public. He encouraged continued community engagement.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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