

BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS FOURTH QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019 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); Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways (Ada County); Wintauna Belt, Boise National Forest Service (Forest Service); Krista Biorn, Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG); David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers (R2R). Brenda Reynolds, minutes recorder.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:04am.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY19 4th Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

There were no questions or comments.

B. Landslide Loop Trail Project

A new 2 ½-mile section of trail was completed ~~April 2 in May~~, 2019 on Ada County and Hidden Springs property. R2R staff designed the trail, provided project specifications and provided oversight of the construction by contractor Cuddy Mountain Trail. Feedback from all user types had been positive.

C. Freddie's Stack Rock Trail Extension Project

Cuddy Mountain Trail had the contract for the extension which would cross over Bogus Basin Rd. The completion date was projected for the first week of August. There were ~~two numerous~~ sections that needed to be blasted and drilled. R2R and Forest Service staff would work together to coordinate the drilling, blasting and traffic control plans. ~~The Forest Service had contributed an additional \$4,000 to this project which would go toward armoring and coping stones.~~

D. Trail Maintenance Update

Due to rain and unauthorized volunteer trail work, there had been a three-week delay in completing the planned trail maintenance work. Mitigation work involved removing ditches which had been cut into the trails and created a hazard to mountain bikers. Information had been shared on social media regarding the proper way to volunteer for trail projects.

E. Summer Trail Projects Update

Crews had transitioned from trail maintenance to trail projects which most recently included working on ~~the Stack Rock Trailhead~~, crib wall installation along Dry Creek Trail and repairing areas along Bob's Trail damaged by erosion.

Approval had been received from the Grossman family to install a puncheon bridge over Daniel's Creek on Peggy's Trail. Turnpikes and a foot puncheon bridge would be installed along the third, Five Mile Creek Trail crossing. A puncheon bridge would be installed ~~at~~ the ~~Frees Stone~~ Trailhead and a bridge puncheon bridge would be replaced on Lower Halls Gulch. Crews planned to reconstruct tread on Hippy Shake Trail while armoring was planned for Shane's Trail. ~~A~~, a contractor would ~~to~~ replace fencing on Toll Rd. Projects should be completed by the end of ~~September~~August.

Designs for the Hawkins Loop Trail, a connection between Hidden Springs and Avimor and the Curlew Connection were pending. Plans were to pin flag ~~pin~~ the Curlew Connection trail in anticipation of unexploded ordnance work pending the NEPA document results.

F. BLM NEPA update

Two decisions would be signed from the Environmental Assessment – one for regarding motorized related projects and the other for non-motorized project trail use; the Cartwright expansion and the Fomrite Trail. There would be a 30-day waiting period for appeals. The BLM will have 14 days to respond to any appeals. There is also the possibility of a 45-day stay being implemented while appeals are resolved. If an appeal came with a request for a stay, it would grant a 45-day period for the Interior Board of Land Appeals to rule.

G. Boise Trails Challenge/Permitted Trail Shuttles

The Boise Trails Challenge webpage promoted trail use by awarding prizes to those who registered for and/or completed trail challenges. It was determined that unless specific trails and times were promoted trails would not be negatively impacted.

The Forest Service had issued permits for two shuttle services to provide trail users with access to Bogus Basin trails. There was discussion on what size parking lots the shuttle services would be allowed to use to minimize impact to other trail users. Concern regarding access to trails during muddy conditions was discussed. A one-page educational document ~~will~~ **may** be created and given to the shuttle services to provide to their patrons explaining proper trail use and etiquette.

The Forest Service would record the number of users accessing the trails via the shuttle services and report those numbers to the partners. BLM planned to conduct a count of all trail users in the fall. Ada County had received over 400 responses to a survey they were conducting which included questions about e-bike use. Once that data was compiled, it would be shared with the partners.

The Happy Trails campaign was believed to have played a part in the recent public comments regarding the overall positive attitude and etiquette of trail users. Over 1,000 people had taken the pledge. The campaign would continue to be promoted through signage along the trails, on social media and with agency partners sharing the information.

H. Fred Alleman Passing and Memorial Fund

During his lifetime, Mr. Alleman had donated a million dollars towards the Stack Rock acquisition. After his death, a memorial fund was created for the R2R Trail System with funds going into the Heritage Trust. A potential donation in the amount of \$100,000 could come from the Fred Alleman Memorial Fund.

I. Donations/Volunteer Efforts

Donations continued from the partnership between Café Mulé, the Boise Co-Op, Meriwether Cider and others. The City Peanut Shop was ~~a new donor working on shirts and glasses that would also generate donations to Ridge to Rivers.~~

The 3rd Quarter reported 1,800 volunteer hours with projects from Eagle Scouts, Adopt-a-Trail volunteers and the volunteer trail rangers. The spring quarter had the largest number of volunteer hours ever recorded.

J. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County

A couple of e-scooters had been found in the river. The public had been utilizing the scooters at river take-out points.

S. Koberg asked if partners wanted to revisit the upper 8th St. camping issue and present a potential camping ordinance to the board of commissioners.

Areas of the Oregon Trail needed a possible re-route to mitigate erosion. Partners would continue to discuss possible solutions.

IDFG

The agency requested a GIS or KMZ layer to help identify areas of proposed work for new trails or large work projects which might affect deer and elk.

The new archery range had been receiving a lot of use. Trail counts in the area showed over 400 users. Trail counters would be moved to areas that would help differentiate between archery range users and other trail users. Cameras would be used to compare numbers.

A patrol for dog off-leash noncompliance would begin while mountain bikers crossing pedestrian gates could be cited. Partners were asked to share this information on their webpages to notify the public.

Boise City

It was decided to postpone the trail count efforts until later in the year.

E-bikes had been observed on non-permitted trails. There were concerns that unauthorized e-bike classes would begin to make their way onto the trails system and Greenbelt, causing unsafe conditions for other users.

BLM

Winter range trail closure dates were discussed with regards to wildlife and habitat impact along with consideration of constituent use. Winter weather influenced closure decisions and IDFG would provide data about vegetation, migration routes and collared animals which could influence motorized and non-motorized trail access dates.

Forest Service

The Bogus to Barrel race was scheduled for August 21, 2019. W. Belt requested to be included on any partner correspondence. The Stack Rock Trailhead was on schedule to be completed around the first part of August and plans were discussed for an opening ceremony which would include an opportunity to promote the Happy Trails campaign.

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

No other attendees were present.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Partnership at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51am.