

**BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS FOURTH QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
TUESDAY, JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2017 8:00 A.M.**

Partners present: Sara Arkle, Boise City Parks and Recreation (City); Doug Holloway, City; Megan Impson, Boise National Forest Service; Tate Fischer, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Casey Steenhoven, BLM; Krista Biorn, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG); David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers; Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways; Rachel Cooper, minutes recorder.

Others present: Rick Surkamer and Tim Breuer, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley (LTTV); Karen Danley.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M.

**II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. FY 17 4th Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review**

The budget and work plan was received and reviewed by the partners prior to the meeting.

**B. 2017 Project/Planning Update**

The Red Hawk Trail Expansion was in the planning process. Of the three Dry Creek Trail bridges discussed, one was completed and the other two were under construction. Crews were working on a small, split log foot bridge on Eastside Trail and would begin cribbing as well as armoring the three priority locations on Dry Creek Trail. Stepping stones would be set along the stream for on-foot to use, instead of armoring across the stream. The Around the Mountain bank turns were complete.

The rest of season would be spent on the Dry Creek trail. D. Gordon was looking for three sets of log totes so that a large tree could be moved downhill and used to make two bridges. Upcoming cribbing projects included Shane's Trail, the start of Kestrel Trail, and the turnpike on Redwing Blackbird.

The City contracted YRU to do work on Rock Garden Trail which included two short relocations, backfilling into the trail, and redoing the drainage on the trail. Part of the same contract would be to complete the Castle Rock Reserve, all-weather trail hardening project which started two years ago on Hot Springs Trail. All the flat trails would be made all-weather by adding road mix, wetting the mix and compacting the trail, making it suitable for winter use. Other locations identified for all-weather trails included Lower Hulls Gulch and Military Reserve.

The addition of the Current Creek Trail, located in Hidden Springs, was complete and a turn had been fabricated where this trail tied in with Chukar Butte. Approximately 100 yards of trail had to be filled to connect to the upper Cartwright Road.

**C. Ridge to Rivers Personnel Changes**

Will Taliaferro had resigned and his position had been filled within the team by Matt Tock.

Casey Walker would begin duties as a facilities maintenance worker in early September and would be working 20 hours per week for Ridge to Rivers and 20 hours per week for Foothills Learning Center. There was still enough money in the budget to hire a seasonal facilities maintenance worker, four months a year, to help during the busy season. The rest of staff would pitch in as needed when there wasn't a seasonal worker on staff.

**D. Ridge to Rivers Special Use Policy Signatures**

This was approved by all and had been signed by several agencies. IDFG had the document for signature and it would be sent to Ada County next.

There were currently two non-competitive events affected by this policy; one was on City property at Table Rock, and the other, was a Thanksgiving day fun run on City and BLM property.

Since this was adopted mid-year and organizers could only apply for events the following year, the City would give events consideration between now and then. So far organizers had been onboard and accepted this policy.

**E. Bogus Basin Summer Operations**

D. Gordon had met with the Bogus Basin for the management of the trails in this area. Crews had worked with Bogus Basin to train their staff on trail maintenance. Bogus Basin staff would maintain the trails in this area for the rest of the season. There would be a lot of maintenance as the impact to trails, from running lifts in the summer, would be significant. Around The Mountain Trail was open to fulltime lift use. Bogus Basin had opened their flow trail as well. As the weather got drier, a challenge would be to sustain the flow trail without moisture. Water would be available to the Skills Park. The plan was to help Bogus Basin staff with additional trail maintenance in the spring.

**F. Stack Rock Trail/FLAP Project**

The Forest Service had been working on a design for the Stack Rock Trailhead. There were some concerns with the conceptual design as it would be a significant trailhead. Cars already parked along the road and in every pull out to get to access to Stack Rock. There was a question to see if there was a way to put a trail through Sweet Connie Saddle that could lead to Stack Rock. D. Gordon found it to be possible and explained that it would be a single track trail that would follow the south side of the ridge, going through rock formations, forest and open hillside.

There was concern that cutting through the hillside would make the trail visible and it was explained that it would be visible until the vegetation grows in.

Another concern was maintenance of the trailhead and was still being determined as Forest Service did not have regular patrols in that area. It was out of the way of the typical rounds for Ridge to Rivers crews.

One of the unintended consequences was that there were “no parking on asphalt” signs and as more asphalt was being added, less legal parking areas would be available. There had been an increase in summer time use of Bogus Basin and ideas to help solve emerging management challenges were being discussed.

### **G. Foothills Mobile App**

Ada County’s IT department was taking the lead on this project. The phone based app would allow a map to be downloaded that showed where a user was on the trail system. Ideas that could help from a management standpoint was being reviewed. Users would sign up and allowed to be tracked. The app would track the use and allow users to see which trails were busier than others.

At this time, there was no cost to the partners and the next step was to put together a scope of what was being built, the purpose of it, and what the long term maintenance commitment would be. There would also be a document for the partners to sign. It was suggested that the app be demonstrated prior to signing documentation.

### **H. Update on Trail Easement/Additions**

#### *Hawkins Loop and Curlew Connection Trails*

BLM was reviewing the upcoming fiscal year budget. If the BLM can complete the necessary NEPA for the Curlew Connection, heritage trust funds could be used for construction. This would add a key connection that users requested. It was a top priority and could be built next year.

#### *Cartwright and Miller Gulch Trailhead Expansions*

C. Steenhoven would be scheduling a field trip with the engineering staff to the Cartwright Trailhead.

#### *Artist in Residence Program*

C. Steenhoven proposed the idea of having an in-house artist for Ridge to Rivers. BLM had an active artist in residence program and he had the opportunity to host and help out Idaho artists. BLM used the work produced for things such as posters. The process of acquiring an in-house artist was discussed.

D. Holloway explained that the City’s Arts and History Department could possibly assist and may be a resource as they had a similar program in place. A meeting was suggested to discuss this further.

#### *Idaho Fish and Game Update*

K. Biorn was short staffed and would hopefully have someone hired by October. There was a new kiosk at Council Springs that listed the rules and regulations which was similar to the ones that Forest Service and BLM used at their trailheads. They were removing the signs along the trail and would have one kiosk with all of the information at each trailhead.

**I. FY 18 Meeting Schedule**

In order to streamline the scheduling process, there had been discussion to schedule the entire year's meetings for the upcoming fiscal year. Partners agreed and the proposed schedule of meetings would be sent out soon.

**J. R2R Partnership Updates**

*Ada County*

Ada County had almost completed their budget process. \$42,000 had been included for Ridge to Rivers. S. Koberg had requested an Open Space and Trails Program position, that previously existed in his department, be filled again. This position would most likely assume his role on the Ridge to Rivers partnership, in addition to overseeing the Ada County trails system. The position would also be responsible for leading and initiating activities for trail maintenance and would be part of the Ada County Parks, Open Space, and Trails Advisory Board. The position would be advertised shortly after the turn of their fiscal year. There was some support from the advisory board for two additional long term seasonal positions.

*City of Boise*

The ATV lot on 8th St. had become a campground. There were vehicles parked there every morning along with a lot of trash and signs of campfires. Under current BLM regulation it was not illegal to camp at the trailhead. D. Gordon asked if Ada County could take the lead on an ordinance prohibiting camping and open fires in this area and that BLM could possibly enforce. S. Koberg would look to see if there was an existing ordinance that could be enforced as it was not easy to create a new ordinance.

*Forest Service*

Forest Service was able provide an additional \$20,000 for Ridge to Rivers. The agreement between the Forest Service and Ridge to Rivers ended in January 2018 and a meeting was planned to renew the agreement.

**K. Public Comment Opportunities**

There was an inquiry about creating a proper place to turn around when accessing the horse trailer parking at Cartwright Trail. The suggestion was the addition of defined boundaries that could be worked into the design of the turnaround. It was agreed that this was consistent with the goal of the project in which one of focal points was safety considerations. These suggestions would be passed on to see what could be accomplished.

The Dry Creek projects, funded by the LTTV and the City would provide improvements to help alleviate concerns about mountain bikers crossing through the creek and the effect this was having on trout. D. Gordon explained that there were five bridges being built. The overall goal was to build safe crossings that users would be more inclined to use and would be built at a width not to intimidate the user, but also not too narrow that users cross through the water. The final two bridges would be split logs and similar in width.

Residents of the Harris Ranch neighborhood were raising money to acquire the Ramaker Parcel, which was adjacent to the wildlife management area. LTTV had gained interest in the campaign as there was an attempt to get trail access from that property to the Homestead Trailhead. LTTV had pledged \$25,000 toward the project, contingent on that taking place, which could help reduce traffic at this trailhead. S. Arkle was discussing this option with the Harris Ranch Development Company. LTTV was interested being involved in these conversations.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Partnership at the time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.