

Ridge to Rivers
1st Quarter Partnership Meeting

Minutes

October 12, 2016

Partners present: Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways; Sara Arkle, Boise City Parks and Recreation (City); Stephaney Kerley, Lori Akrom and Tess Burns Boise National Forest Service; Tate Fischer and Larry Ridenhour, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Krista Bjorn, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; David Gordon; Ridge to Rivers. Mark Iverson, minutes recorder.

Others present: Mark Tate, Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association, Karen Danley, three other individuals (names not received).

FY 2017 1st Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

The Fiscal Year 2017 Work Plan is still under development. Ridge to Rivers may be up for a replacement of their Bobcat Mini-excavator. The Forest Service has acquired a one-time increase in funding of \$26,000 for Ridge to Rivers. The additional funding will free up existing funds, allowing for an eight-month seasonal position with remaining assets diverted to project funding. Ada County has increased its annual contribution from \$35,000 to \$42,000 in FY 2017.

Fall Trail Work Update

Crews finished Full Sail Trail construction; there have been no negative responses regarding the trail location from area residents. Existing non-system trail closure efforts in the Hillside to Hollow area will be augmented this fall, however overall they have proved surprisingly successful.

The two puncheon bridges along Dry Creek Trail were being worked on along the first and second creek crossings. The feedback received from trail users has been very positive.

The pilot muddy trails closure program will focus on the Table Rock system this winter. New fencing and gates have been installed in advance of this effort. Interchangeable signage will be placed requesting trail users stay off muddy trails in the Table Rock area, in addition to a large scale education campaign.

On Bogus Basin, crews have recently conducted additional work on trail repair following a heavy summer of use. Staff met with Nate Shake and Brad Wilson of Bogus Basin to discuss future maintenance strategies on those trails. Bogus Basin is planning to hire their first ever trail crew in 2017. Ridge to Rivers will still perform annual maintenance on the trails around the ski area and provide technical expertise when needed, however regular maintenance throughout the summer will be performed by the Bogus Basin Trail Crew. Morning Star Trail will be managed and maintained entirely by Bogus Basin as it lies completely on their property and they would like to manage it differently with the increase in lift assisted trail use in the future.

Land Trust of the Treasure Valley and Hidden Springs Community are moving ahead with the new Currant Creek Trail link. The link will connect Currant Creek with Chukar Butte Trail. They plan to develop the trail in three separate phases utilizing volunteer labor. Trail design will be handled by Ridge to Rivers. They discussed utilizing a private contractor to insure the quality of the trail work. Ridge to Rivers will adopt the new trail into the system once it meets Ridge to River's system standards.

There was a large volunteer project at the Military Reserve to install fencing to maintain a narrow trail in areas effected by fire. As soon as the system receives some moisture, maintenance of Military Reserve trails will begin, but the trails look pretty good overall.

Veterans Trail Proposal – Karen Danley

Ms. Danley stated the minutes for the August 11, 2016 Ridge to Rivers Partnership meeting did not accurately represent her proposal for Veterans Trail. Ms. Danley requested this be noted in the meeting minutes. She specified that she originally spoke with James Earp, manager of the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, and Deputy Director of Ada County Landfill, Ted Hutchinson and lastly with David Gordon about the Veterans Trail proposal. She commented that the minutes from August 11, 2016 misrepresented this order of communication.

Ms. Danley also stated that the August 11, 2016 minutes discussed her proposal as an alternate trail for equestrian use only. She stated that this representation was inaccurate. Ms. Danley is proposing the establishment of an alternate trail open to all non-motorized trail users, with clearer lines of sight, making it possible for horses and runners to see approaching mountain bikers. She proposed that Ada County Landfill property be utilized as the location for this trail segment and asked the Ridge to Rivers Partnership to consider this request.

Idaho Enduro Event at Bogus Basin

D. Gordon stated that the Idaho Enduro Mountain Bike Race was successful, but could be managed better in the future by all parties – Idaho Enduro, USFS, Bogus Basin and Ridge to Rivers. The race route needs to be submitted to Ridge to Rivers, the USFS and Bogus Basin well before the date of the event because much of the race was outside of the Bogus Basin Ski Area Special Use Permit boundary. Though race organizers indicated that repairs would be made the day following the race, they were not, and to date neither Bogus Basin nor Ridge to Rivers has heard from the race organizers regarding this need or any planned repairs.

Hawkins/Gehlkin Property Acquisition and Plans – Sara Arkle

This area consists of three properties the City purchased. The area is approximately four-hundred acres in total and abuts the Bogus Basin property. It allows access to trails in the Daniels Creek drainage. The property will be utilized for both recreational and wildlife purposes. Seasonal closures for wintering wildlife will be considered for any trails developed in the area.

Future Ridge to Rivers Meeting Format – Minutes and Formal Decision Point Recording

Ridge to Rivers meeting minutes will meet a more official standard. It is recognized that the Ridge to Rivers system has grown in both size and complexity, leading to the need for a more official meeting practice wherein project plans would be presented and major decisions would be voted on. For meeting minutes to meet legal standards, all participants attending need to be listed. Record will be made of any issues discussed, decisions made and how partners voted on these decisions.

Fiscal Year 2017 Draft Trail Project and Planning List

The use of contractors for large trail projects was discussed. Utilizing contractors on larger projects will allow staff the time to complete smaller maintenance and trail construction projects that often get overlooked.

The Cartwright Road Trailhead, managed by the BLM, needs National Environmental Policy Act review and site design before moving forward.

It was decided that the Red Hawk Trail project should be undertaken in 2017 as funding was available from Ada County Parks and Waterways. Additional work priorities in FY17 need to be prioritized and agreed upon by all partners. Forest Service projects have been heavily affected by the Pioneer Fire, delaying projects on Forest Service ground.

Special Uses/Group Events Policy Formulation Update

Forest Service Special Use personnel will meet with Dee Oldham of Boise City Parks to work on the Ridge to Rivers System Special Use/Group Events Policy/Guidelines.

Additional Topics:

Table Rock Update

There will be a substantial volunteer effort over the fall to plant sagebrush and bitterbrush in the Table Rock area affected by the Table Rock Fire. The City will conduct targeted herbicide application to reduce invasive species in the area.

Boise Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee Update

The committee met for the first time in September of 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.