

**BOISE RIDGE TO RIVERS THIRD QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2018 8:00 A.M.**

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

Others present: Bonnie Shelton, Boise City Parks and Recreation.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

II. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY19 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

The balance for the Heritage Trust Fund had fluctuated due to donations and trail map sales. R2R staff would work with BLM this fall to update the maps.

B. Spring Trail Conditions

Most trails survived the winter better than anticipated. Areas had been identified to have rock armored drains installed to correct erosion problems. Maintenance on the trails had been delayed and volunteer projects had been postponed due to weather. Seasonal staff began April 1.

C. Summer Projects/Priorities

The Hippy Shake Trail in the Hillside to Hollow Reserve had been damaged from off-leash dog use. Due to the out-slope of the trail, it could not be re-vegetated. The tread would be re-cut where necessary. A 40-foot square fence had been installed in one section to allow for recovery and R2R staff would work with Martha Brabec to install interpretive signage to promote restoration in the area.

Several trails had been identified for bridge installation or replacement, stone cribwall construction to curtail erosion concerns. Various kiosks and outhouses would be repainted. The Toll Road fence contract work was scheduled to begin in July.

The step replacement project on the front of Camel's Back hill had been completed. The rise and run of the steps were brought to standard, to give the user a better experience.

A chicane would be installed at the end of 9th Street to create a slow zone. R2R staff had coordinated with the city's Public Works Department in choosing to utilize large rocks instead of fence material for the project to make accessing a nearby pond easier when necessary for PW Staff.

Based upon the evaluation of the BLM NEPA document, the design for the Hawkins Loop trail could begin this summer.

D. Summer Construction Projects – Contract

The Landslide Loop Trail on Ada County and Hidden Springs property was under construction. The trail was expected to be completed by May 1 depending on the weather. Ada County's work on the connection to Avimor was dependent on the BLM NEPA document.

The Stack Rock Trail bids came in higher than the available funding. The contractor who was awarded the project had agreed to lower his cost if he would not have to remove the first half-mile of brush or perform any drilling or blasting work. Forest Service staff and a large volunteer group would work along the corridor on May 11 to remove brush in the first 1.5 miles. The Forest Service had agreed to perform any drilling or blasting work if it became necessary.

Work on the Curlew Connection Trail was scheduled to begin in the fall. This project was also dependent on the BLM NEPA document. The Army Corps of Engineers was expected to complete the UXO survey in early summer.

E. Happy Trails Rollout

A soft launch of the rollout began in February, and B. Shelton gave an update on the social media responses. More than 600 people had taken the pledge. Bike tags with the Happy Trails logo had been given to local bike shops. Cards had been printed to distribute at summer events. Boise Police had requested information be included regarding theft protection and safe practices at trailheads. Partners were asked if they wanted to include any messaging on the cards for their agencies. Agency partners would be able to share this information on their websites.

F. Races and Events

There were severing foot races scheduled in the foothills from June 15 through Thanksgiving Day. No bike races had been scheduled.

G. Donations/Volunteers Efforts

A donation of \$1,000 had been received in memory of Ruth Nyquist, who was an avid trail user. The Hawkins Loop Trail project had received a \$10,000 donation in memory of Douglas Wick. A plaque would be placed at the trailhead in his memory. The Boise Co-op partnership with Café Mulé had continued to send a monthly donation from a portion of the sale of their beans. Meriwether Cider had been sending a monthly donation from a portion of the Foothills Cider sales. The George Justin Musekamp Foundation had donated \$1,000, and the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation had given a \$250 donation.

The Adopt-A-Trails efforts were ongoing. Several had been rescheduled due to weather. Two big volunteer projects for trail improvements had occurred at Redcliffs Trail in Hulls Gulch and in Military Reserve on Freestone Creek Trail. Several volunteers had been stationed at trailheads to remind users to stay on the trails.

Presentations were scheduled at REI and at the National Interscholastic Cycling Association Coaches Summit. They were also scheduled to speak at the May in Motion event at the Ada County Court House. Staff hoped to set up events for Boise Bike Week, and National Trails Day in conjunction with the Southwest Idaho Mountain Biking Association (SWIMBA).

H. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County

The 5th Annual Burgers and Bikes Group bike ride was scheduled to take place on the Greenbelt in May. The Ada County May in Motion event was scheduled for May 1 at the court house. Both events would be free and open to the public.

The Parks and Waterways preliminary budget was due April 17. The agency planned to contribute \$42,000 to the R2R partnership.

IDFG

Roads damaged due to winter weather were scheduled for repairs. \$10,000 in funds for the contractor had been set aside and Highland Valley Road would be the first to receive repairs.

Volunteers from the area archery clubs were scheduled to help with the move of the archery range on April 20 and 27. They would assist with the installation of signage and fencing. The parking lot had been graded and once funding was approved, gravel would be added. More than 20, three-dimensional targets would be installed and would be equipped with anti-theft protection. On a small section of user-created trail, gates and signs would be installed prohibiting bike use. The range would be free and open to the public. A tentative opening date of May 1 had been planned. The City had contributed funds in the amount of \$9,000 towards this project. A Memorandum of Understanding was in place with most of the archery clubs

to assist with maintenance of the targets and range. Media coverage was scheduled after the completion of the volunteer projects.

Boise City

Comments were requested from the agency partners who had projects that were included in the BLM NEPA document. The comment period would close on May 5.

Ada County had assisted with the interactive map on the R2R website providing three-dimensional imagery from their drone footage. Additional data regarding trail rating and trail amenities would be added in future editions.

Warm Springs Golf Course was expanding its parking lot to include trailhead parking. The entrance to the golf course would be moved and a short section of Tram trail would be re-routed when permitting for the easement was finalized.

The city closed on approximately eight-acres of land owned by Healthwise, Inc. This land would allow for permanent public parking at the Hillside to Hollow Reserve trailhead. A public process for permitting would take place this summer for development, which would include restrooms and a dog watering station.

Russian olive trees were scheduled for removal in the Hulls Gulch area. Native species which would not use as much water and would provide better habitat for wildlife, would replace the Russian olive trees.

Mowing by a contractor would take place this spring and summer in areas the Ada County risk map indicated as a high risk for fire. This year would be the third year of participation in the project.

At the April Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the renaming of Castle Rock Reserve to Chief Eagle Eye Reserve and the renaming of Quarry View Park to Eagle Rock Park would be on the agenda.

M3 Company purchased Boulder Heights remaining development from Homer Wise. The development was located east of Warm Springs Mesa. Mark Tate of M3 had approached R2R requesting an additional loop trail be built in that area.

BLM

Re-routes for trails would be included in the NEPA document evaluation with a decision expected by the end of June. Public comments included wildlife concerns.

The environmental assessment (EA) should be completed soon on the Cartwright acquisition. The appraisal was not yet complete, and it was expected to be another six months before everything was finalized.

Contributions to the agency partnership could be affected by the new fiscal budget. S. Arkle would submit a letter of justification.

Forest Service

The Bogus Basin Forest Health Project timber sale by the State of Idaho had been unsuccessful. The sale would be re-advertised beginning May 5 with adjustments. A final decision regarding this project would be made by the end of the fiscal year.

The Sinker Creek and Boise Ridge areas had been potential Good Neighbor Authority projects. An integrated service contract was determined to be a more flexible option and would allow goals to be met to improve forest health, reduce hazardous fuel and remove hazard trees. It would allow for implementation of treatment on the ground and an extension of the timeline. Agency partners would not need to notify their users of any closures for now. Forest Service would continue to work with private land owners to gain access to the treatment areas and data collection would continue. Instead of proceeding with two categorical exclusions, a better option could be to pursue one EA to cover both areas. Prepping would continue for an EA for the Clear Creek and Robie Creek areas.

The range manager, Holly Hampton, had been working on the treatment of noxious weeds and would be in contact with partners to treat areas that were on other agency lands. Martha Brabec, the city's foothills restoration specialist, would be able to assist with this effort. The city's Boise Kind Day could provide an opportunity for a weed removal effort.

I. 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 9:35a.m.