

BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS 4TH QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021
8:30 A.M.

Partners Present: Sara Arkle (Boise Parks and Recreation); Brent Ralston and David Draheim (Bureau of Land Management); Scott Koberg (Ada County); Brad Lowe and Krista Biorn (Idaho Department of Fish and Game); Stephaney Kerley, Everardo Santillan and Jessup Wyman (Boise National Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Chloe Sallabanks (Clerk)

Others Present: None

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

III. IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2021 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

There were no questions or comments on the budget or work plan.

B. 2021 Spring Trail Maintenance Review

Trail maintenance was ahead of schedule due to dry weather. Trail crews were currently on Stack Rock Trail and would focus on small construction projects while the remaining snow melted on upper trails.

Over 400 volunteer hours had been contributed in the last month, and about 300 hours of trail ranger patrol times.

C. 2021 Pilot Management Strategies

The Ridge to Rivers Pilot Program started April 28 and would run through November 1. General public reaction had been positive about the pilot management strategies.

Signage detailing the pilot changes were installed on gates, trailheads and along trails. Bogus Basin would pay for and install the signage for the piloted changes to Around the Mountain Trail #98.

D. Bucktail Conversion/Two-Point Trail Construction

As a result of the Ridge to Rivers Trail User Survey, people were supportive of separating use of Bucktail Trail #20A in Military Reserve. A new pedestrian-only trail was being constructed between Central Ridge and Bucktail Trail. The existing Bucktail Trail would be modified and open to downhill mountain bike travel only. Uphill mountain bike access would be via Central Ridge Trail. Purpose built trail elements would be integrated into the directional trail. Bank-turns are best

constructed with decent soil moisture, so crews would work diligently on the construction before conditions become too dry.

E. Hawkins Loop Trail

The Hawkins Range Reserve loop trail design was completed in March. Four of the 12 existing fence crossings within the six-mile trail would be eliminated. Five companies submitted requests for contractors; the city was currently reviewing the qualified bids. Construction would likely start in the fall.

F. Cartwright Ridge

Cartwright Ridge Trail had been managed by the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley on what was now city-owned property. Ridge to Rivers would take over the maintenance and make improvements and connections to the trail.

G. Heroes Trail

St. Luke's was donating \$12,000 for development of the trail behind Fort Boise and the Boise VA Medical Center; the city would name the trail "Heroes Trail." Ridge to Rivers crews would construct the mile-long trail.

H. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County

Trail maintenance at the bike park was ongoing. Fence and signage maintenance would be performed. Dogs were now required to be on-leash at the bike park in partnership with Eagle Police Department enforcement.

Hiring seasonal staff had been a challenge, which was affecting maintenance and patrols.

Improvements – including restroom facilities, new signage, and other enhancements – had been made to the Oregon Trail Trailhead.

The plaza area between the Barber Park office and the river was under construction and would be beneficial to the upcoming river float season.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Road improvements near the Wildlife Management Area had been completed. The Upper Highland Valley road was now open for motorized vehicle, as was the road to the archery range.

Boise City

The Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee met on May 5 to review an improvement project application for Boise River corridor enhancements. The Committee also voted to name the 325-acre reserve purchased from the Little family "Antelope Bitterbrush Reserve."

A development called Harris Ranch Foothills East was planned near the Wildlife Management Area; the city was looking at potential trail connections for the Harris Ranch area.

The Ridge to Rivers Partnership meetings would move forward with in-person meetings with a virtual attendance option.

Bureau of Land Management

The agency had received multiple requests for outfitter guide permits in the Boise Foothills for guided hikes and mountain bike rides. The Partnership would likely need to be involved if these permits became more prevalent.

The Partnership discussed commercial use of the foothills, including filming. BLM and the Forest Service had a moratorium on commercial filming and photography as they worked through legalities.

Boise National Forest Service

Jessup Wyman was introduced as the new trail foreman.

The Forest Service was also challenged in hiring seasonal staff. Campground, recreation, and trail maintenance teams were all short-staffed.

Bogus Basin was updating its master plan. It was not yet known if there would be any changes to the partnership trails.

The Stack Rock Trailhead would open May 15. City staff would maintain the trailhead once a week in addition to the Forest Service's rotations.

V. IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Partnership, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.