

BOISE CITY RIDGE TO RIVERS FY24 THIRD QUARTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING
BOISE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024
8:30 A.M.

Partners Present: Lisa Duplessie and Doug Holloway (Boise Parks and Recreation); Scott Koberg (Ada County); J.W. Cleveland (US Forest Service); David Gordon (Ridge to Rivers); Merlani Lang (Clerk).

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES:

A. FY 2024 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan Review

D. Gordon reviewed the proposed FY24 3rd Quarter Budget and Work Plan.

A seasonal position had been added to assist the current fulltime position with the maintenance of trailhead facilities. High use, dumping, and vandalism were still challenges.

There were 22 volunteer projects scheduled for the spring. If the program were expanded in the future, Ridge to Rivers (R2R) would need a fulltime position to run and oversee this program.

Changes to city code, to allow better enforcement on city-owned trails, was discussed, along with the possibility of providing enforcement officers authority over the entire system. This would be a larger discussion among the partnership and would most likely require an agreement.

B. Winter Trail Closure Summary

The Winter trail closure program was a success. They weren't always adhered to, but overall the trails were in better shape. They discussed having a set date to open trails, however it was decided it was best to open trails when weather permits. S. Koberg asked about game closures because those were based on a specific date. This would be a discussion for Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) as wildlife closures were date related.

C. Spring Trail Condition

Trails looked pretty good and the R2R crew were working on three different trails.

D. Harrison Hollow Loop All-weather and Accessibility Enhancement Project Update

R2R had an agreement with Land Trust of the Treasure Valley as work would impact trails they owned. The bid proposal was sent with a completion goal of October 31.

E. Curlew Connect Trail Construction Contract

A contract had been in place a few years ago, but the associated BLM NEPA Finding of No Significant Impact was appealed. A press release had been done a few weeks ago to see if there were concerns among the public in moving forward with the project, primarily from those who had appealed it previously. There hadn't been any concerns this time so the contracts for surveying and construction would

go out at the same time so that once the survey was complete, construction could begin immediately. The project should begin in September with a goal to be complete by winter. The project would be funded from Heritage Trust.

F. 8th Street Purpose Built Bike Trail Project

The 8th Street purpose built bike trail project would be built in FY25. The bid for this project would include design and construction. S. Koberg asked if the project would include manmade or native materials. Native materials would be used and the project should start a year from now.

G. Trail 4 and Trail 6 Sustainability Discussion/Management Direction

D. Gordon hoped to discuss the condition of Trails 4 and 6 as they were largely unsustainable. This discussion was put on hold since Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was not at the meeting.

H. Additional 2024 Significant Trail Projects

A short reroute on the east end of Cartwright Ridge was being considered by R2R and the reroute would be about 100-200 yards. R2R would also be working on Eagle Ridge Trail.

All weather enhancements would be done to short sections on Chickadee Ridge, Grove, Eagle Ridge, Table Rock and Mountain Cove Trails.

D. Hollow asked about Heroes Trail. Heroes wouldn't qualify because it was too steep and materials would wash away. This trail would have to be widened and then they would have to figure out how to get materials in there. S. Koberg asked if the same mix and implementation would be used. D. Gordon explained that they wanted try a short section using chat to see how it held, but that they would most likely utilize the same mix as they had in the past.

Camel's Back stairway was recently completed and looked really good.

I. R2R Map Revision

The map was being revised and they planned to print 1500 because another revision was planned next winter. An electronic version was discussed, however there were a number of businesses who purchased hard copies to sell. Map sales helped fund signage along trails.

J. Possible 2024 Trail Reroute

During the last survey, over 94% were in support of rerouting short sections of trails as a management strategy.

There were a number of possible reroutes discussed which included a third reroute at the bottom of Urban Trail, the top and bottom of Three Bears Trail, the westside of Ridgecrest Trail, and Shane's Trail.

The west side of Veterans trail had major maintenance problems due to its steep, fall-line alignment. Discussion ensued about the possibility of closing this section of

trail altogether. The trail was well used and mostly ran along BLM land. Closure would need the support from the community, however this trail was well used and there could be pushback. S. Koberg asked if this trail would qualify to become an all-weather trail. D. Gordon explained it was too steep to be an all-weather trail.

K. R2R Partner Updates

Ada County

Ada County had a vacant, fulltime position, the Open Space and Trails Coordinator. Salary started at \$74K, and would be headquartered at Barber Park. More information on the position could be found on their website. The position would be closed soon and they hoped to have someone start as as early as May.

US Forest Service

J. Cleveland was working a lot on the proposal he had mentioned in the last meeting, where they are trying to identify roads they are proposing to close and connecting trails particularly around Idaho City and Highway 21. They were working on getting campgrounds opened by May 15, and cabins by May 24. They were working on a bridge installation near Idaho City and maintaining non-motorized trails this summer.

V. IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Partnership, the meeting adjourned.