



# Open Space Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2018

**Attendees:** Lisa Ahrens, Tim Breuer, Kevin Dow, Bill Junk, Jay Karamales, Kim Lyons, Aimee Noonan, Eddy Petranek, Tae Swoboda, Chuck Vertrees

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

## September 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were unanimously approved.

## Eagle Scout Service Projects Update from Kyle Campbell and Jeremy Webster

- Kyle Campbell's and Jeremy Webster's Eagle Scout Service Projects received Boy Scouts of America Council/District approval.
- Jeremy Webster's Dry Creek Trail Bench Project
  - a. Jeremy shared the final bench design and discussed specific location placement with the committee.
  - b. Benches will be placed 1 at the big bridge, 1 meadow where yellow house was removed, bide area and bridge near farm fields.
  - c. Sean Conner donating wood for the project.
  - d. Oct/Nov 2018 build and install.
- Kyle Campbell's Native Plant Restoration Project
  - a. Kyle shared photos of 2 test plantings featuring rabbit brush and bitter brush.
  - b. Committee requested a map illustrating plant placement.
  - c. Concern expressed regarding the prolific nature of shrubs, especially rabbit brush relative to Firewise principals. Kyle was asked to focus on grasses and forbs and limit restoration of shrubs in accordance with Firewise principals.
  - d. In addition, LTTV has a variety of plants grown as part of their partnership with the College of Western Idaho Horticulture program. These could be made ready to plant before year end, pending weather. Or they could provide them to Kyle now and he can over-winter at his home in his yard or HSTA can look for space near the working barn.
  - e. The following inventory was shared via email post meeting:
    - Indian rice grass (15)
    - Thurber needle grass (24)
    - Lewis blue flax (1)
    - Blue bunch what grass (22) in tubes
    - Burnet (35)
    - Scarlet globe mallow (3)
  - f. Spring 2019 will submit plant map and proposed install date(s).

## North Creek Trail Proposal

- Copies of final comments shared with committee via email.
- The committee discussed comments received, adding a Mutt Mitt Station and trash can at trail head entrance off Humphrey's and the addition of road mix to build up the path at the entrance was discussed to create a more usable path during wet weather months.
- Bill Junk moved that the Open Space Committee recommend to Town Council that HSTA approve making the North Creek Trail an official community trail and updating the signage identifying it as a wildlife area,

notifying residents that dogs must be on leash and maintenance minimally and only as needed respecting the riparian corridor. Eddy Petranek seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Red Tail Trail Western Loop Proposal**

- Copies of final comments shared with committee via email.
- The committee discussed comments received, off trail hiking, creation of the loop would encourage directional trail use, mitigate user conflict allowing users to move through vs. coming down into the community and seasonal trail closures for wildlife November 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In addition, the committee discussed the alignment and agreed that the Open Space/Land Trust would give Ridge to Rivers two options and ask them to weigh in on which version makes the best trail. Construction and maintenance of the trail would fall to the county.
  - a. The idea of beginning the lower leg, slightly upstream of the bridge, was to see if it would create any greater distance from the homeowner who expressed concern on proximity. The general sense of the committee was that if this works as good or better than starting at the bridge, HSTA suggests that option. But if Ada County Parks or whomever is doing the layout finds that starting from the bridge is better, than we should go with what works best for the trail alignment, regardless of the motion that passed. It is an attempt to be good neighbors to those nearby even though they are not Hidden Springs' residents.
  - b. The other area of concern is the use of switchbacks near the landslide area. As drawn on the map provided, the potential for switchback cutting seems high. Which might then result in increased fencing which can have a detrimental impact to the visual values of the area that are protected in the conservation easement. HSTA encourages the alignment minimize
- Aimee Noonan moved that the Open Space Committee recommend to Town Council that HSTA approve the Red Tail west loop, starting upstream of the currant creek bridge. And traveling NW to the ridge, then east to Red Tail, above the slide and only on County and Hidden Springs property. With a preliminary alignment to be approved by HSTA. To be constructed and funded by Ada County. And maintained by Ridge to Rivers partnership. Permanent Trail Easements for sections of the trail on HSTA will be granted to Ada County. Bill Junk seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.
  - c. The motion does ask for HSTA to have a final look at and approval of alignment before proceeding. Realizing that this all has to work - both on County and HSTA open space.

### **Staff Report**

- Open Space Maintenance
  - Fall clean up.
  - Crews moving forward with tasks on hold due to fire-danger concerns.
  - Committee requested wild rose bush in wetland near bike area be cut back as it is encroaching on the trail.
- Firewise
  - Nothing to report.
- LTTV Maintenance
  - First year with trail maintenance contract went well.
  - HS will work with LTTV on priorities in 2019 the first part of year after conducting a site tour.
  - LTTV searching for a replacement for Eric Willadsen.

### **Committee Reports**

- Bike Area hosting a maintenance day October 14th from 1 – 4:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Next Meeting is **Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**