



# Open Space Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2018

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Quorum was present. Notes on the discussion at the Open Space Committee meeting follows:

## March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were approved unanimously.

## Staff Report – Lisa Ahrens / Tim Breuer

### Utility Pole Clearing for Fire Protection

- Due to the risk of damage or destruction to wooden utility poles during wildfires, Idaho Power is taking efforts to mitigate fire damage and prevent power loss.
- On unirrigated and uncultivated land where there is potential for wildland fires near Idaho Power's wooden utility power poles, the company seeks to establish buffers from combustible vegetation.
- During these protective measures, the brush is cleared in a twenty-foot radius around each pole and a granular herbicide called SK-26 is applied by hand in a fifteen-foot radius around each pole to establish circular bare-ground fire-breaks.
- HSTA reviewed the maps and consulted with LTTV.
- While HS is a Firewise community and appreciates wildfire mitigation efforts we also want to be respectful of our Open Spaces and the land held in the conservation easement.
- HSTA asked that ATV use be **very limited**, to avoid as much ground disturbance or ATV and/or UTV tracks as possible. And where possible, the herbicide be applied by hand sprayer or long hose.
- There was a lot of disturbance to surrounding land in the area of the Pole Cat parking lot to access poles. While part of a different project but the land disturbance was concerning. It was made clear that Hidden Springs express desire was that Idaho Power limit impact to the communities open space land from ATV and/or UTV access.

### Community Clean Up

- 3 Signed up for Creek Clean Up
- 7 Signed up for Trail Maintenance
- 3 Signed up to Paint fence at Farmstead
- 4 Signed up for Farmstead Clean Up
- HSTA will provide breakfast and snacks

### Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

- Jerry McAdams will be conducting a community risk assessment late May early June (the soonest he was available) a date and time still pending.
- Hidden Springs was awarded the NFPA and State Farm Wildfire Preparedness Day Award. For our efforts we received complimentary education materials, a banner and \$500 towards or project.

- Door to door education materials are available for pick up in the Town Office. Still need volunteers for a number of streets.
- Social Media and email blasts regarding Wildfire information and the event will start later this week and continue until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Trail Maintenance Priorities / Project Suggestions for Volunteer Day April 21<sup>st</sup>**

- Committee reviewed the Trail Maintenance/Fix Priorities list and identified work to be done on the Upper Ridge Trail on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Additional OS Project discussed included:
  - Alignment of the Dry Creek Trail after bridge before connection to Meadow Trail south of Dry Creek.
  - Steepness of Andy's Gulch Trail
  - Deerpath access to Bitterbrush Trail
  - Blind spot on Bitterbrush Trail crossing Dry Creek at Landslide Meadow Trail
  - Currant Creek Bridge extension

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Farm**

- The last few weeks the farm committee has been busy:
  - Deer fence installed and turned on
  - Lots of weeding
  - Mulching in perennial areas
  - Lined paths and beds with rocks
  - Rocks removed from u-pick pumpkin patch fields
  - Laying out irrigation
  - Weeding around lavender and berry bushes
  - Mulching, mulching, mulching

#### **New Business**

- Bill Junk reminded Lisa that the pile of road mix from trail building still needed to be picked up. Hopkins will be reminded to pick up.
- Bill Junk asked about name/marker signage along HS/Ridge to Rivers trails. Group agreed signage not necessary, expensive to purchase and maintain.
- Bill Junk requested that Hopkins trim up the evergreen trees at the lift station to Firewise standards. It will be added to Hopkins To-Do List.
- Bill Junk asked about a trail map update and reprinting. Given the quantity still on hand (600) HSTA will hold off until necessity dictates a reprint. HSTA estimates 200 maps are given out each year.
- Bill Junk asked about plans to address White-Top this year. Hopkins and Scott are spraying Poison Hemlock now (weather permitting) and will concentrate on White Top right after Hemlock.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Next Meeting is **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**