



# Open Space Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2019

**Attendees:** Lisa Ahrens, Dan Anderson, Kevin Dow, William Junk, Kim Lyons, Aimee Noonan, Raece Oakeson, Paul Ostler, Eddy Petranek, Chris Roe, Tae Swoboda, Chuck Vertrees,

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

## **September 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes were unanimously approved with Kim Lyons amendment of “Avimor is allowing e-bikes on trails for a trial period” under the subject of Trail Mowing.

## **Upper Ridge Reroute**

- The Duty to Notify period ends Sunday October 6, so Monday Morning October 7<sup>th</sup> if we haven’t heard anything we can assume it is acceptable and schedule or volunteer efforts.
- Coconut matting, split rail fencing and seed have already been purchased to decommission the old trail. Chuck would like to apply the matting, seed and possibly fencing to the rerouted section of Homestead trail.
- LTTV has a number of companies interested in open space/trail volunteer opportunities.
- Open Space will identify a date sometime in the next month or two when trail building conditions are optimal.

## **Chukar Butte Trail Extension (aka New Trail) Proposal - Update**

- Bill Junk shared an updated version of the Chukar Butte Trail Extension Proposal.
- After a brief discussion, Eddy Petranek motioned that Open Space recommend the Chukar Butte Trail Extension to the Town Council for their support and funding not to exceed \$3000 as the matching portion of costs for a cooperative effort with Ridge To Rivers. This new trail would extend from a point on the Red Tail Trail north of the intersection of Dry Creek Road and Humphrey Way to a point on the Bitterbrush Trail about 300 feet west of Cartwright Road and the current Chukar Butte Trailhead. The total trail length would be approximately 3600 feet with an average grade of about 4.6%. The trail to be designed to accommodate beginning-level riders and hikers who do not want the physical challenges presented by the Red Tail Trail. It will also provide a convenient route to the current Chukar Butte Trailhead from the parking lot on Dry Creek Road which should reduce some of the parking that currently occurs along the unimproved shoulders of Cartwright Road, improving safety in that area. Open Space and Ridge to Rivers propose using a professional trail building company. Ridge to Rivers will also perform the trail design and is interested in having this trail become part of their system when completed. Proposed time frame is Fall 2020 / Spring 2021. Kim Lyons seconded the motion and the
- Chuck is attending the October 8<sup>th</sup> WTCM AT 7:00 PM to share the proposal with Town Council.
- If Town Council approves the project and funding support, the next step will be to submit the proposal to Ada County.

## **Wetlands**

- Aimee Noonan and Lisa Ahrens met with Michael Weignand, Habiscapes to discuss the Hidden Springs wetland off of W. Hidden Springs Drive. Michael shared that the water table had clearly risen over the years possibly due to run off from additional homes up Humphreys, Schicks and Upper Ridge. He suggested contacting and consulting with a Hydrologist on ways to channel and drain the water to control the growth of the cattails.

- Next steps include consulting with other Wetlands experts, a hydrologist and ACHD and possibly form a sub-committee of the Open Space committee focused on the Wetlands.

### Trailforks

- Chuck Vertrees shared his thoughts regarding Trailforks a trail database and management system for trail associations, builders and riders.
- Chuck is researching if it will be an effective tool for Hidden Springs, tracking maintenance, seasonal closures and other trail related information.

### Landslide Loop Seasonal Closures

- The Landslide Loop trail design and development by Ridge to Rivers and Ada County allowed for seasonal closures so the area could continue to provide refuge for wildlife.
- Hidden Springs preference for closure dates are 11/1-3/1 coinciding with the seasonal closure in Avimor, thus, creating some "regional continuity".
- HSTA and the OS Committee assumes R2R has signs available and would prefer Ridge to Rivers to place signs during the closure period. Signs can be placed at the lower intersection of Landslide and Current Creek and at the upper intersection of Landslide and Redtail.
- HSTA will communicate the closure in our various community newsletters and social media pages.
- Lisa Ahrens and Chuck Vertrees will communicate with Ridge to Rivers regarding seasonal closures.

### Trail Mowing

- Following last month's meeting, Lisa Ahrens shared a copy of the mowing/edging map.
- The subject of additional mowing was discussed again with varying points of view.
- Lisa Ahrens to discuss options with Hopkins.

### **Staff Report**

### Open Space Maintenance

- With the cooler temperatures, Hopkins has resumed open space and trail maintenance.

### Firewise

- Nothing to report at this time

### **Committee Reports**

### Bike Area

- Volunteer day scheduled for Saturday, October 5 from 1-5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Next Meetings

**Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

~~**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**~~

**Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**