



Open Space Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2019

Attendees: Lisa Ahrens, Dan Anderson, Kevin Dow, Eric Grace, William Junk, Jay Karamales, Scott Koberg, Kim Lyons, Aimee Noonan, Don Murray, Raeca Oakeson, Eddy Petranek, Tae Swoboda, Chuck Vertrees

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

January 8th Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were unanimously approved.

Introduction – Eric Grace, former Executive Director of Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) in Sandpoint, ID, will serve as the Land Trust's new Executive Director.

- Eric comes to LTTV with over 20-years' experience in land trust leadership. During his tenure at KLT, the organization doubled its land under protection. Fifteen projects were completed: thirteen conservation easements and two fee-owned parcels for public access, including a \$2.1 million capital campaign to purchase a 160-acre parcel to be used for KLT's outdoor education and public health programs, as well as general recreation.
- Eric led KLT's participation in a pilot project demonstrating the relevancy of land conservation to entire communities. This project reshaped their engagement programs, built the diversity of supporters, and resulted in increased community involvement and greater organizational capacity. His reputation as a team builder and leader is well respected throughout the national land trust community.

Current and Future plans for the Dry Creek Valley including Red Tail West Loop – Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks & Waterways.

- At the October 2018 WTCM Town Council approved the Open Space Committee's recommendation for the Red Tail West Trail Loop, with all construction costs funded by Ada County Parks and Waterways and Hidden Springs granting a trail easement upon completion. Approval was communicated to Ada County October 2018 with the caveat that HSTA approve the preliminary alignment.
- Ada County contacted HSTA February 2018 with the proposed trail alignment. The trail design/alignment was created by David Gordon, Ridge to Rivers Division Manager, and was flagged on site utilizing blue pin flags for grade changes and red pin flags for direct grade. The trail is a combination of grassy/open/rolling terrain, mature bitterbrush/sage pockets, rock outcroppings and stellar views of the Dry Creek Valley and beyond. It also leaves a large open area that, combined with seasonal closures, should provide an appropriate refuge for wildlife. All believe trail users will be extremely pleased with the outcome. The proposed name for the trail at this time is Landslide Loop Trail in recognition of the key feature of the trail and with the intent to differentiate it from Red Tail Trail (since Red Hawk is too similar).
- Open Space Appointed Committee members were notified by Chuck Vertrees that the trail was flagged and encouraged to walk weather and trail conditions permitting.
- Chuck Vertrees walked the alignment and shared, "I was able to hike the entire flagged trail this afternoon. As the documents Scott sent show, it's very close to what we originally discussed and approved and takes into account our feedback on the upper switchbacks. Routing along Currant Creek from the bridge is going to create very cool trail due to the rocks in that section- we discussed that compromise the day you Tim and I met and I do like that section of trail a lot- it's much more interesting than if we connected the trail further upstream. It's going to be a great trail and will be a good addition. I don't have any issues with the alignment and would recommend we approve it. I even like the name."

- After a period of discussion the following action was taken:
 - Aimee Noonan made a motion that the Open Space Committee approve and recommend to the Town Council the proposed alignment of the western Red Tail Trail loop now named Landslide Loop, on Hidden Springs property (above the land slide and before the Dominion Ranch property line). The motion was seconded by Eddy Petranek and approved unanimously.
- Scott shared briefly progress on the development of the Ada County Easement along the creek and through, Hidden Springs, Cartwright Ranch and Dry Creek Ranch. Regarding potential trail connectivity upstream from Cartwright Road along the Dry Creek corridor toward Peggy’s Trail, Scott shared that despite repeated efforts from Boise City and Ridge to Rivers to engage in a discussion with the Grossmans regarding a potential trail easement in that location, nothing has been accomplished to date.
- **Wire Fencing**
 - Ada County will remove metal posts and barbed wire in the vicinity of the construction of the Landslide Loop trail.
 - Kevin Dow will map wire fencing and identify, “middle of nowhere,” “property boundary,” and “roadside,” and gps locate for discussion at future meeting.
 - Bill Junk expressed concern about external fencing and active grazing.

Staff Report

- **Community Improvement Project** - Copies of list available at meeting for Open Space Committee review.
- **Eagle Scout Project Updates**
 - **Rolling Hills Native Plant Restoration** - Since Kyle's last visit/report, Tim Breuer offered to donate extra grasses LTTV had from other fall projects. Kyle picked up a packet of 20 Sandberg's Blue Grass starts in late Oct. Tim provided a description and drawing of how best to plant them. Kyle and his siblings went out to Deer Path/Sage Creek east common area and planted 3 groupings of 6 to 7 grasses each. He watered them one week later and continues to check on them weekly. They are dormant now, but hopefully got established in the mid late fall weather. Photos from November included below. Future plans include weeding in early spring. And leading a group of volunteers to do more planting of grasses, to get to approx. 15 "islands" of grasses. Kyle will provide another update in the spring.



- **Dry Creek Natural Benches** – Jeremy’s project has been approved and he plans to get this spring.
- **Boise State University groundwater – surface water interaction study on Dry Creek** A student at Boise State University contacted HSTA regarding a groundwater-surface water interaction study along Dry Creek. Permission was granted to measure streamflow at four locations as shown on the attached map. This study would start in the spring of 2019 and last for about one year. I would make measurements once a week at the beginning and then transition to once a month. I approximate it will take me about half an hour at each location. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.



- **Water Tank Trail Reroute** - Update on-hold until weather and ground conditions permit.
- **Open Space Maintenance**
 - **Noxious weeds** - White top is a perennial a pre-emergent application will not work. Hopkins will begin spraying in April through late May/June (depending on weather). They target the seedling/growth stage before it gets to the flowing stage. Areas are noted on a map in the Town Office for reference year to year.
 - **Tree and shrub trimming** - Hopkins has begun trimming, thinning and clearing out dead material in natural common spaces throughout the community. Done Rite will inspect and remove dead material along Dry Creek and the Wetlands between W. Hidden Springs Drive and Parsons.
 - **Wetland area between Hidden Springs Drive and Parsons** – Embankment/berm is rebuilt. Native shrub install, area restoration and clean up pending.

Firewise - Per previous discussion will proceed with the same fuel reduction program implemented in 2018. Working on a community fire hydrant painting program with an Eagle Scout.

Committee Reports

- **Bike Area** nothing to report. Minimal use during this time of year.
- **Farm** The 2019 Farm Appointed Member list to go before Town Council January 10, 2019.
 - HSTA is struggling to fill the vacant seasonal Farm Worker position, previously filled by Bruce Shaffley. If this position cannot be filled, the duties (including maintaining and operating the tractors) will be contracted out to Hopkins.
 - The starting of seeds for 2019 growing season will be performed by a larger group of farmers this year. Seeds will be potted at the farm on the picnic tables when the weather is “right.” The pots will be placed in the Clubhouse shower room, using grow lights.
 - They will expand soil testing this season to clarify soil types across all growing areas. There is concern that there is a variety of soil types and they may need to treat/condition soil differently based on crops that will be grown in each area. Western Laboratories will be used to test soil.
 - They are continuing to explore options for keeping deer out of the crop rows.
 - Improving the Farm Reimbursement Expense Form process. The goal is to facilitate more streamlined reporting to the Town Council. These procedures will be followed in 2019: A standardized set of budget categories will be used to fill in the “description of purchase” on the Reimbursement Form.
 - The deadline for submitting 2019 Reimbursement Forms to HSTA is September 1, 2019. This is necessary to the preparation of the Annual Report and Request for Financial Support.

- If the Farm experiences a bountiful row crop harvest at any point in the summer, they agreed to consider adding a mid-week group harvest day on Wednesdays. Facebook and email will be used to notify the Farm Group of this additional work party. A volunteer is needed to inspect crops early in the day on Wednesday (or late Tuesday evening) to determine whether a group harvest should be scheduled.
- In general, the Farm's irrigation season runs from April 1st through October 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Next Meeting is **Tuesday, March 5th**