



Open Space Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2019

Attendees: Lisa Ahrens, Dan Anderson, Kahle Becker, Kevin Dow, William Junk, Jay Karamales, Kim Lyons, Eddy Petranek, Chuck Vertrees

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

May 7th Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were unanimously approved.

Homestead Trail Reroute - Update

- June 1st Volunteer Project rerouting the Homestead Trail, formerly Chukar Butte Trail (Humphreys), went well despite low volunteer turn-out. The experienced Trail Crew Leaders were missed.
- The old trail needs to be de-commissioned. Suggested split rail fence at top and bottom with signage, possibly rototill, soil mat and reseed in the fall.

Upper Ridge Reroute - Update

- An email was sent to Scott Koberg 5/8/19 regarding the proposed Upper Ridge Reroute with the hopes of obtaining approval for the June 1st volunteer project.
- Scott was not able to approve on the proposed time table and suggested we submit for a future grant process. He requested a copy of the agreement with the county which was emailed 5/8/19. Scott had the following questions:
 - How was the proposed alignment for the re-route determined or who drew it up?
 - What would be the proposed plan for rehabbing the existing trail alignment once closed?
- Per the CE Agreement:
 - Pedestrian and equestrian trails are Permitted Improvements
 - For approval, a plan must be submitted for review and approval prior to the construction of such improvement.
 - Plan shall include, a map showing the proposed improvement location, written narrative description and relationship to the conservation purposes of the Open Space Area.
 - Hidden Springs needs to allow 30-days for a response or no-response in which case, Grantor shall be deemed to have approved such request for all purposes stated therein.
- Committee requested that the Upper Ridge Reroute be formerly submitted to Ada County for approval and HSTA to initiate 30 day comment period in the community. Chuck Vertrees to prepare written narrative for proposed reroute and residents will be invited to attend the August Open Space Meeting to learn more about the trail/reroute.
- The purpose of the proposed reroute is to improve a portion of the trail to get away from the steepness of the incline. Or perhaps rerouting the Chukar Butte Connector higher up on the hill between Upper Ridge and Humphreys.

Lookout Loop/Currant Creek Reroute - Update

- Scott Koberg and David Gordon are open to looking at a possible joint project to reroute the upper leg of the Currant Creek Trail to Lookout Loop. They think it is a good idea provided something sustainable could be identified.

- David will take a look when he returns from vacation and be back in touch with HSTA and the Open Space Committee.

Proposed new north loop project above Dry Creek Road

- The DRAFT New Trail Proposal document prepared by Bill Junk was forwarded to Ada County Parks and Waterways and Ridge to Rivers 5/15/19.
- Preliminary comments from Ridge to Rivers:
 - Some merit in at least one of the trails from a Ridge to Rivers system standpoint – allowing for an easier connection from Dry Creek Trailhead to Chuckar Butte Trail could very well increase the parking viability of that trailhead.
 - David Gordon would need to walk and survey the area however to determine the most favorable alignment if Ridge to Rivers were to manage this trail.
 - Ultimately this would be an Ada County decision and if favorable in their minds, would need to be agreed upon by the Ridge to Rivers partnership as a whole.
 - What does HSTA propose in terms of construction method and funding?
- Next steps:
 - Bill Junk to finalize proposal document for new trail(s).
 - HSTA to communicate proposal for new trail(s) to the community for a 30-day comment period and invite residents to August Open Space meeting.
 - Pending feed-back and outcome of the August meeting, present to Town Council at September WTCM for project and funding support.
 - Resubmit to Ada County pending feed-back and the outcome of the WTCM meeting.

E-Bike Policy

- Per Section 3.2.6 of the Conservation Easement Agreement, “The operation of snowmobiles, dune buggies, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles or any other type of motorized vehicle (except for vehicles used in connection with the Improvements permitted in Section 3.3 below, vehicles used for agricultural purposes, emergency vehicles of Ada County or other appropriate governmental entities, security patrol vehicles, vehicles used in connection with normal maintenance procedures and wheelchairs other similar vehicles used by disabled persons) shall not be permitted on the Open space Area.
- HSTA to include a reminder “No Motorized Vehicles” in an upcoming Newsletter.

Staff Report

Open Space Maintenance

- **Noxious weeds** – Hopkins sprayed White Top and Poison Hemlock early May and then started again late last week. They were not able to spray May 15 – 29th due to weather conditions. Thistle is now popping up and they will concentrate on that for the next few weeks along with any missed White Top and Hemlock.
- **Mowing** – Open Space mowing and will start fire-break mowing.
- **Trail Maintenance Items** – Thinned and cut back sage that was overgrown along Switchback trail. Will be adding road mix and crushed gravel to stair steps. Another round of trail mowing is planned in the next couple of weeks.
- **Access road at the end of Long Meadow and 14th** – Road mix and crushed gravel placed.
- **South side of creek bank next to community and working barn** – The section of the creek bank that eroded away this spring repaired.
- **Large overgrown wild rose on unnamed off shoot of Dry Creek Trail** – When weather and conditions permit Hopkins will significantly reduce/remove sections of the large shrub and begin building up the trail that is always underwater in the spring.

Firewise

- Fire hydrants not painted as part of the May 4th Wildfire Preparedness activities are being painted by the Jr. Site Crew (approximately 68).
- Community members have reached out requesting assistance with an Emergency Evacuation Plan and forming a committee.
- Community members have reached out for assistance with Commissioners and Fire Departments regarding response time and staffing of Hidden Springs Fire Station.
- HSTA still trying to get a community assessment scheduled.

Committee Reports

Bike Area

- Lots of weeding.
- Will schedule a volunteer day sometime in the fall.

Farm

- Nothing to report at this time.

New Business

Trail Signage

- Bill Junk shared his thoughts on Hidden Springs trail signage and “dogs must be leashed” messaging as many are not abiding by this common courtesy. The Committee agreed additional or different signage likely not to have much impact. HSTA will continue with educational messaging in Newsletter.

Invasive Weed Management

- Bill Junk shared that there are invasive and noxious weeds:
 - a. Rush Skeleton Weed west of Red Tail Trail and north side of creek to Meadow Lark
 - b. Poison Hemlock Currant Creek Trail east of Red Tail Trail
 - c. Thistle new Bitterbrush trail to 14th Avenue
 - d. Schicks Gulch
 - e. Goatheads along Schicks Trail from Shafer

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting is **Tuesday, August 20th**