



# Open Space Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2019

**Attendees:** Lisa Ahrens, Kevin Dow, William Junk, Jay Karamales, Kim Lyons, Don Murray, Eddy Petranek, Chris Roe, Tae Swoboda, Chuck Vertrees

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

## April 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were unanimously approved.

## Water Tank Reroute

- Upper Ridge Reroute – REI partners with the Land Trust for National Trails Day on June 1st to hold a volunteer trail work day. Chris Roe contacted HSTA to see if the Open Space Committee would be open to have the event out in Hidden Springs and do some needed trail work. REI provides lunch from a local deli, snacks, sometimes breakfast and has swag to give out. Last year LTTV held it in Cartwright Ranch along Cartwright Ridge.
- An area to consider would be to reroute a portion of the Upper Ridge Trail to get away from the steepness of the incline. Or perhaps rerouting the Chuckar Butte Connector higher up on the hill between Upper Ridge and Humphreys.
- The Committee discussed the options and decided to try and get the necessary approvals and go ahead from Ada County to reroute a portion of the Upper Ridge Trail for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Chuck will provide the proposed reroute drafted by Tim Breuer early 2018 and Lisa will forward to and make an inquiry with Ada County.

## Trail Names

- At the April OS Meeting, Bill Junk proposed that the Open Space Committee consider renaming some trails to avoid confusion. Specific trails to be considered:
  - Landslide Meadow Trail / Landslide Loop Trail
  - Chuckar Butte Trail (between Humphrey's Trail and Upper Ridge Trail) / Chukar Butte Trail (Daniel's Creek).
- Open Space Appointed Committee members were asked to submit 3 ideas to the HSTA by Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Ideas submitted:

Chukar Butte Trail (Humphreys)	Landslide Meadow Trail
Saddle Trail	Sunflower Trail
Coyote Gulch Trail	South Bitterbrush Trail
Homestead Trail	Landslide Meadow Trail
Pardners Trail	Rabbit Brush Trail
Ranchers Trail	Bitterbrush Trail
New Beginning Trail	
Ostalosa Trail	

- By majority vote, it was agreed that Landslide Meadow Trail would be renamed Bitterbrush Trail.

- By majority vote, it was agreed that Chukar Butte (between Humphrey's Trail and Upper Ridge) would be renamed Homestead Trail.
- The following names were well liked and documented for consideration when naming future trails:
  - Coyote Gulch
  - Sunflower
  - Ostialosa
  - Rabbit Brush

### **E-Bike Policy**

- Discussion tabled until research of governing documents is complete.

### **Staff Report**

#### **LTTV**

- Chris completed a maintenance inventory of the trails and noted the following:
  - Maintenance required on Upper Ridge, Chukar Butte, Andys Gulch and Currant Creek
  - Some trails and trail heads would benefit from identification, signage and split rail fencing
  - Weed management
  - Consider seasonal closures

#### **Landslide Loop**

- Construction is now complete on Landslide Loop Trail #70 --- the newest addition to the Ridge to Rivers Trail System!
- This collaboration between Ada County Parks & Waterways, Hidden Springs Town Association and Ridge to Rivers adds another 2 ¼ miles to the publicly maintained trail system north of Hidden Springs. The new trail features an elevated connection between Red Tail Trail and upper Currant Creek Trail creating a scenic 3 ½ mile loop on Hidden Springs and Ada County property. The county provided \$25,000 for Landslide Loop with Ridge to Rivers contributing the trail design and project oversight and Cuddy Mountain Trail Company completing trail construction.
- Trail users encouraged to take the Happy Trails pledge before heading out <https://www.ridgetorivers.org/etiquette/happy-trails-pledge/>
- Landslide Loop, like all Hidden Springs trails will be designated on-leash
- Currant Creek Trail will be added to the R2R system. . HSTA will follow up with Scott Koberg regarding legal paperwork and R2R designation for Chukar Butte, Landslide and Currant Creek.
- David Gordon is open to looking at a possible joint project between R2R and Hidden Springs to reroute Lookout Loop; he thinks it is a good idea provided something sustainable could be identified. He will be out of the office for 3 weeks and will take a look when he returns.

#### **April 20<sup>th</sup> – Community Clean Up and Trail Maintenance Day**

- 45 Volunteers
- Lots of clean up done at the Farmstead and along the Creek. When creek flow drops, Scott and Hopkins will make another pass through to pull fallen and dead material collecting in the creek that could impede flow.

#### **Open Space Maintenance**

- **Noxious weeds** – Hopkins has been spraying for White Top and Poison Hemlock for two weeks. They have a few more areas and then will begin to go back over areas as well as focus on thistle. HSTA reported a number of locations along Seaman's Gulch and Dry Creek to Ada County Weed Abatement.

- **Access road at the end of Long Meadow and 14<sup>th</sup>** – Placement of the road mix and crushed gravel is scheduled for tomorrow.
- **South side of creek bank next to community and working barn** – A section of the creek bank eroded away during one of the down-pours this spring. Hopkins will use left-over rock from Parson’s wetland project to repair.
- **“Thank you for leashing your dog and picking up poop...”** signage in place for a few test areas in the community (one in RH to be relocated when time permits).
- **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.

### Firewise

- Wildfire Preparedness Day – Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Fire-fuel reduction and debris collection – Only 7 signed up and 5 participated.
  - b. Fire hydrant painting – 45 volunteers, 100 service hours and 60 of 128 fire hydrants painted

### **Committee Reports**

#### Bike Area

- Nothing to report at this time.

#### Farm

- Nothing to report at this time.

### **New Business**

#### New Trail

- Bill Junk proposed a new trail loop off the Bitterbrush Trail North of Dry Creek Road.
  - The proposal will need to follow the Policy 500 process
  - Bill will draft something and send to HSTA to share with Ridge to Rivers to see if they would be interested in partnering.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next Meeting is **Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**