



Open Space Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2020

Attendees: Lisa Ahrens, Dan Anderson, William Junk, Kim Lyons, Don Murray, Aimee Noonan, Paul Ostler, Eddy Petranek, Chuck Vertrees

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

January 7th Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Chair - Update

- Chuck reminded members that the Open Space committee plays an advisory role.
- Update via email 2/7/2020 on the current status of the connection trail between Hidden Spring/Landslide and Avimor. Ada County, R2R and Avimor have all decided to abandon the plan to connect Landslide to Avimor by heading north, across McFarland Creek, and onto Avimor's property. Difficult terrain, construction costs and wildlife impacts are the primary reasons. It's unfortunate, but in the end, a justifiable decision. The groups are continuing to explore other options, which will most likely include a connection from Dry Creek Ranch to Fiddleneck Ridge and some rerouting of Fiddleneck Ridge. There are a lot more details to be ironed out.

Fence Removal / IDF&G Habitat Improvement

- Bill Junk and Kevin Dow conducted a barbed wire fence inventory, mapping locations in and around the Hidden Springs community.
- Bill proposed the following:
 1. Remove existing internal fence section 5 which generally follows a north - south line paralleling the intermediate portion of the Upper Ridge Trail commencing near the location where the southern (upper) portion of the rerouted section rejoins the existing trail, continuing south to the location where the fence makes a roughly 45 degree turn toward the water tank and remove the section to the water tank. Item 1 is the continuation of a fence removal activity begun in conjunction with the rerouting of a section of Upper Ridge Trail. It will reduce the hazard to wildlife movement in the area.
 2. Remove existing fence section 6 roughly located behind 12110 N. Humphreys Way, extending west from the property boundary with Cartwright Ranch to the bottom of the drainage channel. Item 2 is a small effort to remove approximately feet of fence in poor condition and serving no useful purpose, all located on HSTA property.
 3. Initiate contact with Cartwright Ranch Town Association to seek their approval and cooperation in the removal of fence sections 7 and 8 along the HSTA and CRTA common property line. These fences are located east of the houses on N. Humphreys Way. Item 3 will reduce the hazard to wildlife movement in the area.
 4. Initiate contact with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine their interest in removing additional portions of fence section 1 from its crossing of Currant Creek and north to the point where it joins property owned by the Ada County Commissioners. If IDF&G is interested in removing this fence, determine which party will contact the adjacent property owner for permission to remove the fence. Item 4 could become the basis for a larger volunteer project organized by IDF&G to remove the identified fence as well as some fences on adjoining property. During the volunteer project that removed the fence on the boundary between Hidden Springs and Ada County, Michael Young of IDF&G expressed interest in

removing additional fences in the area. Accomplishing this action will reduce the hazard to wildlife movement in the area.

5. Initiate contact with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine their interest in participating in habitat improvement in the area of Hidden Springs north of Carrant Creek. Item 5 is a follow up on brief discussions with IDF&G that took place during the removal of fencing between HSTA and Ada County property in December 2019.

- After some discussion:

1. Aimee Noonan made a motion to recommend removal of the fence as outlined in Items 1 and 2, to the Town Council. Eddy Petranek seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed. The Town Manager will make the recommendation at the next Town Council Meeting, February 19th.
2. The Town Manager was not in favor of removing boundary fences particularly between HSTA and CRTA following issues that developed after removing a section of HSTA/CRTA boundary fencing behind W. Miners Farm Court and there was no further discussion.
3. The Committee discussed Items 4 and 5 and concluded that it was up to IDF&G to drive removal of the fencing as described above and initiate contact and propose habitat improvement in the northern uplands.

LTTV Report – Chris Roe (via email)

- Chris was not able to attend but emailed the following update:
 1. Working on the mapping
 2. Conducted some walk-throughs of trails during the autumn before the rains came and one of the priorities identified will be to fill in "cupped" trails and really work on improving tread conditions. Spring walk-throughs have not commenced but will take place this month and next.

Staff Report – Lisa Ahrens

Open Space Maintenance

- **Fuel Reduction** - Removing dead material and overgrowth in open space areas between homes and along Dry Creek to reduce fuels.
 - On Hopkins spring To-Do List with crews starting the first week in February.
- **Trail Mowing – See Map**
 - Blue = Trails done with a mower. Blue sections are done 4+ times per year depending on growth. Crews start in March/April and done on a 6-8 week rotation cycle depending on weather and ground conditions.
 - Red = Trails done by hand with edger followed by blower. Red sections are done 1-2 times per year depending on growth. Crews do one pass with edger and another pass with a blower. The first trimming is timed with firebreak work. The second if needed, is done in the fall.
 - Green = Access roads done with mower/edger.
- **Open Space Mowing – See Map**
 - Hopkins is preparing a color coded version of this map so like the trail mowing map, will indicate how often maintenance is scheduled for each area.
- **Noxious Weeds**
 - A continued priority and that is addressed and managed by the HOA. Eradication is not possible. We strive for containment and controlling new areas as best we can with Hidden Springs surrounded by property owners who do not do any treatment. Where possible, Hopkins begins addressing noxious weeds late fall/early spring applying pre-emergent in locations of colonies identified the previous year. A certified and licensed applicator treats weed colonies as they emerge.

Open Space Projects and Tasks

- Identify a clean-up or trail project for Community Clean Up and Trail Maintenance Day, April 25, 2020.
- Improve entrance to shady grove trail building up the trail and applying road mix/crushed gravel
 - On Hopkins Spring To-Do List
- Address drainage issues on the Wetlands Trail from Dry Creek Road Parking Lot to the Dry Creek Trail
 - On Hopkins Spring To-Do List
- Daniels Creek Easement/Farm Access Road – Mud track out issue
 - Due to the increased cost of rock, track out pad originally proposed more costly than anticipated. Syman working on alternative options.
- Review LTTV recommendations Spring 2019 and prioritize projects for 2020 and 2021
- Hydro-seed 2-3 meadow areas (Humphreys, farm access, Hidden Springs Drive) to help restore native grasses and reduce noxious weeds. Estimate pending from Syman for all three areas.
 - Farm Road where sewer line went through connecting Cartwright Ranch to Hidden Springs Sewer.
 - Field behind Parklane where we have eradicated invasive and noxious weeds and now need to restore natural grasses.
 - Field an open space area running from 5114 Hidden Springs Dr east to behind Park Ln overrun with invasive weeds.
- Temporary and moveable Muddy Trail Signage for 5 trails
 - Signs ordered from Fast Signs and delivery pending.
 - Need Open Space volunteers to “adopt a trail” and agree to place and remove signage for muddy season.
- Reprint Community and Regional Trails Map (Fall 2020)
- Consult with ACHD, a Hydrologist and Army Corps of Engineers regarding the water build up in the wetlands, management and next steps
- Identify Open Space areas to apply recycled water and add to the pressurized irrigation
- Increase agricultural field area and identify and invest in equipment to apply recycled water

Firewise

- Community Evacuation Planning Meeting was held 11/12/19 invited guests included, Boise Fire, North Ada County Fire and Rescue, Eagle Fire, Idaho Smart Growth, Cartwright Ranch/Grossman Company, Ada County Sheriff, Ada County Paramedics, Ada County Emergency Management, and Hidden Springs Elementary School. Follow up meeting to be held spring 2020.
- Fuel Reduction Grant Opportunity Pending from August 2019 – Boise Fire and Idaho Firewise
 - Poplar Creek, 10th Ave, Rolling Hills, Dry Creek Road, Schick’s, Orchard
- Firewise Event/Activity for 2020
 - Applied for NFPA Project Funding Grant \$600.00
 - Hidden Springs Town Association will host two events dedicated to Wildfire Preparedness. The first event will be in April 16, 2020, “How Fire Wise Are You?” Residents will be encouraged to attend the educational evening and/or to contact the Boise Fire Department or Idaho Firewise for a home evaluation in preparation of the coming wildfire season.
 - The educational evening will focus on the importance of the community’s commitment to being Firewise with a focus on the importance of wildfire preparedness, mitigation efforts and safety tips. Residents who attend will be treated to fire themed food and beverages. The HOA will work with representatives from Idaho Firewise, Boise Fire Department, Boise Land Management, North Ada County Fire and Rescue and Land Trust of the Treasure Valley.
 - The goal is to spark community interest in participating in our annual Wildfire Preparedness Day Fuel Reduction Event conducted over two days due to the size of the community. On Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd residents who register for the event with the HOA will benefit from complimentary curb side pick-up of debris.

Farm

- Attended Produce Safety Training with Laurel Dow, Farm Committee Leadership Team and obtained certification. This training covered produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule and good agricultural practices so I and/or the Farm Committee Leaders don't (due to careless acts of our own doing) have an E.coli, listeria or salmonella outbreak.
- Farm Committee Leadership Team and I meet with Brennan Henry Allsworth of Winnower Farm last week and he and his business partner are interested in working with Hidden Springs. An agreement is currently being drafted.

Bike Area

- Nothing to report at this time.
- Requested HSTA remove or repair the damaged picnic table.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Next Meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 2020 / Community Clubhouse