



# Open Space Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021

**Attendees:** Lisa Ahrens, Dan Anderson, Kahle Becker, William Junk, Kim Lyons, Aimee Noonan, Paul Ostler, Eddy Petranek, Brian Stuhr, Tae Swoboda, Oren Thomas, Chuck Vertrees

**Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.**

## October 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were unanimously approved.

## Oren Thomas, LTTV Conservation Projects Manager introduced to the Committee

- Oren shared his background and experience and in turn, the Committee members shared how long they have lived in the community, served on the OSC and areas of interest.

## Committee Chair Update

- Chuck shared OSC Projects and Focus for 2021.
  - Review options to reroute ranch road off Cartwright Road across from Rolling Hills to the north to alleviate mud track-out in winter months. Restoration of the existing ranch road and consider a trail connection from where the ranch road exists across from Deerpath currently to Currant Creek Trail to make a loop.
  - Pursue possible trail opportunities and improvements in southern upland Hidden Springs property in conjunction with Boise City's new land acquisition. LTTV and Boise City will hand off to Ridge to Rivers however at this time there are no plans.
  - Work with LTTV to update to CE Management Plan
  - Evaluate wetland health and improve trails around the wetland.

## Email from David Gordon / Ridge to Rivers Trails

- At Ridge to Rivers request (1/21/2021 call from David Gordon with follow up email) and effective immediately, the Association will not mow regional trails on Hidden Springs property which is contributing to the widening and decline. The only exceptions will be trimming and edging at the Red Tail, Bitterbrush, Currant Creek and Chukar Butte trail heads (10 feet or so) to provide more visibility for bikers and hikers crossing N Cartwright Road and Dry Creek Road. Also should an invasive weed (ie., Rush Skeleton or Sweet Clover) encroach on a regional trail, we can request permission to minimally edge back so the weed(s) are just off the trail. Hopkins will do minimal mowing along community trails.



## Staff Report

- **Trail Names/ Map/Signage.** River Ridge Engineering incorporated the names and additions identified in our October 6, 2020 meeting. The map was sent to the OSC for a follow up review and the following edits are needed:
  - The upper Ridge trail doesn't depict the new realignment in several sections. For example it now goes around the northwest side of the water tower and has a big switchback on the slope.

- Shady Grove Trail label on east (right side of map) needs to be relocated so it doesn't look like it is connected to the Rabbit Brush Trail. Suggest along the south border or at the Cartwright Ranch connection
- Can the greens match in the final version?
- Owner address needs to be changed to 5876 W Hidden Springs Dr
- Add and call out Cartwright Ranch connection along Border Trail
- Add and call out Bike Park area
- Remove Town Ridge Trail
- Red Tail Trail is a regional trail
- Check easement designation/Dominion Ranch
- On page 2 (the Rolling Hills Section), South Bitterbrush should be renamed to Rabbit Brush Trail
- On page 2 (the Rolling Hills Section), check Red Tail Connection where it meets the road
- **Noxious weed mitigation.**
  - Ada County Noxious Weed Mitigation team will be targeting Poison Hemlock, Hounds Tongue, Scotch Thistle, Canada Thistle and White Top addressing the following areas this spring:
    - 4 acres of wetland area Hidden Springs Dr, Schick's Ridge and Humphreys
    - 4 acres north and south Dry Creek from east property boundary to Dry Creek Rd
    - 3 acres of wetland area north of Dry Creek along Dry Creek Rd, Currant Creek Estates to Humphreys
    - 2 acres off Rabbit Brush Trail along property boundary fence line
    - Currant Creek and S Currant Creek trail – Will be re-assessed in the spring
  - Loosestrife defoliating beetle, *Galerucella californiensis* ordered from Integrated Weed Control. The larvae and adults feed on leaves, buds, shoots, and flowers. Feeding damage reduces loosestrife growth, flowering, seed production, and photosynthetic capability, negatively impacting overwintering energy, vigor, and native plant competition. Will be released late spring in wetland on the volleyball court side. Additional colonies will be ordered at the end of the year for release in spring 2022. Due to chemical spraying planned for 2021, these areas are not good candidates for the beetles.
  - Hopkins Evergreens will continue to target White Top on Hidden Springs hillside property:
    - Rolling Hills areas
    - Schicks Ridge
    - Upper Ridge and Humphrey's Trail
  - Hopkins will take a look at the South Trail overrun with Sweet Clover and provide an estimate to cut the clover back no more than a foot on either side of the trail to avoid widening.
  - NC Services will continue to treat around the WWTF.
- **Mowing** (Common spaces and Community Trails). Hopkins will do minimal mowing along community trails. Per OSC discussion in 2020, mower decks will be raised as high as possible and identified restoration areas not be mowed.
- **Dry Creek bank erosion North East side of creek.** Project complete. Construction fencing will be pulled in the spring once grasses are re-established.
- **Dry Creek Greenbelt Connection with Cartwright Ranch.** Nothing new to report at this time.
- **Forts and other random acts in Open Space.** Syman removed a number of forts and water dams from the creek. The Town Office will continue to remove forts and water dams and continue educational reminders in the Newsletters to discourage social trails and resident use of open space as personal property.
- **Native plant garden/shed structure.** LTTV has decided on another location.
- **Cougar Field.** Benches on sidelines are sinking. Installation of concrete supports for benches rescheduled for 2021.
- **Bike Park.** Nothing to report at this time.
- **Farm.** Leadership team has begun planning for 2021 and ordered seed.



### **Proposed Future Agenda Items**

- Community Management of Trail System/Adopt a Trail – Bill Junk
  - Definition for trail management and how does it work
  - Operational model for who does what
- Addition of trail connection between Chukar Butte and Bitterbrush – Bill Junk
- Habitat and land restoration – Bill Junk
  - Identify areas to encourage native Idaho fescue
- Landslide Loop single directional trail – Kahle Becker
- Should LTTV & HS purchase Dominion Ranch for the benefits of protecting Open Space – Kahle Becker

**Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm**