

Minutes of Foundation for Ada-Canyon Trail Systems
COMPASS Conference Room
February 17, 2016

1. Attendance:

Mark Eubank, Citizen
Jay Gibbons, City of Meridian
William F. Gigray, F.A.C.T.S. President
Wendy Howell, City of Kuna
Sharon Hubler, Treasurer FACTS
Dean Johnson, Idaho Department of Lands
Tom Laws, COMPASS
Paul Mann, Caldwell Pathway Bike Committee
Steve Noyes, City of Eagle
Gary Payne, F.A.C.T.S. Vice-President acting Secretary
Phil Peterson, Nampa Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Gary Segers, Volunteer/Citizen
Don Stockton, Eagle Parks and Pathways
Charles Trainor, F.A.C.T.S. Secretary
Mark Wasdahl, Idaho Transportation Department

1. Call to order at 3:07 by President William Gigray.
2. William Gigray asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none proposed. Gary Payne moved and Wendy Howell seconded a motion to approve the agenda, and it was approved on a voice vote.
3. Administrative Action Items
 - a. Minutes. William Gigray noted the minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting had been disseminated and he asked if there were any changes. No changes were proposed and Sharon Hubler moved and Gary Payne seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting. They were approved on a voice vote.
 - b. Bank Account Report. Sharon Hubler presented the treasurer's report, noting after a property tax payment that the balance was \$12,187.12. The property is a small island in the vicinity of Orange Street by the Boise Waste Treatment facility. It could be deeded to Ada County if the County takes over the pathway. Charles Trainor moved and Paul Mann seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The report was approved by a voice vote of the members in attendance.
 - c. Transfer of Easements. William Gigray said he has transmitted documents to the Ada County prosecutor via Scott Koberg regarding the easements currently held by FACTS and the proposed transfer. He indicated it is now up to the County to provide comments. He hoped there would be more information at the next meeting.
 - d. Additional Administrative Items. Gary Payne said he was working with the Boise River Enhancement Network project. He noted it provides another perspective on pathways along the river, with the need to allow for the river to expand, contract, and meander as it did before development. This contributes to the vegetation and animal life along the river. Charles said a study done by COMPASS years ago found that pathways and

pedestrians were found to be sometimes more disruptive to wildlife than cars. Gary said there is also some issue as to how the BREN efforts will connect with the Boise Flood Control District.

In response to a question from President Gigray, Charles said notice of a meeting on April 1, 2016 sponsored by the Flood Control District had been sent to F.A.C.T.S. members. Gary Segers said he and Sharon Hubler could attend the meeting of April 1 on behalf of F.A.C.T.S. In response to a request by President Gigray, Charles moved and Wendy seconded a motion to authorize their representing F.A.C.T.S. at this event. This motion was approved on a voice vote.

Don Stockton said he had contacted the Idaho Department of Lands (IDOL) regarding easements along the Boise River. He said IDOL has prepared a map showing these easements. President Gigray noted that there is one of these easements in Caldwell near a gravel pit next to the Boise River west of the railroad tracks. Don introduced Dean Johnson. There are many easements along the Boise River down to the Snake River. Dean said most are about 25 feet wide but some are only five feet.

President Gigray handed out a proposed letter which would be sent to the IDOL, attention Bob Pietras, thanking the Department for developing and providing the map. Dean Johnson told Tom Laws that a shape file of these easements could be provided to COMPASS to help in the regional mapping. Paul Mann moved and Sharon Hubler seconded to authorize the transmittal of this letter. Motion was approved on a voice vote.

President Gigray said he had phoned Tom Laws to see how agencies could help in the mapping of pathways. He went on to note how business groups such as the chambers of commerce and visitor bureaus need to understand the value of pathways to economic development. Then these interest groups could get on the side of pathways, especially when working with the state legislature. He noted the example of the Indian Creek pathway in Caldwell as a benefit to economic growth.

Steve Noyes said there would be another meeting on April 1, 2016—Better Living through Trails. It would be a half day meeting from 10am to noon at the Eagle City Hall. The Southwest Idaho Mountain Bike Association is organizing this meeting. Paul Mann volunteered to attend on behalf of F.A.C.T.S. Upon a motion by Don Stockton, which was seconded by Gary Payne, Paul was approved to attend this meeting on behalf of F.A.C.T.S.

4. Special Information Items

- a. Web Design. The web design subcommittee would be meeting February 20, 2016 according to Gary Payne. There was no more information.
- b. Idaho Community Foundation Grant. President Gigray said there is funding for a \$3-5,000 project available. He said Caldwell has a project that would be eligible. Don Stockton moved, with a second by Gary Payne, to approve F.A.C.T.S. support of such an application. Motion was approved on a voice vote. There was a question as to whether F.A.C.T.S. would be an applicant since the grant agency may be more favorably inclined

to non-profit agencies. Paul Mann would work with Brian Billingsley of Caldwell. This item would come back in March for further discussion. There was also a comment that the Clean Cities Coalition may be another source for funding of pathway related work with low costs. Nampa received a five thousand dollar grant for pathways.

Gary Payne noted there was a recent guest editorial on use of canal ways and rail lines for pathways by Jim Everett, recently retired CEO of the Treasure Valley YMCA. He wondered if Mr. Everett might be contacted. Don Stockton volunteered to contact him.

- c. Public Engagement in Pathway Planning. Gary Payne said this was part of the web site discussion and opted to defer this item to the next meeting.
- d. Boise River Management Workshop. This item had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. (Item 3d)
- e. Long-term Planning for Pathway Maintenance. President Gigray said we need to meet with elected officials around the region to begin this discussion. He noted he had not had time to do this yet.
- f. COMPASS Mapping Review. Tom Laws showed the map on the screen and said the map on existing and proposed pathways had just been completed two hours prior to the meeting. It still is preliminary. He hoped to send out the map to F.A.C.T.S. as early as late February. President Gigray asked about the agency review process. Tom said the map is current as of 2015. The map will continue to be modified as necessary. One item shown on the map is schools—an aspect people thought very desirable.

Charles brought up the issue of having broad authorization for this map if it is to be used by the Idaho Transportation Department in its planning and design, and the map's importance in ranking projects for funding. Tom said the map will be part of the 2040 plan update in fall 2016. He added it will also be part of COMPASS' development review process and the Transportation Improvement Program prioritization process.

Gary Segers agreed there needs to be an official blessing by the COMPASS Board, but he wants the map to elevate this map so the various agencies in the region can be aware of it and the importance of pathways. He thought F.A.C.T.S. should have a role in this awareness building. President Gigray said the first step is to make sure this map accurately reflects communities' desires. Then we need to identify the gaps. Gary Segers advocated that the maps' accuracy was not as critical as its use in informing local governments about pathways in their communities and land use decisions.

Steve Noyes asked if a copy of the map could be available for the April 1 meeting. Charles asked when it could go public, and Tom cautioned there still is more review needed.

Tom then spoke about the Eagle Road bridge project, which had been brought up in prior meetings by City of Eagle staff. Tom said this was a kind of preliminary design step intended to address the likely design, refine costs and determine benefits. The preliminary analysis concluded a pedestrian/bike bridge could not be attached to the

existing structure but would be separate. He showed a concept drawing of the proposed bridge. He then showed a benefit analysis with the number of homes that could access businesses north of the river with the new bridge. With a one mile walk distance up to 2000 more people could access the northern attractions via walking, while the bike distance would allow far more people to access the businesses. President Gigray complimented Tom for the analysis, and others noted the advantage this type of analysis would be in supporting pathways.

5. Reports as Time Permits

- a. Ada County Highway District. No report.
- b. Ada County Parks and Waterways. No report.
- c. Caldwell Trails and Pathways: Paul Mann said there was no meeting of the group last month. President Gigray said they were working with neighboring communities regarding pathway coordination, with a special mention of Star and Middleton.
- d. Canyon County Parks and Recreation. No report.
- e. Canyon Highway District #4. No report.
- f. City of Eagle Parks and Recreation. Steve Noyes said the Trails Master Plan effort was waiting for City Council to act on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed last year. The new city council has yet to approve it. President Gigray noted the extended comment period, and Steve said the Council has it on their agenda for February 23. Steve Noyes was concerned that a grant from the National Park Service could lapse without progress on the Trails Master Plan, and Don Stockton noted the possible confusion between the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Trails Master Plan. Gary Segers moved to appoint Robert Minch as spokesperson for F.A.C.T.S. and to work with Steve Noyes on the plan and to report back to F.A.C.T.S. Robert can prepare a response to Eagle on this issue. He would report back to the F.A.C.T.S. group about what has been done. Gary Payne seconded.
- g. Eagle Parks and Pathways Development Commission. The only item was that there is a new Homeowner Association for Laguna Pointe.
- h. Garden City. No report.
- i. Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation. No report.
- j. Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail. No report.
- k. Meridian Parks & Pathways. Jay Gibbons updated the group on the Rails with Trails proposal. The City is attempting to address concerns of Union Pacific about safety, liability, maintenance, right of way, community participation and customer (rail freight) satisfaction. He said a group effort on this, including Boise, Nampa and COMPASS, is beneficial. The city is working on two projects' construction documents.
- l. Nampa Parks Department. Phil Peterson said the city is getting its pedestrian counter from COMPASS and will install in on the Stoddard/Greenhurst trail area.
- m. City of Kuna. No report.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Next meeting was set for March 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Trainor, Secretary

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