

Minutes of Foundation for Ada-Canyon Trail Systems
COMPASS Conference Room
October 19, 2016

Attendance:

Jeanne Barker, Garden City
Mark Eubank, Citizen
Sharon Hubler, F.A.C.T.S.
Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks
Tom Laws, COMPASS
Paul Mann, Caldwell Path and Bike Committee
Robert Minch, Eagle Citizen
Sabrina Minshall, COMPASS
Steve Noyes, City of Eagle
Kathy Parker, COMPASS
Gary Payne, F.A.C.T.S. Vice-President
Tim Richard, Canyon Highway District No. 4
Colin Schmidt, Garden City
Gary Segers, Citizen
Don Stockton, Eagle Parks and Pathway Committee
Cody Swander, City of Nampa Parks
Charles Trainor, F.A.C.T.S. Secretary
Mark Wasdahl, Idaho Transportation Department
John Wasson, Ada County Highway District

1. Call to order at 3:00 PM by Vice-President Payne. There was a round of introductions.
2. Vice-President Payne asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There being no changes, he said the agenda would stand accepted.
3. Administrative Action Items
 - a. Minutes. Vice-President Payne noted the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting had been disseminated, and he asked if there were any changes. There were none, and Tim Richards moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Vice-President Payne and approved on a voice vote.
 - b. Bank Account Report. Sharon Hubler said the balance was unchanged from last report at \$12,187.12. She noted the Internal Revenue Service report 990 had been filed for the fiscal year closing August 31, 2016. Given the financial status, the report is very brief—just a postcard. There was no motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. (This item was presented out of order.)
 - c. President’s Report
 - i) Renaming of the Three Cities Pathway. Vice-President Payne said there would be an Ada County Commission meeting on November 2, 2016 to consider this request. It would be in the Commissioners office in the Ada County Courthouse. President Gigray cannot attend. Vice-President Payne said a sign would be put at the existing sign location later with wording to be developed. There was some discussion of what the termini for the renaming would be.

This would likely not be specific. There was additional discussion about jurisdictional boundaries for the Greenbelt trails. Scott said the Commissioners were looking for some general language in a resolution to guide the approval. Gary Segers moved and Robert Minch seconded to have the Executive Committee develop language for the resolution. Motion was approved on a voice vote.

- ii) Vice-President Payne reminded the group about the Annual Meeting coming up in November and that election of officers and Board members would occur.

d. Other Officer Reports as Needed. No other reports were made.

4. Special Information Items

- a. Web Design/Public Engagement. Gary Payne showed the new concept on screen. He said he had gotten good feedback on the website changes after he provided members with a link to the new site. Gary said the new site works better in Chrome than Internet Explorer, and it was intended for smart phone or pad use. Gary said he wanted to add pedestrian and other users besides bicyclists. He noted the need to add an active contribution function, and Sharon said that F.A.C.T.S. has a PayPal account that would work for this. There was a suggestion to provide a link to the pathways map under development by COMPASS. Google maps do show pathways now, but its mapping is not complete. Gary said there are now links to Instagram and Twitter. He showed how it linked to Google maps for pathways. Charles Trainor asked how and how often Google updates its maps. Tom Laws said this option to update Google maps now exists. There were also suggestions to include information on detours and links to agencies responsible for the various pathway sections. One concern noted was large events, e.g. races, which create large crowds on the Greenbelt. John Wasson noted the large number of special events that affect the transportation system, with ACHD tracking approximately 350 per year. John said this number does not include events not on the ACHD system. Gary Segers spoke about a possible Facebook connection and stressed the need to keep the web site active. He showed a F.A.C.T.S. Facebook concept he has been working on. This site is not yet public. There was a discussion of the relative merits of a web site and Facebook approach. No decision was made. There was also a discussion of the need to improve the records of these site—passwords, locations, etc. Gary agreed that we need to establish some procedures for these sites.
- b. Confluence of the Snake and Boise River. Gary Segers showed pictures of his visit to this site, which is the future west terminus for the Boise River path. He, Gary Payne, and Robert Minch traveled to the site in June. The site is west of Parma near Martins Landing, which is owned by the State of Idaho. They also visited Whittenberger Park in Caldwell. Tim Richards spoke about the status of the Silver Bridge which is north of Whittenberger Park. His board supports its conversion to a pedestrian/bike bridge.
- c. Eagle Island Pathway. Robert Minch noted the purpose and the members of this work group, which was established at the September meeting. The focus is how to close a 7/10 mile gap between the existing Mace Road path and the Eagle Island State Park. The members are Don Stockton, Gary Payne, Jerry Hastings, Jay Gibbons, Leo Hennessey, William Gigray, Tom Laws, and Steve Noyes. To this list would be added Gary Segers and Scott Koberg. He showed a potential route just south of the tree line along the south bank of the North Channel. There is an existing dirt track along a levee. A title search is needed to find out who owns what. Jerry Hastings might be able to handle it if he has time. Scott said his staff might be able to do some research. There is no development proposal yet made for this area.

- d. Rail with Trail. Paul Mann and Tom Laws presented this item. An aerial view of the rail line was shown, focusing on the spur lines such as south Nampa. Many agencies participated in the meeting. Big concern was the effect on the freight users, including Simplot. If these businesses could support the concept Paul thought it would help with Union Pacific. Tom said the focus was on the Boise to Nampa segment. Depending on what happens, this could help with other segments. Tom thought it would be a two year project at least. Tom said they could develop a list of the freight users from another project COMPASS is doing. The next meeting will be in January 2017. Tom said they were researching the experience in other areas with trails along active rail lines.
- e. Kristin Armstrong Letter. Paul Mann said he had a draft which he had sent to Charles. It is just a simple acknowledgement of her accomplishments. This will be addressed at the next meeting.
- f. COMPASS Pathway Planning. Tom Laws has prepared a map with interactive links to allow group editing. He will be sending this map out to people with instructions on how to edit. He said he would send the link information to Charles. He showed the map and explained the line colors and patterns in terms of what type of path is represented.

He went on to describe the 2018 funding application process. This would be for the Transportation Alternatives Program, which now allows private non-profits to apply for funding. Sabrina Minshall said there are funds under TAP administered by COMPASS or by ITD (outside the Boise urbanized area). The COMPASS process will be different than ITD's. Eligible activities would include construction, planning, conversion of rail to trail, trail heads, vegetation, wildlife protection, etc. The funding period would be FY 2020/21 (October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021). She said any project in Ada and Canyon still has to go through COMPASS as it is the metropolitan planning organization for the region. There is also the Recreational Trails program. Gary Payne asked if these funds could be used for mobility issues. Sabrina said they could. She emphasized the need to get projects done on schedule. She said there is now a two phase process, with a shorter application. There is a deadline of November 30 for the short form application. These would lead to a longer application due the end of January. In response to a question, Sabrina said a planning project could be eligible but usually have not been funded with TAP funds.

- g. Lake Lowell Plan. Tim Richard had to leave early and said he could cover this in November.
 - h. Federal Grant Applications. Leo Hennessey was unable to attend.
- 5. Continuing Business. None.
 - 6. New Business. None.
 - 7. Reports as Time Permits
 - a. Ada County Highway District. No report.
 - b. Ada County Parks and Waterways. Scott Koberg said there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Warm Springs Mesa project on Wednesday, October 26. He said it would be wider, smoother pathway. He later said they would really like to get one of the new counters placed along this path section.

- c. Caldwell Trails and Pathways. Paul Mann said their group had recently met.
- d. Canyon County Parks and Recreation. No report.
- e. Canyon Highway District #4. No report.
- f. Idaho Transportation Department. No Report.
- g. City of Eagle Parks and Recreation. Steve Noyes said the new counter showed 450 people a day near Merrill Park. He said they have an issue with a new invasive species, a wild cucumber vine, which is very aggressive. It has thorns and a massive root system. They are working with Ada County to try to get control.
- h. Eagle Parks and Pathways Development Commission. No report.
- i. Garden City. Colin Schmidt said the City has replaced about 1000 feet of asphalt with concrete from Glenwood Bridge west and near the Riverside Hotel.
- j. Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation. No report.
- k. Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail. No report.
- l. Boise River Enhancement Network. No report.
- m. Meridian Parks & Pathways. No report.
- n. Nampa Parks Department. Cody Swander said the project to implement the Stoddard pathway along the old rail line has gained traction with Union Pacific. The City has about \$380,000 to purchase, which is still not enough. The total needed might be closer to \$700,000 according to a UP appraisal a few years ago.
- o. City of Kuna. No report.
- p. Other. Paul Mann noted the opening of the new Esther Simplot Park.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.
Next meeting was set for November 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Trainor, Secretary

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