

Minutes of Foundation for Ada-Canyon Trail Systems
COMPASS Conference Room
April 20, 2016

1. Attendance:

Jeanne Barker, Garden City
Mike Dimmick, Flood Control District 10
Mark Eubank, Citizen
William F. Gigray, F.A.C.T.S. President
Wendy Howell, City of Kuna
Sharon Hubler, F.A.C.T.S. Treasurer
Scot Koberg, Ada County
Tom Laws, COMPASS
Paul Mann, Caldwell Path and Bike Committee
Robert Minch, Citizen
Sabrina Minshall, COMPASS
Steve Noyes, City of Eagle
Gary Payne, F.A.C.T.S. Vice-President acting Secretary
Phil Peterson, Nampa Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Don Stockton, Eagle Parks and Pathways
Charles Trainor, F.A.C.T.S. Secretary
Kristi Watkins, JUB Engineers

1. Call to order at 3:00 by President Gigray.
2. President Gigray asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none proposed. Wendy Howell moved and Paul Mann seconded to approve the agenda, and it was approved on a voice vote.
3. Administrative Action Items
 - a. Minutes. President Gigray thanked Gary Payne for presiding at the March meeting. He noted the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting had been disseminated, and he asked if there were any changes. None were noted. Phil Peterson moved and Gary Payne seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was approved on a voice vote.
 - b. Bank Account Report. Sharon Hubler presented the Treasurer's report, noting the balance was unchanged from the previous month at \$12,187.12. (Note that this item was done out of sequence due to Sharon not being present at the time.) Gary Payne moved to approve the report, with a second by Jeanne Barker. Motion was approved on a voice vote.
 - c. President's Report
 - i. Assignment of Easements Progress. President Gigray introduced this item. He said the documents regarding assignment included in the packet had been developed by the Ada County attorneys but contained no reversion clauses such as had been included in his original draft assignment agreements. He recommended tabling this issue to get input on how to proceed and to meet with the County staff. Charles Trainor asked if this issue was a deal breaker for the County. President Gigray said he has had no discussion with

the County on this issue. He asked for volunteers to meet with the County. Don Stockton, Sharon Hubler, and Jeanne Barker volunteered. There was discussion about why we need a reversion clause. President Gigray said the purpose was to revert the easement should the County want to stop maintenance of the pathway. Charles Trainor moved to table this issue and to appoint the volunteers to meet with President Gigray to discuss this issue with County staff and to report at the May meeting. Phil Peterson seconded.

Scott Koberg entered the meeting during this discussion. He explained the County's position on this and said the intent was to keep the issue simple. He was willing to meet with the F.A.C.T.S. group and Ax Hewer of the County Prosecutor's office. In response to a question from Charles Trainor, he noted the County has not abandoned any pathways, barring some instances where new pathway alignments have replaced older ones, including new sections near Eckert.

Motion was approved on a voice vote. Scott Koberg said so far there has been little maintenance on the new pathway save for weed control. There are some tree issues and some areas where stabilization might be needed.

- ii. Joint Powers Agreement for agency cooperation on pathways planning and maintenance. President Gigray said this still is an issue that needs work.
 - iii. Other. President Gigray said he had sent a letter to Wendy Howell in relation to some professional certification requirements.
- d. Other Officer Reports as Needed. Sharon said she had participated in the April 1, 2016 meeting hosted by the Flood Control District No. 10 (FCD10). She complimented the extreme openness of the meeting and introduced Michael Dimmick of FCD10. Michael said the intent is to create a five year plan, working with stakeholders. FCD10 brought in speakers from California and other areas, wanting to find out what does and does not work. There were about 75 people in attendance. FCD10 has spent the winter doing maintenance work on its stretch of the river. He said there was an opportunity to do other work while doing this maintenance. He noted the concern with trails, including high water erosion and the potential of damage to pathways from their heavy equipment brought in to clear trees and stabilize river banks. This effort is being coordinated with that of the Boise River Enhancement Network.

Michael said FCD10 started in 1973 and manages the river from Plantation Golf Course down to above the Silver Bridge in Caldwell. It also does work along Dry Creek. He noted they have identified equipment access points along this stretch—not all are documented, and President Gigray asked if COMPASS could have these access points for its mapping effort. He said he would talk with their engineer, Steve Sweet of Quadrant Engineering. (Note this discussion relates to Item 4.f below and was done out of order.)

4. Special Information Items

- a. Web Design. Gary Payne said they are in the third design for the web site. The three members, including Robert Minch, Sharon Hubler, and Gary, will get together soon about the next round and hope to share the design at the May meeting. He said a link to the draft

design had been sent to the officers of F.A.C.T.S. Sharon Hubler is working on a grant application to fund further improvements. Charles Trainor noted the current site had very obsolete information on the officers. In response to a question from President Gigray, Gary noted that public engagement—another mission for this group—is a key function of the web site redesign.

- b. Better Living through Trails Meeting. Paul Mann attended this session and provided a report. He said he would forward information to Charles Trainor. Paul found the information beneficial, specifically the economic analysis of the benefits of trails. The report compared trails investment to other types of recreation, such as golf courses. It found that trails investment resulted in higher net increases in the value of adjacent development and lead to a reduction in medical costs. There is still a benefit in unpaved trails, and Paul said some thought should be given to developing unpaved trails to get to the Snake River. It would be far cheaper. Paving could be done as funds are available. Sharon Hubler cautioned that some people might object to subsequent paving of a dirt trail. President Gigray noted the existence of unpaved trails along the river east of Boise. Scott Koberg said these pedestrian only trails should be considered where paved alternatives exist. This was a real consideration in the stretch of unpaved paths east of Boise. Steve Noyes concurred about the increase in property value and said the analysis showed medical savings of \$4 for every \$1 invested in pathways.

President Gigray urged Paul to get information to Charles Trainor for distribution to the members, given the Legislature’s action on trails development. He said this information really needs to be publicized. Gary Segers noted the importance of pathways in terms of economic development, referencing how Oklahoma City lost a major employer over this issue. He is working with Winnemucca NV on this issue. Charles complimented Steve on a newspaper article that morning that reported Eagle and Boise as getting a gold award for trails development.

- c. Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN). Better Living through Trails Meeting. Gary Payne reported that at the last meeting, participants visited the river with an expert who explained why the river needs to flood to support cottonwood growth. Next meeting will be at the Eagle Island Bridge and will focus on the island and flood issues. President Gigray asked if there would be anyone from BREN interested in attending F.A.C.T.S. Gary Payne noted that Tom Chelstrom had attended the last meeting. There was discussion about the need to work together.
- d. Grant Applications – Idaho Community Foundation and Clean Cities Coalition. Paul Mann said he had talked with Brian Billingsley the day before. President Gigray said the Board had already authorized proceeding on this grant.
- e. COMPASS Map and Long Range Plan. Tom Laws said that so far the group has focused on the pathway map and that it was time to look at what would be happening with the entire plan being put together. It cannot be done in a vacuum. He presented a PowerPoint show, and Sabrina Minshall talked about how the plan would be put together. The plan is updated every four years and is called “Communities in Motion” and has a twenty year horizon. The vision will stay the same along with the land use element. She noted where the growth would be happening in the region. The plan would address roadways (congestion), public

transportation, freight, and pathways. She noted the issues in trying to put all the different elements on one map. She said freight would involve the rail corridor and tie in with rails with trails. One piece would be to develop some performance measures to help make decisions about where to invest. Tom then spoke about infrastructure mapping and the need to better forecast demand. He said COMPASS would be using a lot of the work Meridian has put into the Union Pacific rail corridor and would bring other agencies into the discussion. He noted that the process would also evaluate crash data to better guide investments and assist with economic benefit assessment.

This assessment will also use data from the permanent and portable counters, and COMPASS hopes to expand these counters to two new locations. The intent is to better assess the benefits of pathway investments. Sabrina then addressed the schedule, with assessments happening in 2017. She said they did not want to go to the public too soon, nor does COMPASS want to conflict with local plans. Prioritization of unfunded projects will be a major component along with a funding plan. By Spring 2017, the performance evaluation should be done, with public comments on a draft plan in 2018. Paul Mann noted that pathways occupy a lot less space than roads. Sabrina said that her earlier experience with ACHD was that there was a lot of focus on numbers—vehicle counts, amount of freight, etc.

- f. Boise River Management: Flood District 10 5-Year Plan. This discussion occurred earlier in the meeting.
5. Continuing Business. None.
 6. New Business. President Gigray said he asked for adding this to the agenda with the intent to focus on the appointment of committees to work with local governments on pathways. He referenced the letter to the City of Eagle. Should people be assigned? Charles Trainor said this had been discussed at the March meeting and that the sentiment was to have ad hoc committees to address a specific issue. President Gigray said he was happy to leave it at that, with the provision that such committees need to clear any letter with the group. Robert Minch noted that Eagle had responded to the letter sent by F.A.C.T.S. There was a question as to whether electronic meetings to give approval would be acceptable.
 7. Reports as Time Permits
 - a. Ada County Highway District. No report.
 - b. Ada County Parks and Waterways. Scott Koberg said there is a lot of maintenance underway at this time and that he is also in the middle of budget for next year. He then brought up his concern about connecting the Star River Walk to the east. How does this work with Department of Lands easements? What about maintenance? How does it connect to Eagle Island? There was discussion about easements in the area. Tom Laws said he did not have any digital information on easements. Scott talked about two green belt projects. One was near the Warm Springs golf course on north side of the river, with design at 90% completion. Construction would be this fall to avoid too much disruption given other work. He said there was a striping project, using a grant from COMPASS, in the Barber Valley area, including bollards and signage. Charles Trainor asked about the greenbelt access from Ben's Crow Inn, which has been bought up for a housing project. Scott said this was not a dedicated access point but was developed privately. It has been closed with a fence. The proposed development has been denied. There was a question as to whether this access point might

fall under prescriptive right. Scott addressed the high water on the river. Then he spoke about the Ridge to Rivers draft plan which will be the subject of an open house on April 21 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Foothills Learning Center. There is also a review of the Ada County 2025 plan.

- c. Caldwell Trails and Pathways: Paul Mann said there was no meeting this month of the committee due to the Greenbelt cleanup. President Gigray did meet with the engineer on the Silver Bridge project in north Caldwell.
- 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 they have experienced a lot of flooding on pathways this spring. He said they did not stripe their paths and asked if there were standards for striping and signage. He said there was some concern about this as their system extended west. There was discussion about standards for striping, signage, etc. by different groups, including the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials. President Gigray noted the potential liability to a jurisdiction in not following standards. (An email transmitting links to these standards was sent.) Tom Laws asked Steve if there were any projects in the vicinity Eagle Island. There are some along Mace Road.
- g. Eagle Parks and Pathways Development Commission. No report.
- h. Garden City. Jeanne Barker said their pathways are drying out from the spring flooding. She said the city was interested in acquiring land near Glenwood on the north side of the river, but the \$395,000 asking price was too high. She said they do stripe paths in their jurisdiction.
- i. Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation. No report.
- j. Idaho Oregon Snake River Water Trail. No report.
- k. Meridian Parks & Pathways. No report.
- l. Nampa Parks Department. Phil Peterson spoke about the bike/walk project in downtown Nampa. Another project was on the 16th Street overpass with a barrier separated bike lane. There is another project under the overpass on a minor road that gives access to downtown. He said there was a lighting project for the 11th Avenue underpass at the railroad tracks.
- m. City of Kuna. No report.
- n. Other. Mike Dimmick said he had been working on emerging flood issues in Middleton with Mayor Taylor. He said F.A.C.T.S. should work with him on pathway extensions in that area. Tom Laws said Middleton had done a lot of work on completing their pathway plan. Tom added he had two events to announce: a meeting with Peter Lagerway from Seattle on May 3, 2016 and a Walk-Bike Summit on May 11-13, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next meeting was set for May 18, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Trainor, Secretary

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