

Foundation for Ada/Canyon Trail Systems (F.A.C.T.S.)
(Recorded) Minutes of April 22, 2026
Meeting called for 3:00 PM

In attendance:

Officers: Bill Gigray, President, Bill Mullane, Vice President and Sharon Hubler, Secretary

Directors:, Paul Mann, Robert Minch, Will Anderson, Gary Payne, Gary Segers, Mark Eubank and Bob Hay

Agency "ex officio": Tiffany DeFrance, Director, city of Caldwell Parks & Recreation; Gus Loeffelholz, Sr. Planner COMPASS; and, Nina Schaeffer, Pathways Program Manager city of Boise;

Guest: Brent Jennings, formerly ITD Office of Highway & Traffic Safety, now Jennings Consulting, LLC
Brent called in from Richmond VA

Congratulations to Mark Eubank who starts next month on the Greenbelt Ambassador's Patrol
Call to Order President Bill Gigray

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 MDT by President Bill Gigray.

SKETCH OF CALDWELL PARKS & RECREATION – Tiffany DeFrance, Director
Change in direction under leadership of new Mayor and Councilor. As far as Tiffany's job goes she is being pulled in a million directions looking for a new golf pro, as she is currently the acting golf pro; 21 years Recreation Superintendent Denise planned retirement so looking for a new Recreation Director and she is filling those duties for now; in August, we hired a new park superintendent, and then in November, we hired a city forester. So, the city forester is new to this budget year and with all new department heads, or no department heads, so we've just kind of been heavily focused on staff and operations, turnover is hard but adapt and try to make the department the best ever. Growth of Caldwell necessitates a lot more planning than anything as far as construction goes; because last year we opened up our pump track, we had two brand new playgrounds come online, and we did some lighting for our pickleball courts. We are starting the process of going out to bid with a RFP for a Master Plan for parks, which will include trails somewhat as we already have a Trails Master Plan. We do have a new park coming online next year hopefully going out for bid this summer, to get construction underway this year currently labeled as the Mosaic Park of a little under ten acres situated between Van Buren and Mosaic Schools. We are in the design process reaching out to community with an open house for suggestions and so far have plotted out obviously a playground, a splash pad, dog park, and then a couple other amenities, like lawn games maybe it's croquet, maybe it's bocce ball courts, maybe it's concrete table tennis, so people can bring their own ping pong equipment; whatever the choices including concrete cornhole, it will be mostly community-led. We are also in the process of getting Lion's Park construction underway soon with a pathway going through the park, with exercise equipment and an additional shade-covered area. It will be getting a new playground and a futsal court enclosed by a twelve-foot fence, which is like a mini-soccer. We hopefully will have a new playground where the music equipment sits right now next to the Indian Creek Plaza. It will be on a slope, so fencing is required next to Indian Creek. It's like a train depot to mimic the train depot downtown. So, that will hopefully be in construction by the fall, if not early spring of next year. Tiffany was ready to stand for questions. Bill G. prefaced his question by associating FACTS work with all agencies in Treasure Valley planning for pathway systems interlink, Kuna, Star and Eagle to Caldwell/Nampa being a watchdog for maintenance and pathway standards. Who is the go-to person in Caldwell? Tiffany responded Planning & Zoning. Of course, if those pathways loop into our parks, then it becomes a park and pathway system and that's where Tiffany would play her role, which includes maintaining the pathway. The

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planning and connectivity of all that come from the Planning & Zoning Department. You can always reach out. Her name's Robin Collins, and her title is Community Development Director. rcollins@cityofcaldwell.org (208) 455-4642

The Assistant Planning & Zoning Director does more with pathways perhaps than Robin and her contact information is: **Morgan Bessaw AICP** Deputy Director
mbessaw@cityofcaldwell.org

Second question relates to the Highway 55 underpass: Tiffany responded that Robb McDonald, former public works director, resigned last month so the city is in the hiring process. Interim Public Works Director is Hallie Hart, PE who is the City Engineer. Again, Tiffany offered to see that questions regarding the underpass could be sent to her and she would see that it goes internally to the right staff person because there are so many fingers in any one project. One last question, the city of Caldwell is in a partnership with Highway District #4 on the old Silver Bridge. There will be a new bridge that extends Plymouth Avenue crossing the canyon up to Rio Vista Acres. It will be a huge project and possibly approved for 2027. The city owns the property in the canyon...ideally the setting for a park. There are pilings in the river that used to support the old Interurban railroad, which could be used for a pedestrian crossing onto the north side of the Boise River heading to Curtis Park. The Greenbelt Civic League will be involved as well. Tiffany said specifically talking about Plymouth Avenue and that area being a park is on the city's radar, along with how the city will want to connect all of it. Not exactly sure of the timeline but it will involve Tiffany working with the engineering department.

TOPICAL – Update and Broaden 2009 Boise River Trail Plan & COMPASS – Gary Segers (presenter), Brent Jennings, Gary Payne and Gus Loeffelholz – Last meeting we had a briefing from Gus Loeffelholz about our effort to replicate, or continue, or in some way create a new Boise River Trail Plan. (Bon Voyage Gary S. who leaves tomorrow for a three-week jaunt to Slovenia and Hungary.) Brent Jennings and I met on April 3rd with Gus, Austin Miller and Matt Carlson Grant Writer and Administrator at COMPASS to follow-up on the options were that had been provided at the last FACTS board meeting. One option was a grant called Professional Development Plan (PDP) and the other, Surface Transportation Block Grant (TAP). The first grant with no match would be for up to \$50,000, which would basically give a blueprint of what a new Boise River Trail development plan would look like. The problem was that the application for PDP was May 1st and required getting one or two sponsors who must be members of COMPASS. FACTS cannot be a sponsor and our recommendation would be that the May1 deadline could not be met. There's another deadline on the PDP in September and perhaps we could meet that deadline. The Surface Transportation Block Grant is going to be five years out on a major project. FACTS could go to COMPASS members as potential applicants with Canyon County and Ada County as Paul Mann suggested being the two sponsors and this would be integrated into the COMPASS planning process. As Brent indicated what if one of the projects in the five-year plan dropped its project. And the Boise River Trail Plan project is ready-to-go. That could advance its position to less than five years. What could work is having the PDP in hand for the Surface Transportation Grant particulars. Matching funds are required for the TAP grant. For now, Gary S., Gary

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P., Brent, Bill Gigray and Gus need to regroup and facilitate what makes sense for updating and broadening of the 2009 Boise River Plan.

Approve Agenda – Move to Approve, Additions/Reorder

*It was moved by Paul Mann, seconded by Will Anderson to approve the Agenda.
All voted in favor. Motion carried.*

Officers' Reports

1. Secretary's Report Sharon Hubler, Secretary
It was moved by Gary Payne, seconded by Paul Mann to approve the Minutes of March 25 2026. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer's Report Phil Peterson, Treasurer
Bank Balance is \$12,215.30 as of April 15, 2026.
It was moved by Sharon Hubler, seconded by Will Anderson to accept the Treasurer's Report. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
3. President's Report Bill Gigray, President
 - a) Nina Schaeffer, city of Boise Pathways Program Manager had to leave early last meeting so Bill G. would like to give her an opportunity to represent one of the largest jurisdictions. Responding to Eckert Road improvements and the temporary routes with detours around that Meg McCarthy is the city's project team member. Meg will keep her updated so Nina can share information. Right now, Boise is engaged with three projects for which there is COMPASS funding and once those get in construction or completion Boise will add a couple more projects to our plans. Boise is doing some outreach for the Boise River Greenbelt near the Boise WaterShed pathway for which FACTS obtained easements sharing some general information with bike riders on the pathway plan in the next couple months. Bill G. asked if the Cubic Feet per Second (cfs) flow/volume was flooding or eroding any pathways so far and Nina thought not. Nampa Meridian Irrigation is working on the Ridenbaugh Canal headgates. Another question concerns the local match FACTS is contracted to raise as match for the \$2.100,000 grant now in Ada County's hands. Letters of Endorsement from Garden City, Eagle, Boise would help make our case. Nina will talk to her team and get back to Bill G. on this matter. Kendra Kenyon, Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands Executive Director, sent an email indicating that ESI Construction will be doing repairs on the north side of Plantation Island Bridge #1 on June 19th and 20th. They will be contacting FACTS well ahead of time to give notice to share with FACTS. IFP&L owns Plantation Island. ESI is working closely with Ada County, Garden City and Boise to get the word out on closure. Bob Hay had a question on the artwork on Warm Springs Golf Course...whose inspiration was that? It's interesting according to Bob in an artsy way. Nina was not with the city at the time of the application process so she needs to ride that stretch and take a look. Nina had a question as to whether FACTS has a relationship with canal companies or is that something FACTS is looking to build out as an organization? A former director of FACTS Steve Noyes, city of Eagle, worked out agreements with canal companies for pathways. Using Steve Noyes' model Meridian and Kuna have similarly worked out agreements that Eagle

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crafted. Though private entities these irrigation districts are recognizing that they include a lot of land that is highly urbanized and no longer used for irrigation their canal roads are more in demand. Nina's team was doing an inventory of contact information and wanted to know if any FACTS members have that available.

4. Vice President's Report
President

Bill Mullane, Vice

- a) 52nd Street Bridge Project – Gearing up for fundraising. Judy Peavey-Derr is going after the bigger dollars with personal appointments and FACTS is supporting her with materials and numbers that she can put in front of folks. Worked with Phil Peterson to create a new PayPal site specifically for the bridge project. Idaho Gives and GoFundMe site are ready to go. Pledge form ready to go and updating the Web site factsidahohome.org to include all the different links. One of Bill M.'s former students Hannah Anderson working in visual communications has volunteered to help create some of the fundraising pieces. Judy talked to Joe Jaszewski, Visual Communications Team Leader at Idaho Power who participates in a lot of cycling platforms in our area and Bill connected with him to similarly help create some of the fundraising pieces. Coincidentally, Joe is one of Bill M.'s neighbors. Garden City's Mayor Bill Jacobs will be joining us at our June board meeting. Brent Jennings attended the all-day transportation stakeholders' workshop. Brent said it was a good engagement. There was a group there with a consultant helping Garden City with future transportation planning, and as Bill mentioned, kind of concentrating on Chinden, Glenwood area and we took a walking tour. The 43rd Street crossing on Chinden is getting a Hawk signal, or a hybrid beacon signal, where you hit the button and the traffic stops for you, and you get to safely cross the roadway there. We also walked what looks like an alleyway, 15-foot width and ways that could incorporate a funscape for gathering spots. Mayor Jacobs was with us the entire time. The newly-constructed 36th Street has both bikeways and sharrows. (meaning of which is **Sharrows** (short for "shared lane arrows") are road markings featuring a bicycle symbol topped with two chevrons. They indicate that a traffic lane is shared by both bicycles and motor vehicles, typically where streets are too narrow for a dedicated bike lane.) We were able to make comparisons of what is now and what the future can hold for bicycle-pedestrian-type friendly transportation corridors. Robert Minch brought up another fundraising tool, which is the donation of appreciated stock. This would require FACTS to set up a brokerage account. We can talk to Treasurer Phil Peterson and get his ideas. Robert offered to work on this and all FACTS has to do is identify a brokerage firm to facilitate that type of transaction. Bob Hay is familiar with a brokerage firm that does do that.

APPROVAL of 1st Amended Resolution 2026-02 allowing for carryover 52nd street Bridge Fund from one Fiscal Year to the next, unless expended in accordance with pursuant to this amendment. Previously, the Resolution was with Garden City and now the Agreement is with Ada County. The Treasurer will set up a sequestered account for monies collected for the 52nd Street Bridge Project.

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It was moved by Gary Payne, seconded by Paul Mann to approve the First Amended Resolution 2026-02. All voted in favor, Motion carried/

CITY OF EAGLE – Robert Minch – On April 29th he will be attending a meeting with up to 38 other people under the acronym of E-T-P-R-O-S-P-A-W-G or Eagle Pathways, Trails, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Advisory Work Group Meeting Number 1. City Councilor Nancy Merrill and Rick Butler, planner have been instrumental in this endeavor. The Advisory Group of 29 members includes West Ada School District, Avimor Subdivision, Scott Koberg Ada County Parks & Waterways, five members from the city of Eagle and four, from three consulting firms. With all the growth Robert sees the linchpin as staying ahead of the game and not getting pathway connectivity closed off. Gary Payne thinks Avimor might be interested in sponsoring the update on the 2009 Boise River Plan since it was not included at the time. Robert asked about Rails-to-Trails representation? Nina said she thinks COMPASS has a plan that's on the verge of getting approved. Both Paul and Gary P. were our representatives before it was wrapped up into the ACTIVE Transportation Work Group.

CITY OF CALDWELL – Paul Mann and Will Anderson – Paul wanted to report vis a vis the 52nd Street Bridge Project that yesterday the Clean Cities Coalition had a meeting. Many of the members are proponents but CCC does not have an executive cooperative agreement so its funding is not secure and they voted not to contribute \$10,000 for the design phase Bridge project. Randi Walkins, the Executive Director, will communicate this information. It came up that FACTS could put an article in the CCC newsletter giving some good coverage with a different audience with 30 counties in its coverage area from the Nevada border to the Canadian border.

OUTREACH – Mark Eubank – since he will miss May's meeting, tabling starts in June. He'll be doing Greenbelt Ambassador duties on Wednesday afternoons, so he'll be reporting from the trails.

COMPASS – Gus Loeffelholz – nothing significant at this time but more, next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting stood adjourned at 5:00 MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hubler, Secretary