

Foundation for Ada/Canyon Trail Systems (F.A.C.T.S.)
(Recorded) Minutes of January 22, 2025
Meeting called for 3:00 PM

In attendance:

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

Directors: Gary Payne, Bob Hay, Paul Mann, Mark Eubank, Will Anderson. John McAllister and Wava Kaufman

Agency "ex officio": Robin Camp, Ada County Parks & Waterways Program and Education Specialist, Cody Swander, Ass't Parks & Recreation Director for city of Nampa, Jimmy Hallyburton, Boise City Council and Kimberly Warren, city of Meridian P&R Pathways Manager

Guest: Ed Vetter

Call to Order

President Bill Gigray

The Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

Approve Agenda – Move to Approve, Additions/Reorder

Additional Item Gary Payne and Bill Mullane worked to transition the FACTS domain name and website from his hosting platform to Elementor. Renewing the facts.org domain name for a year at GoDaddy cost \$23.17 and a year of hosting at Elementor cost \$35.88 for a total of \$59.05, which was put on Bill's credit card.

It was moved by Bill Mullane, seconded by Bill Gigray to approve the Agenda with the addition under the Vice President's report. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Officers' Reports

1. Secretary's Report

Sharon Hubler, Secretary

It was moved by Sharon Hubler, seconded by Mark Eubank to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2024. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report

Phil Peterson, Treasurer

Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$ 9,943.01 as of December 4, 2024.

It was moved by Bill Mullane, seconded by Bill Gigray to accept the Treasurer's Report. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Note: Contact Phil Peterson

3. Vice President's Report

Bill Mullane, Vice President

a) Website www.facts.org was being hosted on a site maintained by Gary Payne. About a month ago, as Gary was making changes he and Bill coordinated getting the site onto a more neutral and open platform, available for anybody to work on so that others could help. Bill needs to be reimbursed for GoDaddy at \$23.17 and Elementor at \$35.88 for a total of \$59.05.

It was moved by Bill Gigray, seconded by Mark Eubank, that Bill Mullane be reimbursed \$59.05. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

b) 52nd Street – Ed Vetter has joined the meeting under Shawn McFadden's email: Neighbors got together a petition recognizing big traffic issue end of Remington as well as 52nd Street. 50 signatures so far. Getting Engineer's eyes on the project toward a turnaround configuration at the end of Remington as well as improvements needed the length of 52nd Street. Everyone endorsed the concept in favor of the bridge off the dike at east end of 52nd Street 150 feet upriver. A county commissioner was down at the end of Remington this past weekend and saw what a real traffic and safety issue it was. Ed mailed out a petition to John Ferguson who owns 200 feet street

access. They want to get a few more signatures...nothing negative about the issue, but the cat's out of the bag. Bill M. continued the conversation with the attitude of a multi-frontal approach. Working with COMPASS to get a bid request out even though the \$2m in funding may be inadequate. Right now, all we have is guesstimates. Ed has been talking to folks regarding resources, time, labor, some costs, expertise. Ed has also worked with John Ferguson as to a possible easement through his property shortening the Remington detour. Bill M. said getting an RFP ready will provide some meat on the bones toward a design bid reopen; Garden City meets next week. Bill G. reminded that springing some money fairly soon is part of getting the Idaho Dept. of Lands extension of a five-year easement for building a bridge. It would demonstrate a real effort to get a plan in place for the bridge. Bill G. likes the focus on safety. Cody Swander provided the LHTAC list of bridges across the state of Idaho that could be repurposed for pathways, not suitable for vehicular. The city of Nampa has not looked at any of them so far nor taken measurements.

- c) Pathway along Glenwood – Scott mentioned that Remington will stay open for awhile (as it turned out, an additional seven weeks.) Alternative route along Remington side of Glenwood has been repaved by contractors. Meg McCarthy mentioned previously that it was full of potholes and goat heads.
- d) Importance of Agencies' Involvement – Plan to get together and let one another know what's happening in the larger system of pathways and the greenbelt.

4. President's Report

Bill Gigray, president

Bill shared a travel/bicycling report, which included Bangkok, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Brisbane and Queenstown, New Zealand. Melbourne had ++ long pathways, Brisbane's were sometimes fragmented. As this valley grows pathway development, standardizing and planning ahead with interconnectivity throughout becomes increasingly important requiring agencies' working together.

AGENCY REPORTS

ACHD Meg McCarthy – no report

ADA County Parks & Waterways Scott Koberg and Robin Camp – The Park at EXPO IDAHO – two year time frame with ARPA funding – no report

BICYCLE athletic cycling – Dan Smith – what's new on the network – Dan was having his retirement from Idaho Power party

CANYON County Carl Anderson or Jay Gibbons – no report

CITY BOISE Jimmy Hallyburton and Dane Hoskins – Jimmy said there's development activity everywhere and noted that Murgotio Park in Southeast Boise had been approved recently. Bill G. asked about proximity to Kuna/Meridian. Jimmy responded that the Lake Hazel extension is key to connect all the way out to behind the airport. In realigning Orchard to connect with Lake Hazel since it's in an industrial area modern building codes for industrial development will require that detached bike paths be in place. Boise is continuing

its efforts on the 2021 Pathways Master Plan consisting of 112 miles off-street

pathways often along canal and power easements and other public rights-of-way. This year the Goddard Linear Canal near Capital High School will come online, about 1.3 miles building relationship with Settlers Canal down into Garden City and, hopefully, over to the Fairgrounds and greenbelt. Connection from Federal Way bike path down Broadway and more expensively, by underpass to Leadville Bikeway. One still in the works in NW Boise is a 3.5 mile stretch from Old Hwy. 55 between State Street and Hill Road to Gary Lane along Spoiled Bank Canal. Shut down for now by a HOA and will try to do a reset in the future. Jimmy and Kim would like to join their efforts in looking at connections. A council member from Star is organizing a meeting of city council members across the valley coming up at the end of January. Bill G. reflected on NW Boise and how to get decent access to the greenbelt given the closure by HOA at the end of Boise pathway to Plantation Island moving west. Jimmy indicated there was substantial grant money for State Street for the purpose of eventually having multi-use paths on both sides. Several years back State Senator Guthrie from McCammon passed legislation preventing the use of eminent domain on HOA and private property. Another bill in this year's legislature to amend would give eminent domain authority on HOAs according to Jimmy. Bill G. mentioned that property in foreclosure held by a bank or financial institution often blocks pathway development because they will not respond. Bill M. was encouraged by using canals and thanked the city of Boise/Jimmy for this. He elaborated that HOAs can feel blindsided. By identifying HOAs and proactively building relationships with them and neighborhood associations to allay fears is important. Jimmy seconded that thought and hoped for better execution in the future. Bob Hay asked about funds to maintain pathways vs. adding to pathways. Jimmy said that the Parks and Recreation budget is hit a little harder up front by replacement being concrete rather than asphalt. Managing pathways has \$100k in general funds to which another \$100k will be added year-by-year. There's a program called Energize by which 10 different neighborhood associations can obtain grants to construct portions of pathways for which there's ~\$125k. Last year the open space levy fund, which had been used primarily for preserving land in the foothills, was changed to allow for pathway projects to receive funding. A sizeable chunk of grant money was made available in the bipartisan Infrastructure Bill known as ARPA (American Rescue Plan Allocations). Not sure how it pans out with a new administration. Mark Eubank asked about the shut offs and closures on the Warm Springs Golf Course area in southeast Boise. Jimmy will get an update on detours.

CITY CALDWELL Tiffany DeFrance and Paul Mann – Paul serves on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and they have been having regular meetings since Tiffany DeFrance was hired. In the Southeast area of Caldwell a trail between Valli Vue and Brothers Park will get pedestrians off a ditch bank. Caldwell is waiting on the ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) to get started on the Highway 55 underpass.

AGENCY REPORTS (con't)

CALDWELL GREENBELT CIVIC LEAGUE – Will Anderson – CGCL has been involved with the retention of Whittenberger Park lying between the Boise River and Centennial Way. A proposed 5,000 seat amphitheater was turned down by CGCL since Whittenberger Park is central to all pathways. Parking and the amphitheater would have usurped dedicated park space. A detailed letter was sent to the city of Caldwell in mid-December stating CGCL's case. There's an important linkage with the city of Middleton pending. According to a Master Plan done for CGCL the path would cross through the canyon to Curtis Park and make the link on the north side of the Boise River with Caldwell. In time the link on the south side could benefit Meridian and Nampa whose area of impact goes all the way to the Boise River. The Oregon Trail remnant comes off Canyon Hill. Sharon thought a tour of that area with Larry Jones, Idaho Historical Society, formerly from Caldwell might be willing to do that and we could see if the proposed pathway link up impinges on the Oregon Trail remnant.

CITY EAGLE/EISP Robert Minch – Mark Eubank asked whether there's been progress in getting a representative from Eagle. Bill G. responded that Mayor Brad Pike had indicated he would send a representative, but this will need follow-up to get someone representing Eagle back in place.

CITY KUNA Wava Kaufman and Doug Hanson – Bill G. noted the interconnectivity among Meridian, Nampa and Kuna and asked Wava for her report. Locust Grove Road fairly low traffic; Ten Mile and Linder are so heavily congested and no bike lanes. Eventually, Ada County with completion of the roundabout on Ten Mile may make Ten Mile that connectivity with installation of bike lanes. Work is still being done on Linder. Bennet Road has no bike lanes but fairly low traffic and it can head around Lake Lowell. By heading toward Robinson to Cloverdale on to Eagle. Wava thinks with the seal coating bike lanes will be put in. There are lots of possibilities with money to put them into plans and get going. She mentioned going to Swan Falls/Marsing Loop.

CITY MERIDIAN Kim Warren – sidewalk widening project from Locust Grove to McMillan to Chinden will be worked on the next few months. ACHD is building sidewalk for Meridian from Locust Grove to McMillan; otherwise, Kim is working with a developer on a crossing of the Ridenbaugh Canal near Cloverdale Road right on the Boise/Meridian border. Fun project is west of McDermott along Five Mile Creek, under Hwy. 16 and toward Owyhee High School, surveyed and in design bid. Bill G. asked when this project might be done. Kim responded that finalizing plans, bid and construct this season, end of summer, early fall. This pedestrian underpass with vertical separation is a first for Meridian heading toward Nampa.

CITY MIDDLETON Matt Garner and Tim O'Meara – no report

CITY NAMPA Cody Swander – forwarded a report on repurposed bridges

CITY STAR Jennifer Salmonsens – no report

COMPASS Austin Miller or Alexa Roitman – no report

AGENCY REPORTS (con't)

ITD, District 3 Mark Wasdahl – no report

IDPR Non-motorized Trails Hailey Brookins – no report

IFP&L Kendra Kenyon, Executive Director (Idaho Fdn. for Parks & Lands)

Kendra had a meeting conflict

LTTV Chris Colson, Executive Director (Land Trust of the Treasure Valley) - no report

Other coverage not listed

OUTREACH

Will Anderson who's the new guy on the block would like to put everybody in a room, invite city representatives, get good visuals detailing what segments are there and tell them what FACTS is thinking about. Mark Eubank agreed that we had looked at having a spring or fall in-person meeting and thought that we should not wait until May when people are getting back into the field. Mark suggested April 23, 2025 as a possibility of holding an open forum discussion at the COMPASS headquarters. This will be an Agenda item for the February 26, 2025 FACTS business meeting. A person at COMPASS had done a detailed mapping of the greenbelt/pathway system in Ada/Canyon Counties, Gary Payne will check on its current status. Bill Gigray said this could be a promotional seminar, carefully put together to sell our ideas while emphasizing advocacy at the design stage.

Reconvene Next Meeting: 4th Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

Adjournment – The meeting stood adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hubler, Secretary

- 52nd street being put on the map by efforts of Ed & others. We have a petition for ACHD to examine safety of intersections
- Put in a request for ACHD to study the area.
- Surrounding streets are developed or scheduled for development but no plans for 52nd.
- Wonder if we can get some assistance from ACHD with bridge design.