

Foundation for Ada/Canyon Trail Systems (F.A.C.T.S.)  
(Recorded) Minutes of December 4, 2024  
Meeting called for 3:00 PM

In attendance:

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

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

Agency "ex officio": Meg McCarthy ACHD Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, Robin Camp, Ada County Parks & Waterways Program and Education Specialist, Cody Swander, Ass't Parks & Recreation Director for city of Nampa, Austin Miller, COMPASS. Kendra Kenyon, Executive Director, Idaho Fdn. for Parks & Lands, Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks & Waterways Director, Tiffany DeFrance, city of Caldwell Parks & Recreation Director, Colin Schmidt, Garden City Public Works Director and Mark Wasdahl, Senior Project Manager, District 3 ITD

Guests: Josie Erskine, Jimmy Hallyburton, Dan Smith, Wava Kaufman and Shawn McFadden

Call to Order

President Bill Gigray

The Meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM. President Bill had some important introductions for today's meeting. First off, is Wava Kaufman who lives on the edge of Ada/Canyon Counties and serves on the bike/ped committee for ACHD. She is a teacher, coach of cross-country running and mountain biker. Doug Hanson, Kuna Director of P&Z make the recommendation because FACTS needs a regular attendee from Kuna, stressing the interrelationships between Nampa and Meridian. Jimmy Hallyburton, city of Boise Councilmember was recruited when President Bill asked he city attorney for a suggestion. Call him "Jimmy" he is an avid proponent of bike paths having served on Boise Bicycle Project for 16 years. 112 miles of bike/ped easements along canals, power lines and railroads have expanded the program with the culmination of the Master Planning effort for the city of Boise approved in 2021. Another potential board member would be Dan Smith, athletic biker and recent retiree of Idaho Power suggested by Judy Peavey-Derr and Kurt Holzer, cycling enthusiast and attorney.

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

*It was moved by Bill Gigray to nominate Wava Kaufman as FACTS Board director and Jimmy Hallyburton as ex officio director, seconded by Bob Hay to cast a unanimous ballot in favor.*

MOTION CARRIED

#### Officer Reports

##### 1. Vice President's Report

Bill Mullane

President Bill reminded FACTS that closing the gap at the west end of the Garden City pathway leading to the Ada County Pathway on the south side of the river would avoid one-half mile detour from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street south to Remington Street to access Plantation Island's crossing. Bill M. noted that regular citizens are not aware which jurisdiction is being traversed. The concept of having a third bridge upriver from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street to access Plantation Island would capture a new crossing off street passage. Hastening the predicament is the The Park at EXPO Idaho development in the immediate offing. The \$2M suggested by a planning grant, according to LHTAC, would not be nearly enough based on the bike/ped crossing of the Boise River at Eagle Road. At Garden City's Parks & Waterways meeting November 19, 2024 Shawn McFadden and Ed Vetter expressed their interest as owners of property at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and the Green Belt for 30 years. Committee members

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learned that Ed and Shawn have dealt with many challenges arising from the current detour and fully support constructing a bridge to Plantation Island that would create a safe and pleasant Green Belt route. The over-all vision would be to use the \$2M grant from COMPASS as seed money to entice other connections, both private and public into an effort to design/build the bridge. Multiple entities could come to the table, and each contribute lightening the burden for any one entity. Project member contributions could be in the form of time, expertise, materials, equipment, manpower; and, of course, cash. One such individual of interest is John Ferguson, CEO of Concrete Placing Company whose company builds bridges all over the state who owns nearby property. Maybe by putting together a coalition that could get us to the finish line. There exists the possibility of John Ferguson's selling an easement through his property. The main thing is to rectify the detour situation. Bill G. said the Idaho Dept. of Lands easement for the bridge expires in 2025 and he can get the form to file for an extension through Dean Johnson. He has also explored another potential option of an elevated pathway. We have been made aware The Park at EXPO Idaho will be starting construction and the existing link with the west end of Plantation Island will be closed for more than two years. This area is of a multi-jurisdictional nature; there is Boise on the north and east, Garden City on the south primarily and the owner of Plantation Island, which is Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands. Starting this project needs a more detailed design estimate of what the bridge would cost and a list of materials. Gary Segers said that he and Don Stockton met with the local US Army Corps of Engineers and learned a lot of their perspective and would suggest meeting with the local Corps representative. Also, the operations person for Boise City Pathways Dane Hoskins will be contacted for follow-up by Jimmy.

2. Secretary's Report

Sharon Hubler

*It was moved by Gary Segers, seconded by Paul Mann to approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2024 FACTS meeting.*

MOTION CARRIED

3. Treasurer's Report

Phil Peterson

The FACTS checking account balance at D.L. Evans Bank is \$9943.01 as of 12/4/24. This reflects a couple of November transactions: the 2024 property tax on our Boise River heron rookery real property in the amount of \$7.00 was paid to Ada County; and Stacy Tucker's November contribution in the amount of \$90.00 was received in our PayPal account and the net amount, after PayPal's cut of \$2.38, was transferred to our checking account. We want to thank Stacy Tucker and get her address for doing so.

*It was moved by Paul Mann, seconded by Bob Hay to accept the Treasurer's Report. No discussion and all votes affirmative.*

Note: Apologies to Kendra Kenyon who appeared twice to ask for the floor. Send an email and we'll get your comment in the Minutes.

4. President's Report

Wm. F. (Bill) Gigray

- a) Zoom meeting with Mayor Debbie Kling, city of Nampa as part of a broader initiative to get mayors to understand the value of this corporate

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FACTS network to provide information on pathway systems. He wanted to acquaint her with Rails with Trail and the interconnectivity between Nampa, Meridian and Boise, particularly as development might impede the 27 mile FLAP trail (Federal Lands Access Program) around Lake Lowell. Cody Swander, city of Nampa is aware of the annexation and development of ~200 acres in the southwest area of Nampa which abuts the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. He has spoken with its developer Mr. Kido who seems amenable to make the access points. Thankfully, there's a shared use trail nearby, Kingfisher with parking at Gotts Point and access also at Teal Lane. The integrity of the Highway District #4 FLAP grant and engineer Chris Hopper are being overseen by several agencies whose approval like the city of Nampa's and its Senior Director of Development Services, Mark Steuer depend on access points being maintained.

- b) Zoom meeting with Mayor Brad Pike, city of Eagle, joined by Robert Minch. There were a number of action items including approval of Newman family for getting easement to Eagle Island State Park, attend or designate an *ex officio* representative to FACTS. They stressed how important a Steve Noyes type position as a single point of contact is to the Parks, Pathways & Recreation Commission (PPRC) as now Steve's efforts have been redistributed to several others working for city of Eagle. Bill explained to newer directors the importance of the pathway to Eagle Island State Park is to moving west and that Linder Road would become five lane with a parallel path offering pedestrian access as well as a tunnel under Linder Road allowing safer passage from Eagle to Star. They offered to make a presentation to PPRC and Robert will follow-up on the designated representative.
- c) Gary Segers alerted to the need for contact with US Army Corps of Engineers. At the time of Bill's conversation with Jake (208-433-4464) Boise office it was concerning an elevated pathway; Bill will follow up with the bridge project discussion as well.
- d) Bill had a phone conference with Mayor Jarom Wagoner, city of Caldwell discussing the Green Belt extension to city center and extending across the river to the canyon in Curtis Park as helping to finalize one of the remaining segments. Wagoner indicated he was in favor of utilizing the old silver bridge for bike/ped only. The old piers should have an engineering study to see if a new bridge could utilize these piers.
- e) Whittenberger amphitheater adjacent to Centennial Way, last exit going west in Caldwell is 15 acres or so. Caldwell Greenbelt Civic League purchased the property and then turned it over to the city of Caldwell with strict contingencies on any future use other than park/pathway. There are plenty of issues on this \$20M project whose principal is DeKlerk. Bill expanded on the role that FACTS can play in these pathway projects. For instance, having Mark Wasdahl advise on the Hwy. 55/Karcher Road five lane project helped lead Paul Mann and the Caldwell City Engineer to

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move in time to get an easement from both sides of the busy, non safe Hwy. 55 and to get approval from ITD and the city for funding the underpass to get bike/ped safe passage to Lake Lowell. Back to the amphitheater Bill asked Tiffany DeFrance if she knew of any vetting of this project with P & Z or had the Parks and Recreation Board seen this proposal? What are the interests of the city when not one dime of consideration is being offered? The use of the Rotary Pond parking lot is an ancillary consideration. Bill understands the amphitheater will go to Caldwell City Council 12/16/2024. Without considerable benefit to the Greenbelt Bill does not see its getting encouragement from the Caldwell Greenbelt Civic League Board.

Welcome to Tiffany DeFrance, formerly associated with Payette Recreation District and Dan Smith, 43 year career with Idaho Power who has been cycling since his early 20s. Mark Wasdahl had another meeting and would try to be back by 4:30, if possible. When asked about compliance on any future LWCF grants in terms of park acreage if Whittenberger becomes an amphitheater Tiffany assured Bill and the group that Caldwell is in compliance and the one project conversion to a parking lot had been taken care of and Caldwell is in full compliance; however, she will double check.

*It was moved by President Bill, seconded by Paul Mann to elect Dan Smith to the FACTS Board of Directors. Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED*

Dan, you are invited to suggest other gaps in the Green Belt planning and awareness of Electric Bikes using pathways increasingly. 10-20 miles for an E-bike is much easier than self-propelled.

*It was moved by Paul Mann, seconded by Bill G. to nominate Tiffany DeFrance as an ex officio agency board member Vote was unanimous. MOTION CARRIED*

### 5. AGENCY Reports

- i. COMPASS – Austin Miller not too much new since last month's meeting other than preparing public outreach component for Communities in Motion 2055 containing ACTIVE transportation of interest to FACTS. Population growth estimated at \$1.3M in 2055 for purposes of allocation. Crossed the 800,000 population 2023. Studying jobs traverse to and from, design for public outreach and ways to inform going live March 2025 with assigned work groups. In this two-county area emerging technology such as scooters have a place. President Bill thanked COMPASS for hosting the Zoom meetings and said FACTS will take it over keeping to the fourth Wednesday of the month schedule at 3:00 PM.
- ii. Ada County Parks & Waterways – Scott Koberg would like to clarify some items and confusion on the property next to 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and Remington. Parks & Waterways do the trail bit but The Park at EXPO Idaho is a separate business managed by Ada County unit, which has undergone planning for several years. It is prime for construction and has received a \$40 M ARPA funded opportunity that will make a

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significant change of landscape. The Permit process has been involved when you are dealing with the floodplain and floodway located between the pond and all the way to the RV Park. Scott has reached out on the proposed detour and potential closure of this section all within Garden City limits. CM Company was awarded the contract three weeks ago. Two years is the time frame to build The Park at EXPO Idaho. Remington Street is ground -zero- for all construction activities and will require closure at this access point starting 12/16/24. The south side Green Belt between Marigold and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street was considered a placeholder, and it will be reworked and reconfigured in time, not in the present alignment and constructed of concrete. Detour, which will have level of service maintenance by EXPO, probably won't work for the general public as not being so convenient nor comfortable. Remington Street will have new utilities underneath, curb and gutter and a separated use buffer off Remington for bike/ped usage. Homes are being built along N. River Water Lane, which has asphalt; not known if it's private or public roadway. Marty Pieroni is building all those homes in that location, believed to have been approved by Garden City in 2022. Riverpath Idaho. com.

NEXT MEETING Fourth Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

Be prepared to discuss FACTS Operations Committees; i.e., Board Directors and ex officio agency member recruitment; obtain support from Mayors and Chambers of Commerce and County Commissioners; establish a recommended pathway and trails construction and safety standards; establish recommended trails classification and ownership (non HOA preferably); and, establish recommended pathway and trails' maintenance and signage standards.

Ad-hoc Committees with specific charges:

- i. Committee that pursues the Rails with Trail project
- ii. Committee that oversees extension of Boise River Green Belt from Eagle to Caldwell on both sides of the river
- iii. Committee on the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street bridge
- iv. Committee on Linder Road improvements/corridor from Kuna to the Boise R.
- v. Committee on Lake Lowell FLAP Pathway development
- vi. Committee to explore and capture the essence of a strong logo for FACTS

Adjournment - The meeting stood adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hubler, Secretary

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