

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HAILEY PARKS & LANDS BOARD**

Held Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Present: Board members Janet Fugate, Darin Sales, Dean Hernandez, Tom Downey and Jill Swanger; Becki Keefer and Tom Hellen, Staff. **Not present:** Cheryl Kramer & Kathy Noble, Board members; Fritz Haemmerle, Council Liaison.

New Business:

Report from Ruscitto/Latham/Blanton on Rodeo Grounds Master Plan

Nick Latham and Michael Bulls from R/L/B attended. Nick said that they had met with Hailey Ice, the Sawtooth Rangers, and with Nathan Williamson and Gene Fairbrother, Hailey skaters. They had reviewed the information available on the Kettering (Ohio) Skate Plaza, and had talked about what skaters might need. They met next with Hailey Ice to review ideas; Nick agrees that the ice rink and rodeo are compatible in the same location, but not in a shared facility. Hailey Ice is committed to an eventual roof and enclosing their facility, which would not work with the rodeo. Enclosing the ice in a structure will allow regional ice tournaments. They last met with the Sawtooth Rangers on site; the Rangers are also not ok with sharing a facility. The existing rodeo arena will need to be brought up to code, which is a major project. Ice does not work well within the arena because of the additional costs of concrete to bear the weight of the dirt, plus the costs of bringing dirt in and out. Nick estimates that the cost of doing so could easily run \$100k in just five years. If you put the rink in the arena, it would prevent a roof and enclosing the ice in the future. But, we want to use the arena for other things besides rodeo. Nick suggests getting the ice in as soon as possible without disruption to rodeo, and that is only possible with two separate facilities. Janet asked if there was room on the site for both facilities, and Nick thought there was. The rodeo would stay as is for the interim. The roof over the ice is the biggest structure, and likely to be part of future phasing. Janet acknowledged that had always been the goal of Hailey Ice. Nick felt that it would be unfair to place the burden of an upgraded arena on just the Rangers; there are lots of additional costs that benefit groups beyond rodeo. Janet wanted to clarify that assuming that this was the way to go, Hailey Ice could build sooner and the rodeo could stay for the interim. Nick agreed; it is a much bigger project in the long run, but it gets Hailey Ice going sooner. Tom Downey asked if the property ownership had been resolved; Tom Hellen said that it continues to be underway. Darin asked about a property survey, and Tom said that, too, was underway. Tom Downey asked Hailey Ice if they were still planning to have ice from November through April, and Chris Benson confirmed that was the plan. Janet commented that the roof would change the dynamics, and Nick said it would make it an indoor multi-use facility with a roof of about 30 – 45' high. That roof height could be reduced by dropping the ice sheet down. It would be hockey in the winter, no ice in the summer, and other demands could use the facility May through September. Bud Amend of Sawtooth Rangers suggested that the skate plaza be built using temporary elements that could be moved out to make room for 4th of July Rodeo parking. Tom Downey wanted to confirm that the ice could be built without disturbing the rodeo. Nick agreed, and suggested that if that's the way we're going, they could draft up a couple of schemes and meet with the P&L Board in ten days or so.

Dean said he was not surprised with this conclusion, and suggested that the concrete slab could be used for the skate plaza. He would like to see two or three options. Janet reiterated that it was a priority to get Hailey Ice started on construction ASAP. Tom Downey asked Hailey Ice if the slab could be used for skaters in the summer. Nick explained that the skaters was rails, stairs, changes in levels, and that would be difficult with temporary structures. Darin said he thought that the goal was a multi-use facility. Janet asked the Board members to confirm that they are in agreement now that it should be two separate facilities. Bud Amend asked if this doesn't work, are you prepared to move it [the ice rink?] to another property? Nick explained that we are still exploring if it all fits. Bill Bobbitt of the Rangers asked if the alley could be widened using a retaining wall for more parking. Tom Hellen said

that the alley only has a 26' right-of-way, and expansion is limited. Janet clarified that 4th of July parking would be for the participants, not for the spectators. Denise Jackson, attending public, asked if parking could be one way with designated parking slots? Tom Hellen said that would need a traffic control person. Denise asked if more property to the north (from the school) was available? Nick said that the School District is reorienting the ballfields, and more property would help everyone out. With discussion, it was agreed to look at two or three schemes at a workshop for the P&L Board June 11. Becki noted that temporary skate structures would be costly to maintain and replace, while permanent structures would be more cost effective. Tom Downey wondered if the rodeo arena would be built for multi-use, and if the ice rink is built, that would be multi-use, too? If so, at what point does support start to fall off? The Board had some limited discussion back and forth on two facilities, indoor vs. outdoor, etc., but Tom Hellen pointed out that this is city property and these will be city facilities. The City Council will have to make that decision. Dean wondered if we knew how soon the rodeo arena might be condemned due to safety concerns. Tom Hellen said that the city does not want a "white elephant" that would be costly to maintain; we already have problems with skatepark maintenance funding. Janet said that first we need to see if everything fits on this property. Tom Downey noted that the Rangers could decide to simply walk away from this entire project.

New Business:

Review Skatepark Suggestions from Public – 4/27/09

Becki explained that the City Council had heard from the public at their meeting in April, and the questions posed to the community was why the skatepark shouldn't be closed because of recent bad behavior. The public spoke overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the skatepark open, and their comments were transcribed for the P&L Board.

Hailey Trails Master Plan:

Becki showed a brief PowerPoint presentation of Hailey Trails for the Board to consider in drafting a comprehensive Trails Master Plan. Janet explained the value of big-picture planning, and requested that the draft maps be emailed to the Board, as well as drafting a big-picture plan at their July meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Jill moved to approve the minutes from May 5, 2009; Darin seconded, and all voted in favor.

Reports:

Janet and Tom Downey reported that they had met with Wood River Land Trust's Scott Boettger and Kathryn Goldman in May regarding the WRLT's design for Croy Creek Wetlands Restoration. The WRLT is applying for a grant from DEQ for funding for this project, and would like the city to donate men and equipment as part of the grant match. A large part of the wetlands restoration is planned on city property. However, the WRLT will not consider access across their property to the city's Friedman Preserve. Tom felt that they were two separate issues that got tangled up when the P&L Board was earlier asked to recommend support for the grant match. Tom feels that the Friedman Preserve is a beautiful piece of property, but a trail may not be appropriate there. At the same time, though, we need to prevent motor vehicles from accessing that property, as much damage is occurring from dumping and inappropriate motorized use. It is worth protecting and best done by building a pedestrian path where appropriate. Both Tom and Janet felt that they weren't getting the full story from the WRLT, but couldn't get a read on their motivation. However, they could agree that allowing proper access is the best protection rather than a free-for-all. While our mission is to provide proper public access to city property, the WRLT's mission is to preserve property. The WRLT would like to see trails on both sides of the river, but does not want any trails to cross Croy Creek.

Tom Hellen had also met with Heather Dawson and Kathryn Goldman, and the WRLT wants a letter of support for their project from the P&L Board. Janet said that our mission is to meet the needs of Hailey citizens, and Tom agreed; restoration and education is a big plus to our citizens. It may not be

right for us to not endorse the restoration project because we aren't getting what we want in return. Tom Hellen agreed, and suggested that we might be able to get to our property through other accesses. Dean was more comfortable with looking at access elsewhere. Janet said that she and Tom had encouraged WRLT to go ahead with the grant application. Dean moved to support the WRLT's grant application for Croy Creek Wetlands Restoration, and felt that it is a travesty what's going on. Jill seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Tom Hellen said that the restoration project would close the access road along the ballfield to the southern part of the property, and was the Board ok with losing that access? In general, yes. Tom Downey noted that the School District's property along Croy Creek Road is getting damaged from inappropriate motorized use, too, and it would be helpful to get the district involved, too.

Becki reported that the southern extension to the Toe of the Hill Trail was virtually complete to the end of the Hailey city limits, and that the WRLT would be taking the trail across their property down to Bellevue. However, the WRLT had made little effort towards that yet, and Becki suggested that Board members contact Bellevue city council members to get the project going.

Denise Jackson, a member of the Hailey Tree Committee, wanted to advise the P&L Board that various trees in Hop Porter and Heagle Parks are hazards and need to be removed; there are ten to twelve trees in Hop Porter Park alone. A number of trees can be pruned to reduce the risk, but we will need to plant new trees to replace the ones that will be removed. Janet noted that there was a public uproar eleven years ago over removal of some of these trees. She was glad to hear that signs will be posted on the hazard trees for almost two weeks, so that the public can get used to the idea. Tom Hellen noted that we will need to work tree planting into the already-tight budget, and one of the hazard trees in Heagle Park fell over all on its own over this weekend. Denise strongly suggested that P&L Board members go out and review which trees will be coming down, as it will be a big change (and loss of shade) for the park, especially for those trees along the east side of the park that are marked for removal. Dean noted that the trees were coming down because there was an opportunity to do it for free (volunteers from Idaho Power, Davey Tree, Alpine Tree Service, all certified professionals) and that waiting for funding would prolong the hazardous condition. Tom Hellen noted that Jen Smith, Tree Committee chair and certified Arborist, would be on site during the tree removal project to address any public concerns, and press releases have been sent to the newspaper and will be in the Our Town newsletter. Dean suggested buying replacement trees now. Tom Hellen said he would be presenting this to the Council on Monday night, and if the Council directs him to spend money, he will buy replacement trees ASAP.

Denise said that Tree City USA has standards for replacement trees, and her business, Altitude Designs, will be buying a replacement tree; the species will be specified by the Tree Committee. Dean moved to endorse this project; Tom Downey seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Tom Hellen reported that:

1. The Fox Garden is under construction – the concrete pieces are being built into a retaining wall and the dirt is being moved around
2. The horseshoe pits in Keefer Park are almost done
3. The revisions to the Parks Use Ordinance will have their 3rd Reading on Monday, and will go into effect on July 1.

Adjourned.