

Boulder Recreation/Trails Action Forum Group

Meeting minutes: May 18, 2016

Present: Cathy, Carolyn, Rhandi, Bruce, Barb, Sam, Bill, Maureen, Josh, Leonard, Tom, Brud, Ben, Connie, Leah, Theresa, Bryher, Dee

Introductions were made.

Carolyn Lewis reported on the BART (Boulder Area Recreation Trails) group she chaired which started in 2009. Working with the MDOT (Montana Department of Transportation) and the County Commissioners they were able to piggyback on the new highway construction and negotiate a bike, hike trail from the city bridge to the fairgrounds as well as an eight foot wide shoulder all the way to the Elkhorn turnoff. Partnering with the Forest Service they rebuilt the trailhead at McCarty Creek and placed signs to protect the road from Dec. 2 to May 15. Carolyn got a grant from Northwestern for \$6000 for a bike shelter at the fairgrounds, which Marilyn McCauley oversaw. The commissioners gave \$100,000 which MDOT used for the eight foot shoulder work. The Carol LeReux Trail received a new sign. The group finished their projects and had \$1000 left in their account which might be available for this group if it is not needed for the Fairgrounds bike facility. Carolyn's work was very much appreciated.

We brainstormed local and tourism recreation possibilities: bike shelter at fairgrounds and a marathon for a grand opening, river walks, bird watching, fishing, hot springs, radon mines, geo-caching, X country skiing, snowmobiling, antler hunting, rock hounding, horseback riding, wildflower identifying, hunting, hiking, camping, four wheeling etc. Recreation options were infinite.

Potential:

1. Increased visibility re: recreational opportunities will bring in tourists. It seems that more and more people are looking for places to spend outdoor vacations.
2. Other small businesses could grow. Restaurants, sports stores, rental places. Right now a business out of Bozeman brings four wheelers to Pipestone and rents them out for hourly and daily use, and rental includes the traveling time from Bozeman. One guy started selling goggles and made money with just this one item.
3. It was noted that we already have lots of trails to enjoy once they are cleaned up and located. A motorized group has already published a map for their use.

Problems:

1. Neither local residents nor visitors know where our trails are located. There are no maps or signs available. Until we identify trails and install signage, the trails are not really available to the public. The County is purchasing 4 or 5 GPS units to be checked out by people when they go on hikes, ATV rides, bike rides. This will help people in reading forest service maps and the results will be collected and included on county maps.

2. There was discussion on geographic boundaries we should be looking at. Is it to be just Boulder or the County, or State trails? The group was undecided. Some people wanted us to look at the entire county and others felt that we should limit our work to the Boulder area. The Whitetail-Pipestone motorized recreation map included Boulder on their map. Leonard gave us all a copy of the map. Motorized trails seem to require loops. Different activity type loops, a loop for a family picnic outing might be short, another group might like 5 mile rides and yet another might want to spend 3 days camping out on the trail. Sam S. thinks it is best to have designated trails because it helps in keeping motorized vehicles on the road. Seasonal signs are O.K. although there was discussion about several areas where the signs had not been respected and motorized vehicles messed up the roads. It was advised we should never put up a "closed road" sign or a dead-end because many motorized riders seem to think such a sign is an invitation to go further.

3. Enforcement is a problem. Forest Service and BLM do not have enough money or resources for enforcement. We talked about using our police department to help. Josh mentioned that he had tried to do a citizens patrol and was threatened with gun talk.

4. Every Spring the trails have debris all over them. It is O.K. for anyone to help clean them up so we could develop a volunteer group to help clean trails.

Through the discussion it became obvious we need to educate the public not only on where the trails are but how to use and maintain them appropriately. It was suggested we do more education in the elementary and high school as well as for our adult population.

It was decided we would meet in smaller groups to create discuss and create maps for specific purposes. A hiking, biking, horseback riding map separate from a motorized only map which could help with enforcement since people would probably just pick up the maps that have points of interest for their specific interest. This discussion will be continued, as there was not a consensus about whether or not one map with all recreational opportunities should be created or whether many separate maps should be available. It was agreed that some points of interest should go on all maps.

Next big group meeting **July 13, 2016 at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. Bill and Leah will be facilitating.** The hiking, biking, horseback riding small group will meet June 21 in the park by the City hall at 6:00 p.m.

NON-Motorized group	Fish	Motorized
Leah	Ben	Ben
Sam	Brud	Bruce
Carolyn	Josh	
Brud	Bryher	
Maureen		
Barb		
Rhandi		
Josh		
Bryher		
Dee		

Tom will send names, telephone numbers and emails along with these minutes.