



ADA COUNTY

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April 5, 2016

Boise City Planning and Zoning Commission
Boise City Hall
150 North Capitol Boulevard
P.O. Box 500
Boise, ID 83701-0500

RE: CAR16-002, PUD16-00005, and SUB16-00006 at 6781 East Warm Springs Avenue, Boise, Idaho

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for considering our comments on the above-referenced application. The Ada County Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board, whose members are appointed by the Ada County Commissioners, seeks to assure that all Ada County residents have access to a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the County to improve our community's health and well-being. We advise the Ada County Commissioners on actions that can strengthen connectivity and multiple-use opportunities across the county, in collaboration with cities, Ridge to Rivers, and many other organizations.

We write today to support the continuation of public access to the Greenbelt pathway through the property proposed for development, and to inform you of the steps that the Ada County Parks and Waterways Department is taking to accommodate population growth and improve safety throughout the Greenbelt pathway system through the Barber Valley. Our vision at the subject site is for an ADA-accessible access pathway connecting to the Greenbelt pathway in the vicinity of the existing connection below Ben's Crow Inn. We recommend a condition of approval to maintain a path through the parcel to provide safe and consistent connection to the Greenbelt.

The County's Parks and Waterways Department manages the Greenbelt from Eckert Road to Discovery State Park at Lucky Peak Dam. The Department has been adding bollards and improving striping throughout this area as it has redeveloped; this work is ongoing. Since population is expanding rapidly in this area, these actions are critical for improving safety by providing visual clues about how pedestrians and cyclists should travel.

Where the Greenbelt is located on the banks of the Penitentiary Canal (behind the subject parcel), the US Bureau of Reclamation owns the property, and the County maintains the Greenbelt through an agreement. The County is currently overseeing an engineering re-design of this segment, which will include encasing the canal in a pipe and reconstructing the Greenbelt to more safely accommodate users and increase pathway width. If funding becomes available, the County anticipates construction of the new Greenbelt might begin as early as the fall of 2017. As the County develops these plans, staff intends to work collaboratively with all property owners to advance a positive outcome for landowners and the public.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. As a Board, we are keenly interested in maintaining this access point and advocating for frequent, walkable access points as the south side of Warm Springs Avenue redevelops.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Cook" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Cook, Chairman

Ada County Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board

CC:

Board of Ada County Commissioners

Scott Koberg, Director, Ada County Parks and Waterways Department

Meg Leatherman, Director, Ada County Development Services
