Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 29th– 4:00-5:30pm

Commissioners Room – Teton County Courthouse

**Agenda- 06.29.23**

* Welcome, intro to Jamie, River Ambassador (4:00-4:10)
* Update from Jamie on Ambassador program and goals for remainder of the summer. (4:10-4:25)
* Update from Rob Marin on potential Recreation Manager position @ Teton County, Idaho (4:25-5:00)
  + Action Item: Recommendation for Recreation Manager hire @ Teton County, Idaho
* Future TWRAC meeting Schedule, moving to Quarterly meetings? (5:00-5:20)
  + Action Item: Recommendation for Future meeting schedule
* Public Comment (5:20-5:30)
* Adjourn

**Upcoming Meetings:**

June 29th 4:00- 5:30pm

August 10th 4:00-5:30pm

Sept 21st 4:00-5:30pm

Nov 2nd 4:00-5:00pm

Dec 14th 4:00-5:00pm

**Minutes- 06.29.23**

* Welcome, intro to Jamie, River Ambassador (4:00-4:10)
  + Present: Charlie W, Brett H, Rob M, Jamie S, Renee H, Joe M, Will S, Amy V, Boots, Michael W, Kyle Ellison.
* Update from Jamie on Ambassador program and goals for remainder of the summer. (4:10-4:25)
  + Update: has been slow out on the river so far this summer (June). Sunday, 25th was busy.
  + Parking has been an issue at Bates/Buxton specifically. Users need direction to organize parking in an efficient way. Boat launch seems relatively smooth.
  + Has noticed church group from IF close to 30 users. Jamie asked them to split into two groups.
  + Anticipates a challenge coming on July 4th weekend.
  + Kyle E, thinks this June represents the pre-season and anticipates a big change on 4th of July. Very similar to last June.
  + Rob asks Jamie about how the signs are working. May need more “no parking” signs on to the east of the ramp where folks park and it disrupts the people backing up to the ramp (Buxton). Also, another sign on the West side of the lot with parking diagrams (Buxton). Adjust orientation of the no vehicles beyond this point at the Big Eddy.
* Update from Rob Marin on potential Recreation Manager position @ Teton County, Idaho (4:25-5:00)
  + Discussion is happening around hiring a dedicated rec manager instead of a GIS person.
  + Commissioner Whitfield gives some background on the budget. River recreation management is primary focus, also some trails and trailheads that the County is responsible for. Further work to dial in details of cost and salary of the job. Commission is invested in supporting river management so the county can implement the river ordinance.
  + Mike, Rob, and IDFG are working on next steps in fee collection for river users. Potential next steps for fee camping at Big Eddy.
  + Commissioners priorities: County is responsible for managing this asset and the asset is very valuable for this community. The commission is looking for recommendations from this committee to guide their work.
  + Amy V, would it be helpful to have a recommendation to prioritize this hire? If this committee sees steps to implement the ordinance, then it is helpful to make those recommendations?
  + Joe- having a dedicated individual to shepherd the process of implement recreation management, managing relationships with agencies, partners, fundraising efforts, grant writing is important to getting things moving.
  + When you have an individual who can take the time to develop projects and to implement projects over the long term, this would be very helpful to the recreation management on the river.
  + Could be a 30hour a week job. Joe recommends working to ensure that the job description is appropriate and gives space for this person to focus on issues like river recreation management, trails heads, etc.. And does not pull this employee into other tasks that distract from river management. Example, organizing a youth baseball league.
  + Job title could be “outdoor recreation manager”
  + Position may not be assigned to a specific department and could report to the commissioners.
  + Would be for fiscal year 24. Starts October 1st, 2023.
  + River management would be the priority for this position.
  + Once consideration is a limited budget. This means full time in the summer time ~ half the year. Strong commitment to grant writing and funding projects in the winter. County needs this postion to grow as possible with funding.
  + Rob M thinks it is important for the job to reach the 30hr a week level for a benefited position to satisfy applicants with skillset and qualifications to make an impact in the role.
  + Amy- potential for FTR to work on fundraising for start-up funding for this recreation manager position.
  + Brett anticipates response from IDFG in the next month on parking fees
  + Will suggests that recreation staff member would also benefit function of Waterways Recreation Committee
  + Commissioner Whitfield suggests interfacing with commissioners board meeting in July to express a recommendation to the commissioners in on July 10th.
  + Recreation Manager will also help to take care of small details that can free the waterways recreation committee up to think about longer term planning
  + Action Item: Recommendation for Recreation Manager hire @ Teton County, Idaho
    - Consensus on the committee that a recreation manager hire is a priority for Teton County to implement the recreation waterways ordinance and continue working on recreation management on the river.
* Future TWRAC meeting Schedule, moving to Quarterly meetings? (5:00-5:20)
  + Joe brings up moving meeting schedule to quarterly
  + Rob suggests keeping the meeting schedule as is during busy summer season and acknowledging a time of potential change with rec manager postion opportunity.
  + Will suggests that more sporadic meeting could help keep the committee thinking of big picture.
  + Kyle thinking about how regular meetings have kept this committee moving forward during this time of starting to implement the waterways ordinance.
  + Charlie suggests looking at the functional schedule of things that need to happen over the year and adjusting the meeting schedule to meet those needs. Ex. Grant schedules, staffing seasonal positions, summer busy season, etc.
  + Currently the committee is playing a more on the ground manager role, next goal is to hire a recreation manager, If the there is a recreation manager hire, this committee will evolve start expanding scope and could space out meetings and start shifting role to more big picture planning.
  + Commissioner Whitfield reiterates his view that this committee is an advisory committee, representing expertise that commissioners do not have. Committee members should not be playing a staff role. It is not reasonable to ask committee members to act in that capacity The County will implement the recommendations as best they can with the staff available.
  + August 8th IDPR tour
  + Action Item: Recommendation for Future meeting schedule
    - Consensus to keep the meeting on August 10th and reconsider schedule moving into the Fall.
* Sticker Program Update:
  + Teton County and FTR reached a MOU to fundraise for the Teton River Recreation Fund. A portion of funds will be allocated to Teton County through the TWRAC, a portions of funds will be retained by FTR.
  + Are parking stickers too confusing? Rumors of the stickers giving you free parking, or the stickers working as a river pass?
  + FTR would prefer not to sell stickers because of the confusion of parking
  + No one is advocating for selling stickers as a critical element of this fundraisng program, FTR will continue fundraising through the Teton River Recreation Fund, Stickers will not be sold.
* Big Eddy Update- IDFG is not allowed to collect fees for camping, increasingly seeing issues with residential campers. IDFG is moving in direction of fee camping at Rainey.
* Public Comment (5:20-5:30)
* Adjourn

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