Teton Waterways Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 17– 4:00-5:30pm

Commissioners Room – Teton County Courthouse

**Minutes 08.17.23**

* Welcome: attendance, Amy V, Jaime S, Michael W, Rob M, Charlie W, Joe M, Will S, Kyle E
* Updates: (4:00-4:15)
  + Update from river ambassador
    - Hot and busy – Bates Parking was completely full on Saturday. No major issues to report. Jamie had one issue with a party that had 3 dogs running down the banks alongside the river. Jamie took a report and asked the party to take note of the ordinance policy on dogs. Report was passed on to sheriff's office.
    - Jaime thinks next summer, ambassador at bates and big eddy to improve traffic flow. Group agrees that capacity at parking lots is a primary problem going forward.
  + Update on fee collection MOU from IDFG (Brett H).
    - Brett not Present.
  + Memorial Benches, Hunter Blattmann Memorial bench-Buxton Park
    - What is the process for folks who are interested in Memorials/memorial benches?
    - There is a need for a process for future benches/memorials, currently no process or point of contact.
  + Committee Terms and re-appointments (Renee, Charlie, and Jeff terms complete)
    - Currently have 8 members.
    - Could recruit 3 more
    - Potential candidates needed – Recreational Floater, River adjacent landowner, generational family, agriculture.
  + River rental business/outfitter survey (Kyle)
    - Kyle needed to log off, will add to future agenda.
* Update on IDPR/RTP river access tour August 8th (Rob M). (4:15-4:30)
  + - Visited 7 sites, talked about RTP fund, learned that funding may take year or two to get funding after application is approved/awarded. Should start applications ASAP to accommodate for funding timeline.
* Recreation Manager Position Update (Commissioner Whitfield) (5:00-5:20)
  + - Still debating title/job description/what department?
    - Was not approved at the proposed funding level
    - Commissioners are planning to have another work session on the position
    - County can sustainably create 1 position every 2-years. C. Whitfield feels that planning department is the highest need.
    - Current position is written as about half planning/natural resources and half recreation.
    - Is there any way to create funding?
    - Planning session is scheduled for September 7 and TWRAC membership is encouraged to attend
    - Working on these parameters – get a position that is not under Rob’s supervision, get a person who can handle the recreation workload.
    - Recreation Committee should have presence on work session for rec manager position
    - Recreation management Plan for the Teton River is a future priority.
* Special use permits discussion, examples from this summer and future needs (4:30-5:00)
  + - What is needed for special uses? Examples, youth programs, educational floats with FTR, Tributary, races & events, educational events, clubs
    - What defines a commercial activity?
    - Joe- If the commercial activity does not take place of USFS land, you do not need a permit.
    - There is a need to expand definitions of Commercial activity in the waterways ordinance. Could be used to encourage certain activities. Example, “we want to promote shuttles to improve traffic flow”
    - Charlie recommends developing an application, who is leading, how many people, what are they paying, what is their goal on the river,
    - Joe thinks the permits should be standardized across all users, including commercial operators already out on the water.
    - Does the permit cost money? How much should that cost?
    - This goes into the same bucket as charging for use/parking etc.
    - Permits may need established ratios for kids/supervisors.
    - Need to create more clarity on what constitutes a special use.
    - Need to continue including outfitters and guides in the conversation.
    - Could include this user group in this conversation through a special meeting.
  + River Management Society
    - Will is planning to pursue membership for TWRAC, for Chair and Secretary.
* Public Comment (5:20-5:30)
* Adjourn

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Sept 21st 4:00-5:30pm

Nov 2nd 4:00-5:00pm

Dec 14th 4:00-5:00pm