

## Minutes of the April 3, 2019 Ouray Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting

The Team met in the Massard Room of the Ouray Community Center. Attending were Tres Barbatelli, Elias de Andres Martos, Grant Kleeves, Justin Perry, Frank Robertson, Lance Sullins, and Matt Wade. Dan, Dawn, and Diane had made us aware of conflicts prior to the meeting.

### Agenda:

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| - New Member Intro, Intern Update    | Justin Perry    |
| - Adopt Minutes of January 2 Meeting | Team            |
| - Park User Data Collection Summary  | Tres Barbatelli |
| - Peak Mountain Guides Data          | Lance           |
| - Discussions                        | All             |
| 1) This Season                       |                 |
| 2) Opportunities Going Forward       |                 |

The Team welcomed Justin Perry, Interim City Administrator, as our new Core Team Member for the City of Ouray. Justin gave an update on the City's intern recruitment, for which the program initially selected turned out to not be a good match and the person took another opportunity. The City will work with OIPI to identify a candidate, preferably with data analysis and technical writing skills, to start this summer and work with Park Staff principally on items identified in the Management Agreement.

The Team adopted the minutes of the January 2, 2019 meeting, attached in final form for posting on City and OIPI sites.

Tres presented the attached summary of data collected by the Ice Park Ambassadors for the 2018-19 season. These snapshots are samples at specific times and places, not all users present in the Park through the entire timeframe. As such, and given gaps in both capture and observation periods, the numbers do not give total use or exact proportions, but provide useful insights.

Of the 107 days in the season, the Ambassadors took data for 77, mostly Thursday through Sunday, but also on some holiday weekend Mondays. For those days, the data shows where people tend to concentrate and how many more folks are out on the weekends than during the week and how the user categories stack up. We are aware that failure of some Institutional Groups to identify properly has them appreciably under-represented here, and are working to improve that system. For this long season, the max number of anchors brought into use was over 130, and we will take our best shot at estimating the capacity profile of the park through the season as a baseline for future discussions.

The high-resolution data collected, in crowded areas by anchor through the day on peak weekends, was not presented but has been entered into a spreadsheet and will be analyzed. We need to get the anchors definitively mapped and work on volunteer recruitment to enable more comprehensive data next season. One thing that was clear from the hi-res effort is that a big issue in making routes available in an equitable fashion is to address the practice of swapping ropes between groups rather than taking down anchors at the 3-hour occupation limit. The Ambassadors providing info on where routes are open to groups orbiting crowded areas has helped a lot in this regard.

Interventions for helmet, crampon and route occupation violations are continuing. More visible signage showing the rules is needed. Anchoring practices appear to be benefitting from the tutorial in the Ice Fest guide, and Lance has volunteered to give demonstrations (Elias said he'd help). We'll look into beefing up reference material on rules and anchoring on the OIPI web site.

We'll make as much of the data available as possible once we have gone through it more carefully, and look to evolve the effort for greater utility.

Lance presented Peak's data for the season, which pointed up some general elements of the discussion on managing Commercial Groups as we look ahead at OIPI moving into that function next season.

With the use of Service Days, where each guide could be working with up to four clients but typically has two or three, the guide services tend to run out of their allocations during the peak of the season having not realized their full economic potential. It also means there is a gap at the end of the peak season where they don't have allocation to bring clients into the Park. Allocation by User Days would allow guides to manage their access with better resolution and smooth out their use.

The guide services have already been steering clients toward weekdays. Some operators have indicated that they would be willing to cap weekend use if allocations could be managed so as to enable more continuous access throughout the season, particularly to bring clients in where now they have that gap from running out. In addition, if they had the ability under a User Day regime to book smaller groups without losing opportunity (as under the Service Day system) the Park would benefit from more rapid cycling of their groups.

We did not have time to go through the attached review of the season, but Mairi's graphic on Ice Park funding and participation in key elements of our operation (in the Ice Park Info attachment) was much appreciated. There is work going on in the background on water, which will be a focus in coming meetings. The OIPI Board will be using the data collection results and inputs from the IPAT to formulate models of Park use management for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.