

Minutes of April 27, 2022 Ice Park Advisory Team

The Ice Park Advisory Team met from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the Massard Room at the Ouray Community Center on April 27, 2022. Attending were Tres Barbatelli, Silas Clarke, Pete Davis, Tamara Gulde, Mark Iuppenlatz, Todd Jesse, Bill Leo, Micah Lewkowitz (by phone from Alaska), Dolgio Nergui, Peter O'Neil, Jacob Raab, Frank Robertson, Logan Tyler, and Dan Zokaites.

Agenda:

Membership Changes	Frank
Post-season Review	Peter
Operations Update and Plans	Pete
Season Feedback and Suggestions	All
Sustainability Program Directions	Frank
- Overview	
- Training and Certification	
- Accessibility Program Plans	
- A Thriving Park Going Forward	
Discussion	All

Elías de Andrés-Martos has after three years-plus as At-large Member of the Team, will step away from the formal role with our great thanks. After the meeting, Diane Mielcarz let me know that she will do likewise, and we have the same profound gratitude for her service. We hope they can continue to participate as members of the community.

The Core Team has invited and is pleased to announce that we have acceptance from Jimmie Chiang and Mica Hart to join the IPAT as At-large Members bringing local youth and education perspectives to our discussion going forward. They will join us in future meetings.

Peter led off with a recap of a great season, thanking OIPI Staff, Board, and volunteers for making it all happen. In addition to a long run and another increase in capacity and Users, the Ice Park hosted its first event series, comprising the All In Ice Fest, the traditional Ouray Ice Fest (with attendees and vendors!), and the UIAA North American Championships, all to truly gratifying success. He also gave updates on fundraising and foundation / government agency grants, media reach (another live-stream and broadcast documentary), the new water source under development, and the pending economic impact study with Kent State University, supported by the City and OIPI.

The detailed data are being finalized for our May 15 Post-season Report to the City, but Jacob gave us a preview, reporting almost 24,000 visitors to the Park. Most of the increase over the 22,000 last season came from more Commercial Use, up to about 17% of capacity, also increased by good temps, more terrain, and effective farming of enough water. Recreational Users were up a bit, but came down from 83% of capacity last season to 76.8%, so that the combined Commercial, Institutional, and Ice Fest Clinic Users came in very close to their 25% target.

Pete gave us the run-down on operations for the season and plans for infrastructure improvements this summer. New trails, overlooks, stairs (WOW, Pete), beautiful stiles and railings (thanks to Jeff Skoloda), access rungs, signage and maps (Jacob been bery busy), and parking management / coordination with

Ouray PD all contributed to a more orderly and user-friendly Park. Staff training, lots of new bolts, replaced walkway coverings, and downed-tree removal improved safety; water systems upgrades, added/repaired anchors, and even a new, lead-only area gave us more terrain. The Field Staff refurbished and enhanced the Powder House and Sugar Shack work buildings and brought electrical systems up to snuff.

We paused at the close of Fest to remember our friend Mason Stansfield with a gathering of the Tribe at our climber memorial and, sadly but joyously grateful for having known him, another plaque in the Gazebo, with one also added to commemorate the passing of Pat O'Donnell, one of the founders of the Park.

We got a lot of good feedback from Users on the improvements to the Park and the great experience they afforded. The summer will continue in the same vein, and focus on the water delivery system for our new source, thanks to Ouray Silver Mines, plus start on a new guidebook and updated operations manual based on the resulting configurations.

We reviewed progress in our Sustainability Program, ranging from great results in fundraising for financial sustainability, to the existential need met by "Our Water, Our Future," to our workforce development efforts, to a solid start on improving Park accessibility.

Building on what Charlie drafted for our Accessibility Program, counsel from Angela and Kitty, success with our first All In Ice Fest, and willingness expressed by CGOs to help, we have asked Christina to head up a small group of people who know best to define what the Park can do to have traditionally under-represented communities become a greater part of our future.

We discussed training, both of Staff and for CGO personnel in the Park. The Core Team will charter a small team to resolve the many perspectives on enabling safe operations, expressed in various discussions and multiple emails before and after the meeting, into proposals for policy and review at the August meeting.

We will further develop our methods and messaging to sustain and improve support of using precious resources for recreation, explore use of the Park as a laboratory for partnering organizations (such as the Fort Lewis College study on ice-melt profile), and pull together a set of evaluation criteria for inclusion of future Sustainability Program elements.

OIPI will make its recommendations to the City on our preferred management and operational model for the Park going forward in our May 30 deliverable per the Management Agreement.