

Minutes of the Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting August 2, 2023

The Ice Park Advisory Team held its regular summer meeting on August 2, 2023 at Citizens State Bank in Ouray from 5:30 to 7:20 pm. Attending were Tres Barbatelli, Kitty Calhoun, Silas Clarke, Corey Gera, Tamara Gulde, Angela Hawse, Mark Iuppenlitz, Grant Kleeves, Nico Leis, Dolgio Nergui, Peter O'Neil, Frank Robertson, Todd Rutledge, Logan Tyler, and Brooke Warren.

Agenda:

Update on off-season OIPI actions	Peter
Commercial allocation for 23-24	All
Discussion	All

Peter announced that Corey Gera, a veteran Ranger fully versed in the Park and full of energy and great ideas, will be our next Operations Manager – thanks for stepping up, Corey, and congratulations!

Peter gave us an update for the off-season so far, which has focused on fundraising and getting ready for coming action on the water project. Pete Davis, Timmy Foulkes and others got so much access infrastructure completed over the past two summers that such work has been minimal this year. We will install a new catwalk for Two-eyed Dog but it will be for Ice Farmer access only, rather than for User traffic or top-roping. Peter has been lining up additional donor support on top of the \$1.1M already committed for Our Water Our Future (many thanks to all who are rising to the challenge). We are chasing things like federal approvals and further State funding hurdles (with much help from Silas and a couple of Senators) and preparing with a new, local contractor for when San Miguel Power delivers the transformer for our pump. We anticipate being able move to the new water source next year, and City will make municipal system excess available as usual for the coming season.

Peter and Silas reported on progress expected to culminate by the end of August, completing the new long-term Management Agreement and arrangements with Eric Jacobson on South Park. Once we have everything in order, we will get on with pre-season prep as usual. Candidates for Field Staff (Ice Farmers and Ice Rangers) are being interviewed now. The City is also in process to provide electricity to the Powder House (with Ice Farmer/electrician Jason Watkins on the job) and getting ready to fix the roof. Silas will work with Eric on power for the Chalet following failure of the decades-old line from the hydro plant.

Frank updated the IPAT on the Ice Park Sustainability Working Group (the WG), which John is moving to quarterly meetings interspersed with the IPAT schedule. Recall that the original charter to understand the implications of charging Recreational climbers a user fee was redirected because a current agreement with the County precludes doing so for now. The group's discussion evolved to focus on two higher-level objectives stemming from that original charter: long-term funding sustainability and managing overcrowding. Given the increase in Park capacity, we are seeing the latter as less pressing for now and really driving to augment our hybrid funding model.

OIPI will consult with City Staff and work with output from the WG to develop marketing communications and get the Ice Park into the City's Destinations program to put together attractive packages with local businesses. OIPI will update its web site and post info informing the community of the costs and the need to support. We will get more communications from local luminaries out there,

building on the rich history and the grass-roots foundations of the Park to generate stoke. The WG is exploring further incentives for membership and other means to bring in revenue, and will report in more detail at the October IPAT.

Some structural clarity to avoid confusion: the IPAT Core Team, comprising the two representatives each from the City and OIPI, chartered the original WG to study a possible recreational user fee and agreed to modify its charter. The WG is a temporary entity with a specific mission, upon which it will continue to report at each IPAT meeting, and it will deliver formal reports for the IPAT to consider upon completing major aspects of its studies. Out of the WG discussion, given that membership is the highest-potential path to adding revenue, OIPI decided to tap members of the WG and OIPI Staff in a tactical group to define and act on measures to realize gains in real time while the WG continues its work.

To recap the IPAT function, it is an informal discussion group that may make non-binding recommendations; it is not a City Committee. To suggestions that the IPAT should approve minutes or sub-group formation, it has no approval authority, that being vested in the sponsors, as represented by the Core Team and ultimately with City Council and the OIPI Board. The idea is to have these small groups move effectively and have periodic communications with ample opportunity for feedback to stay in sync with the broader community. They will end when their missions are accomplished and the IPAT will continue.

We discussed the Commercial Use allocation for the coming season. We will start with the same system as last year, including the total of 1014 Service Days and CGO allocations at 70% of total individual allocation up front, with 30% of the total initially in the Flex Pool. OIPI will review persistent, significant under-use of allocation with those guide services and entertain proposals for additional days from folks consistently pushing their allocations. Please send Christina and Peter your projections in support of any such requests based on high confidence that you will use the added days during the regular season more (before Presidents Day and the Open Booking Period). The objective is to ensure that everyone gets all the allocation they can use. We will work with everyone in the next few weeks to firm things up in time for Allocation letters by the end of September and schedule a pre-season CGO meeting to make sure all flows as well as last year.

Love Your Gorge will be scheduled soon for September – stay tuned!

Silas and Tamara mentioned that the City of Ouray is defining the future for its parks, and a survey is currently open for community input at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/892H9TN>

Please take a few minutes before August 25 to be heard.