

Minutes of the October 26, 2022 Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting

The IPAT held its regular Fall meeting on October 26, 2022 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the San Juan room of the Ouray Community Center. Attending were Katie Beringer, Kitty Calhoun, Silas Clarke, Pete Davis, Ryan Dingwall, Tamara Gulde, John Hulburd, Grant Kleeves, Christina Lujan, Peter O'Neil, Frank Robertson, Todd Rutledge, and Logan Tyler.

Agenda:

Pre-season Update	Peter
Ops Progress and Plans	Pete
Sustainability Update	Christina
Looking Ahead	Frank

Peter updated us on progress with Our Water, Our Future, where we have a pump in hand, are trenching and laying a bunch of pipe next week, and have paid \$11K for the privilege of waiting for a transformer. The capital campaign continues, with encouraging feedback from a local foundation on a new grant, a request for the City to apply funds from Park fees, a couple of other grants pending and likely, and the grass-roots stage about to kick off. We are good on cash vs. scheduled materials and work through spring, and expect to have the new water system on line for the '23-'24 season. We are under contract to purchase our office in Ouray and will save several hundred dollars a month vs. rent.

Pete laid out the work done over the summer on stairs (Schoolroom south access and the slope to the reviewing stand) and walkways, with dead tree removals and anchor replacements still ongoing. We had about 30 volunteers for Love Your Gorge, where trash was removed, eroding areas mitigated, and invasive species removed. Staff are all coming back (!), and will deveg routes, get the water distribution system built out, and begin saturation in the next month. Construction continues to connect the new trestle to the north Schoolroom access from the Chalet, and we are expanding routes and infrastructure for Two-eyed Dog and the areas north of Five Fingers. We are working to see if we can get early breakfast available in the Park. We'll have level pads for upgraded outhouses and new signage for parking – ***we need volunteers to help direct parking on busy weekends.***

Christina told us about preparations for All In, with Rock Ski Alpine again providing the guiding platform and broader participation anticipated. We are in discussions with other organizations and athletes to help us expand our diversity and accessibility programs. We also have several events going for community engagement beyond Ice Fest, including a Halloween party at the Wright Opera House and presentations from some local climbing luminaries. Kitty is working with us on promotional material to put more stoke into the membership drive, and a member incentive program is almost ready to roll out. A notable element of that drive is early access for members, including a benefit to CGOs of allowing guides who are members to bring non-member clients in 30 minutes early. Tamara encouraged us to work more closely with Ouray and Colorado tourism personnel on marketing. Frank is in the process of joining the Community Economic Development committee to find ways to strengthen our ties with local businesses.

Peter will present the pre-season report to City Council on November 7 and the next OIPI Board meeting open to the Public will be November 16 at 6 pm in the Community Center.

We went through the current Management Agreement in detail; after a general review of what provisions it includes, we covered them point-by-point to solicit input on ways to improve it, to very constructive effect:

General – define all acronyms at their first use, revise dates as appropriate, and include as much clarity on what is included as possible.

I.C.1.c. Revise period to complete removal of temporary infrastructure (like the Comp tower and water distribution to Five Fingers) after season’s end to reflect actual time required, allowing for spring weather and ground conditions, but keeping the time to reduce visual impact minimal.

I.E. Increase limits for City approval of OIP infrastructure spending to reflect rising costs – e.g. OIPI can spend up to \$10K without approval and Silas can approve up to \$20K.

Frank to work with Mark and Nate on defining coordination between Ice Park and Via Ferrata operations to include known intersections of infrastructure, events, and seasonal activities to augment existing sections I.F. and II.B.

Explore coordination with the City in possible new provisions for parking, snowplowing, and shuttling pedestrians from town on busy weekends. (Silas let us know that there is budget for a cross-walk on US 550 at the horseshoe over the next 2-3 years).

Expand II.A. to describe events beyond Ice Fest (e.g. All In, UIAA) and better specify coordination needs.

Update III. and IV. to eliminate then-prospective events, now completed, and to reflect current Concession and fee structure.

Consider including provisions around preferences for locally-based CGOs in the agreement (the implications of having such defined in a contract vs. managed via OIPI policy must be carefully evaluated).

Update V. to reflect current best practices in the data system, its use to manage the Park, and the work of the IPAT (referred to as Advisory Team in the current document).

The IPAT community is asked to propose sustainability-oriented deliverables for the next ten years analogous to those defined in V.A.

In response to calls to explore what charging recreational climbers a fee to use the Park would mean, the OIPI Board has asked the IPAT to charter a working group to understand the global (not just financial) implications of doing so. Grant, Kitty, Tamara, and John H. volunteered to participate, and we want to include a representative from a CGO. Frank will follow up on the roster and draft the WG charter, toward being able to engage with supporting information in the discussion John Wood announced at a recent City Council meeting.

We are looking for further input, particularly from those who could not attend this meeting, and will provide updates to the group going forward. I will be starting on our initial red-line with what we have so far...

Next IPAT meeting is set for January 4, 2023 from 7 to 9pm at Citizens State Bank.