

Minutes of the October 28, 2020 Ouray Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting

The regular Fall IPAT meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 28. Attending were Elías de Andres-Martos, Kitty Calhoun, Clint Cook, Nate Disser, John Hulburd, Mark Iuppenlatz, Grant Kleeves, Micah Lewkowitz, Dolgio Nergui, Peter O’Neil, Frank Robertson, Lance Sullins, Made Wade, John Wood and Dan Zokaites.

Agenda:

Introduce New ED	Peter O’Neil
What we did on our summer vacation	Peter
Plans for the coming season	Peter
Discussion	All

OIPI introduced its new Executive Director, Peter O’Neil, joining us after 8 years as ED of Colorado Outward Bound Schools and with a wealth of entrepreneurial, not-for-profit and sponsor/fundraising experience.

Peter presented a run-down of activities undertaken since last season and that he and Bayley Wood, our Marketing Manager, have been driving to get resources lined up with our Sponsors and other stakeholders as we clarify how to safely provide an amazing experience for our Users, all while we get the Park ready for Winter. Ice Fest is clearly top of mind but is not yet fully defined as we navigate the pandemic. We are working with multiple guide services to hold clinics over several weekends spread over the season and through the Park.

The Pre-season Report, which was reviewed recently by City Council, has most of the information presented at this meeting.

There were several questions and comments about how we will manage operations during the pandemic, beyond the protocols included in the report. Essentially, we must limit groups to 25 people, which should be fairly straightforward, and limit total occupancy of the Park to 50% of capacity under Safer at Home, Level 1, Outdoor Recreation guidance from the Ouray County Public Health Department. For this purpose we are defining Maximum Capacity, which will be higher than Functional Capacity (already limited to promote good User experience), since that metric does not include folks in transit between climbing areas. We will have to actively control access to some areas and will announce other measures to achieve compliance before the season begins. [Note: this all changed after the meeting]

Dan asked about installing tie-back anchors on the boulders at the Kids Wall, and we will follow up. John Wood gave a quick update on City Council action to extend the water agreement. Xander Bianchi, our Operations Manager, is working with Joe Coleman, Ouray’s Public Works Director, to ensure the best possible communication on water use in anticipation of tight supply following a very dry year.

I would like to express how pleased we are with getting Peter on board and also our profound appreciation for John Hulburd stepping up on IPAT and other action between executive directors. Staff is hired and we are ramping up fast.

Our next meeting will be January 6, 2021.