



1 May 2020

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Re: Alta Harris Community Park/ BOI20-0096/CFH20-00013, CFH20-00014

The Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) board supports the referenced floodplain review and Boise River system application to develop a park within a FEMA designated floodplain on 20-acres. We have been included in a series of public meetings with the applicant (Boise Park and Recreation staff) and commend the City Staff for the park master plan and consideration of our neighborhood concerns. We are especially encouraged by the applicant's diligence in securing a license agreement to allow park footpaths in the Idaho Power Corridor.

We do have some reservations and comments that we hope the Planning and Zoning Commissioners consider as they assess this application.

1. ACHD Right of Way. The public was not offered the opportunity to comment on the referenced ACHD report (BOI20-0096) and we would have offered the following for ACHD consideration:
 - a. **Pedestrian Facilities.** We commend the applicant's proposal to construct a 10' detached sidewalk but we agree with ACHD and disagree with the applicant that this sidewalk should connect through the Idaho Power Company (IPC) corridor and connect with the existing sidewalk at the corner of Arrow Junction Drive and Eckert Road. If this connection is not made at the time of the park development, additional cost to the public will be incurred by forcing a future "pedestrian connectivity gap" community program request from the City to ACHD. In the interim, we will have developed a City park with a gaping lack of pedestrian access.
 - b. **Eckert Road Parking.** The ACHD report Findings for Consideration stated that there are "No Parking" signs installed on Eckert Road abutting the site. BVNA wishes to emphasize that this will continue to be an ongoing local issue with summer river float parking overflow into the new Alta Harris parking lot, along Eckert Road, and within the adjacent Barber Junction neighborhood. Our attached letter of support from 15 October 2019 to the Parks Commission is attached outlining the extensive growth of this issue in our neighborhood. We support continued "No Parking" signage and enhanced summer float season parking enforcement.

- d. **Bike Facilities.** The ACHD Roadways to Bikeways plan (February 2018) and the City's Specific Plan (Amendment 7, 2019) identify Eckert Road as a Level 2 bicycle facility yet there are no conditions recommended for this application. The existing Eckert Road bicycle lane ends at Arrow Junction east of the proposed Alta Harris park. BVNA agrees with ACHD that the applicant should be required to widen the pavement on Eckert Road to 17-feet from the centerline with a 3-foot wide gravel shoulder. BVNA requests 11' vehicle travel lanes with 6' bicycle lanes to provide a safe bicycle facility on a relatively high-speed residential arterial (35mph speed limit). The new bicycle facility should connect with the existing facilities at Arrow Junction (east) and then terminate approaching the Eckert Road bridge. The future Eckert Road bridge bike/ped facilities would then connect to these newly constructed Eckert Road facilities.
- e. **RRFB Pedestrian Crossing.** BVNA agrees with ACHD that there should be a single RRFB crossing in this immediate area. However, BVNA further recommends that the single crossing should be constructed to permit both pedestrian and bicycle activation. ACHD recently reviewed Bicycle Operation at Pedestrian Hybrid / Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon crossings and the mid-April 2020 ACHD Commission decision should guide this crossing treatment.
 - i. This new crossing will be in addition to the FY21 Pedestrian Crossing at Eckert Rd and Arrow Junction Dr (ACHD Project CM210-18).

Thank you for your consideration of our neighborhood concerns.

Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

Officers

John Mooney Jr, President (Wade)
 Steve Moore (Dallas Harris Estates), Vice President
 Gary Veasy (River Heights), Secretary
 Hank Vincent (East Valley), Treasurer

Directors

Larry Crowley (Barber Junction)
 Katherine Nice (River Heights)
 Dave Reinhart (Barber Station)
 Courtney Santillan (Mill District)
 Rob Stark (Rim at East Valley)
 Katie Swain (River Heights)

Attachment: BVNA Testimony to Boise City Parks and Recreation Commission (re: Alta Harris), 15 October 2019



15 October 2019

Boise City Parks and Recreation Commission

Commissioners,

The Barber Valley Neighborhood Association (BVNA) appreciates the hard work and thoughtful design that has gone into the Alta Harris Park. We circulated to our membership the revision forwarded to us by City Staff via email on 9 October and then presented the revisions at our monthly meeting on 10 October 2019. We had previously hosted Jennifer Tomlinson at our monthly meeting on 12 September and noted unanimous support for the revised plan. BVNA encouraged our neighbors to forward their comments in writing or with testimony in person this week and we noted that you did receive two positive neighborhood inputs from our membership in your agenda packet.

The Barber Valley NA Board voted unanimously at our board meeting on 10 October to support the revised design. We particularly like the increase in the number of pickleball courts and the natural playground. We applaud the improvements on weed abatement and walking paths planned for the adjacent Idaho Power Corridor. City Staff is to be commended for making headway with Idaho Power as that continues to be a significant neighborhood challenge that involves storm water and invasive weed control – thorny problems!

We have no design concerns at present but we wholeheartedly agree with our neighbor who commented on the parking issue. The Barber Park Boise River floater parking issues will continue to be a challenge in the summer months, particularly in the Barber Junction Neighborhood across Eckert Road from Alta Harris park. **We understand the reduction of parking spaces from 225 to 127 will fit the park's amenities but remain concerned that we will continue to have river floaters parking on Eckert Road or interfering with Alta Harris parking. We would ask the commissioners to consider directing the stakeholders to solve the floater parking issue before Alta Harris green-up.** This will require leadership from the City in concert with Ada County and ACHD to resolve what has become a neighborhood problem during float season. We would volunteer to be involved as well if you deem our perspective helpful.

Thank you for your service to the City. Thank you for a new park!

Respectfully,

John Mooney Jr, President
Steve Moore, Vice-President
Gary Veasy, Secretary
Hank Vincent, Treasurer

Stasi Bellomy
Larry Crowley
Sabrina Durtschi
Celeste Miller
Katherine Nice
Rob Stark

Atch: Boise River Floater Parking Data (Source: Ada County Parks and Waterways, October 2019 BVNA Meeting Minutes excerpt)



2019 Float Season Parking Data

Source: Ada County Parks and Waterways



- Total number of asphalt parking stalls = 177
- Additional parking spaces in overflow parking field = 323 (approximately)
- Total parking spaces = 500 (approximately)
- Total number of vehicles parked during 2019 float season = 25,342
- Average number of vehicles parked daily = 402
- Average number of vehicles parked on Saturdays = 788
- Average number of vehicles parked on Sundays = 718
- Most vehicles parked in a day = 987 (Saturday, July 13th)
- Most vehicles parked in an hour = 240 (13 July between 2-3pm; most ever)
- Highest volume of visitors (i.e. vehicles parked) occurs between 12-4pm on all weekend days

2019 Float Season Parking Shuttle Data

Source: Ada County Parks and Waterways



- Total number of shuttle buses = 5
- Total number of shuttle riders = 43,602
- Average number of shuttle riders daily = 739
- Average number of shuttle riders on Saturdays = 1,367
- Average number of shuttle riders on Sundays = 1,230
- Most shuttle riders in a day = 1,698 (13 July: most ever)