

City of Stanley

Town Hall Meeting - Redfish to Stanley Trail Head

July 20, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE CITY

Mayor Steve Botti, Councilmember Autin Clegg, Councilmember Gabriel Cardoso, Councilmember Tim Cron, and Council President Laurii Gadawa by phone. All answered roll call. City staff members included: City Clerk/ Treasurer Cari Tassano and Kimberly Peters Maintenance supervisor.

Mayor:

I thank the council for coming and everyone else who came, I appreciate your interest in this and what we are thinking about and hopefully gain some input from you. This is not a council meeting but an informal round table where we are soliciting your input. This is not a meeting where you are just hear the council talk, this is for you to talk. If anyone has any input, they like to add please do.

This is about the trail head facilities project for the Redfish to Stanley trail or some call it Stanley to Redfish trail. We had a town hall meeting Sept 28th about the concept, at the time were a little different in addition we talked about the redfish connector trail project. From the Redfish trail down to town, this is where the Redfish trail cuts into the park -see attached- and the forest service constructed this part of the trail all the to that point, which is inside the park, they did that for free. What we were talking about on Sept.28th was to continue this trail all the way down this way to connect into town so people would have a way once they get to the park they would have a way to get into town and right now without the connecting trail they are going to walk down airport road, which we don't want because there are no shoulders on this road, there are deep ditches and there is a lot of traffic going up the airport road to other places. We are going to have bicycles, foot traffic, disabled people, wheelchairs and horses could be on the road. We don't want this on the road, so this is going to be our priority. Maybe phase one, that's what we are going to talk about tonight, but we ran into a problem that we have not resolved, and it prohibits us from building this connecting trail, certainly for this year maybe even next year, we shall see. The problem is without going into detail because that's not what we are here to talk about, just so you have some background context. This part of the trail is in the city park, when you get done here it swings around this way to meet the grade requirements to meet the needs of ADA guidelines.

We want to continue with that because for obvious reasons, we want this to be a seamless continuation of the forest service trail. To come over here this is private property where we can not cross, we have an agreement with aeronautics to build a trail on their property, but the forest service has an easement on that property, and they are not willing at his time to give us any leeway on that easement or special use permit on that trail to allow us. That being the case there is no way around it and there is no other feasible route for this trail, except to have to ride down the side of the of the airport road, we talked about that on Sept. 28th. That might have to be the absolute finale resort, but it will not be ADA plus it crosses the intersection down here and for many other reasons we would not want to do that.

Once we found that out, we decided we would still try to get a grant from the Idaho Department of Recreations to construct what we call trail head facilities, so still thinking there will be heavy traffic coming into the park and heavy traffic wanting to leave the park, to go to the Red Fish Lake. We want some sort of facilities to accommodate this sort of traffic, right now we have nothing. There is very limited parking, and the plan is to build a couple parking lots, this is all within the City Park property. If we do not provide more parking people will park wherever they can, and we don't want that. This is a piece of land adjacent to the ball field that the City owns, piece of Property about 100feet of sage brush and gravel, we can develop that and grade it out to make it a parking lot.

Town citizen: that would basically double the parking we have now, correct?

Mayor: that is correct.

Council member Gabriel: that's about 60 spots on each side for parking?

Mayor: yes, that is about 120 potential parking spots that can park here. This is part of the discussion we can make these smaller, we are trying to scale this. No one really knows how much traffic we will have but the forest service planning document says this is going to be a heavy use trail. Which will probably be the most popular trail in Idaho because it connects Red Fish Lake to Stanley. It will appeal to a lot of people instead of using the highway.

Parking by the ice rink, the plan is we want to allow larger rigs like horse trailers, and larger RVs to park over here and be able to turn around. We already have seen this summer (2023) a fair amount of traffic with trailers and larger RVs so we know there will be a demand and then if people park here, they will have to find their way over to the trail head, so we will have to create a walking path. This is all open for discussion right now it is a concept at this point. The other part of this project is a restroom facility here near the existing picnic shelter, close to the trail head. Thinking that people would come in this way or come from the parking lots might want to have that to use, before or after their journey. We will need a sewer line to accommodate that restroom because right now we do not have one to accommodate the park, and we would like to have flushing toilets up there. We could use vault toilets and we do have a vault toilet now located by the ball field.

Town citizen: that would get overloaded quick.

Mayor: yes, it could and that is why we think a flush toilet would be better.

So that is the topic we want to talk about.

Town citizen: will they be year-round toilets?

Mayor: yes, so the snowmobilers can use them. We will heat them otherwise they will freeze.

Council member Gariel: so, the sewer line is part of the project as well?

Mayor: yes, the sewer line is part of the project

Town citizen: do you already have a water line located there?

Mayor: we have running water on this side of the park but will need hooked into a line. There are two wells so we would have to connect into those. We know where the water lines are.

Something like this to install the facilities we are thinking (show picture of sample restroom) we are thinking it would not be too intrusive to the landscape. We are thinking 16x12 foot structure to accommodate this use.

Town citizen: would you need 2 of them?

Mayor: no just one but there will be two stalls and meet ADA requirements and most likely unisex.

This is just a sketch to where it would probably be so you can visualize what that impact would be.

This is a parking lot right here (small parking lot in front of the picnic shelter) we will probably make that ADA parking only. We will have to figure out how many we need.

Town citizen: Mayor, so the hockey rink is east of the parking with the RV parking?

Mayor: let me talk about that for a minute here, so off and on for 5 or 6 years we have discussed moving the ice rink to and to upgrade it to professional standards. Right now, the existing ice rink is right here, and it covers part of the RV parking lot. If we do this, we will have to move the existing ice rink over to here and we think it will fit. The reason we are thinking about moving it is for two reasons. One, you notice the line in the parking lot does not cover the rink. This is part of the ice rink, by mistake this is one division of aeronautics, so we are thinking sense we are redesigning the parking lets take care of that problem.

Town citizen: that area is flat up there on the woodside?

Mayor: yes, it is flat all the way up to here where we had a curling lane put in.

We were talking about moving the rink anyways to have a panoramic view of the mountains without cars in the view.

Town citizen: just a thought, what if we move the groomer shed to a less intrusive place?

Mayor: we would love that, and have talked about moving it, it has always been a problem being right in the middle of the view and we talked about moving it or rebuilding it. We have talked about adding this to the grant that's something we can explore later down the road or add it to another phase. Right now, we are going to have to careful what we add to this grant because right now the grant for the whole state is \$600,000 dollars so the odds of them giving us the whole \$600,000 dollars is very low, because that would mean no one else in Idaho would get any funding.

The City of Stanley would have to put in a 20% match of any amount of the grant money we would get. The City does have option tax money to fund something like this, that's why we have it.

Town citizen: can you get a multi-year grant? To try to help elevate the limit on the dollar.

Mayor: they have not told us anything about that, but they said we can do a phase two. But we are thinking if everything falls into place this connector trail will be phase two, that is going to be expensive. We can keep putting in for grant for multiple years but this one seems to be tailor made for what we wanted to do.

Town citizen: do you have any idea what the cost will be? Exclusive to the connector trail.

Mayor: we are working on it, I don't have a good fix on it right now, I don't want to throw a number out there. We are looking at multiple sources and trying to get some estimates done. I guess what I can say at this point is it looks like 3 to 4 hundred thousand dollars.

Town citizen: will that include the sewer line?

Mayor: that will be a big part of it

Council member Tim: We basically need to prioritize what the big picture a small picture is, phase one the park and maybe phase two is the walking trails to town weather those two together can be phase one but the restroom and sewer line is almost a project within itself so maybe that's phase one, just to be realistic right? That's what I think we need to figure out where the priorities lay. I also have another question, big picture we get these flushing toilets does the City of Stanley have to be responsible for manning them like cleaning them and doing all the maintenance?

Mayor: yes, that will be our responsibility. We discussed maybe adding solar to the roof of the restrooms to help elevate the cost of electricity cost.

Council member Gabriel: so, if we propose all this to them is it all or nothing? Will they partially fund this project, or can we choose what we want to do, is it within our scope? Is it possible we might go over the tipping point, and we are asking too much?

Mayor: that why I think we need to prioritize what we want to choose, the parking lots vs the restrooms and sewer line

Council member Tim: I think without parking it is going to be a real problem and it will get over crowded fast.

Council member Gabriel: I agree with that, it is all important

Town citizen: A couple of years ago there was a question about what does the City need what does Pioneer Park need and restrooms were a concern then, don't you think if this is going to be the busiest trail in Idaho that we should add more than one restroom that flushes, and if you are thinking about the big picture now don't you think it would be cost effective to add more restrooms now or make the two into four

Mayor: Certainly, we could make it 2 stalls 4 stalls 6 stalls but of course the price will elevate

Council member Gabriel: I agree, especially if this is going to be a high use trail. Parking without bathrooms is going to have its own set of problems. I say pitch it all as one big project, it all makes sense to me.

Mayor: I would like to do it as one big project, we could make it a vault toilet like the one we have but I do not really favor it and we would not have to do the sewer line if we did that, but the other option would be to make this 4 stalls instead of 2. We are thinking if we end up building this ice rink or some sort of a ice rink facility we could have more restrooms over here next to the parking lot, we thought we would start with this because it is at the trail head.

Council member Tim: who currently takes care of the vault toilet now?

Mayor: Clear Creek Disposal takes care of it, they come up twice a week to empty the vaults.

Council member Gabriel: So, if we go with vault toilet can we later turn it into a flush toilet?

Mayor: I don't think that would be possible based on what we have researched. We can put in a vault toilet here and add a flush toilet later, but they are very expensive. At the end of the trail head is where everyone is going to want to use the restrooms, I think.

City Clerk/Treasurer: It is expensive to have the vault restrooms service by Clear Creek and they are our only option at this point. And this summer (2023) we have had to increase the service with the opening of the trail.

Maintenance Supervisor Kimberly: when there is an event at the park, we lock the vault restrooms because in the contract with the City of Stanley they are to rent porta pots, so what happens is there is no place for visitors to use a restroom because the vaults are locked.

Mayor: right now, we have pot pots over at the ice rink during the winter and it is not a great solution because they freeze up. So, there is already a demand for use even during the winter.

Town citizen: what if we put a bathroom down the airport road where you want to put the groomer shed?

Council member Gabriel: if you are hiking or walking to the end of the trail you will not know it is there and there is not enough room there.

Mayor: when we eventually finish the connector trail the restroom will not be close to the trail either. We can later add restrooms at the end of the connector trail later.

Town citizen: can we tap into the sewer at the school?

Mayor: the sewer association will not allow that; they say we need to connect at the bottom of airport road.

Town citizen: have they given you a reason why you must go so far?

Mayor: we need to hook into the main line that is located at the bottom of the hill. We are looking into reducing the cost of this and we have our engineering firm working on it as well. Before we finalize our grant, we will explore all our options.

Town citizen: will the airport and or private property have to hook into the sewer line?

Mayor: we heard possibly they might be interested in hooking into the sewer line, the Sewer Association is working on that question. If we did run the sewer line up here, they can decide to run it out there later. Currently they all have septic systems. These are all great ideas to think about, we also want to add interruptive signage up at the trail head and the park to direct the people to town and especially RVs and big trailers to the correct parking. There is a lot of information to put on the signs. And this would be a great opportunity to promote the dark sky reserve. We have some handouts to show the project and also, we are looking for letters of support if you would like to take the time and review that we would greatly appreciate it.

Are there any other comments or ideas that you would like to discuss?

Town Citizens: Thank you, Mayor, for your efforts and we appreciate you giving us the opportunity to be part of this project.

End Of Town Hall Meeting: