IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship."
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2020 Teleconference
1:00 P.M. Mountain / 12:00 A.M. Pacific
5657 Warm Springs Ave.
Boise, Idaho

Minutes – Thursday, April 16, 2020

Call to Order – Chairman Black
Chairman Black called the Board teleconference to order at 1:00 P.M. MT. The Chairman directed a roll call. Board Members in attendance via the phone were:

Board Member Pete Black – Present
Board Member Lou Fatkin – Present
Board Member Doug Eastwood – Present
Board Member Brian Beckley – Present
Board Member Cally Roach - Present
Board Member Randy Doman - Present

Also present or on the phone during all or portions of the teleconference were the following individuals:

David Langhorst – Director
Betty Mills – Management Assistant to the Director
Keith Hobbs – Operations Administrator
Anna Canning – Management Services Administrator
David White – North Region Manager
Garth Taylor – South/East Region Manager
Adam Zaragoza – Development Bureau Chief
Steve Martin – Financial Manager
Tammy Kolsky – R&R Program Manager
Debbie Hoopes – Human Resource Officer
Craig Quintana – Public Information Officer
Steve Strack -Deputy Attorney General
Nate Fisher – Governor's Office
Rob Sepich – Legislative Services Office
LeAnne Stephens – Department of Human Resources

COVID-19 Update – Director Langhorst
The Director provided an overview of what is currently going on with the agency during COVID-19 and actions IDPR has taken over the past three weeks. He reported on the following highpoints:

- All big decisions are being made in conjunction with the Governor's office and in sync with the other executive branch agencies.
- Telecommuting – Prior to the Governor's Stay at Home Order being issued, a plan was derived for those employees who could effectively work from home. The IT Department worked diligently to help ensure staff would have what they needed to work from home.
- IDPR is operating under this definition of essential services:
    - Continue administrative functions with emphasis on telecommuting.
    - Protect the health and safety of staff and visitors.
    - Protect park resources, maintain clean restrooms and remove trash.
    - Provide accurate public information and compliance enforcement.

- IDPR was in coordination with the Governors Office, IDFG, IDL, Tourism, Outfitters and Guides as well as the BLM and USFS when the decision was made to close our parks, which was done in phases.
- Day Use areas have remained open at all parks but there is mounting pressure to stop or limit day use owing to several factors:
    - As a recreation provider of last resort, our parks are one of the last places remaining open.
    - Fine Spring weather combined with cabin fever from staying at home.
    - Failure by many to follow social distancing requirements.
    - Pressure from some rural towns and county sheriffs to keep "outsiders" away from their communities.
- The Director authorized some parks to implement capacity limits, when due diligence is followed: a one-page plan based on a park's capacity (considering spatial and staff resource factors.) The first of these capacity limit requests are expected to be received during or after this weekend.
- IDPR's Communication Department worked in a joint effort with other agencies to develop a Public Information Campaign on how to recreate outside in a responsible way, in support of the Governor's "stay at home" order. Messaging and imaging were developed which provides an Idaho-specific message that any other interested party (local, state, federal, non-profit, private) can join in with one unified message.
- IDPR Grant process went on successfully, via GlobalMeet teleconference.
- The new Registration & Reservation system transition is moving forward. IDPR has been in communications with Law Enforcement not to act on expired stickers on recreation vehicles during this transition time.
- Development is continuing with their bid process for upcoming projects. Meeting are being conducted outside and on proposed work sites.
- Joe Cook is going the extra mile to keep the HQ building sanitized for our employees who are continuing to work in building.
- IT is transitioning into ITS. By the end of this fiscal year, all state agencies IT departments will be consolidated with ITS.
- 6.5 earthquake hit close to Land of the Yankee Fork. No buildings at the historic Bayhorse site experienced damage.
- LWCF – increasing by 22% for the upcoming year.
- New Governor's Order – extended to April 30th. Out of state visitors are ordered to stay in self-quarantine for 14 days prior to recreating in Idaho.
- Decision to re-open the parks will involve the Governor's office. Financially, IDPR has started to feel the effects that the pandemic has made on the economy. The Governor has requested each agency to find another 1% savings from the general fund portion, which we had thankfully already done incidentally. DFM has suggested that we start thinking about plans for a 5% holdback for FY21 budget year which begins July 1, 2020. Some strategies we have in mind, mostly involve salary savings (holding vacant positions open). On the dedicated fund side of the budget, timing will be the big determinant. If we get through this relatively quickly (for instance, re-opening campsites by Memorial Day), then cancelled bookings have a good chance at being refilled through our normal busy season. If closures are required to continue after Memorial Day, it will hurt. As was always planned, Board-approved legislation and rules to increase the Passport Sticker Fee and various fees will be submitted.

Mr. Fisher reported that the Economic Recovery Group is working to come up with a plan to help with opening businesses when possible. No one wants to be in this position, appreciates all the Board and their support. It's going to take a team to get through this.

Board and staff discussion followed regarding the need for enough Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for our park employees who will be dealing firsthand with the public. Board members thanked IDPR staff for all they are doing to help keep our parks and agency running as smoothly as possible, during these very difficult times.

May 20-21, 2020 Quarterly Board Meeting Location Discussion – Action Item – Board

The Chairman asked the Board for their thoughts pertaining to the location of the May Board meeting. Board members asked what the staff recommendation is? Director Langhorst stated that both he and Ms. Mills suggest holding the May meeting via teleconference due to the current restrictions put in place by the Governor for non-essential travel and mandates on social distancing. After further discussion, the Board agreed to conduct the May 2020 Board meeting via teleconference. Mr. Black will work with the Director and Ms. Mills on a plan for the May meeting and send the information to the Board.

Mr. Fatkin moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Roach. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

Pete Black, Chairman
Idaho Park and Recreation Board

David R. Langhorst Director
Ex-Officio Member of the Board