

## **Report of STA Advisory Board Meeting, 8 September 2011**

The meeting was attended by Jeff and Michele Sims, Ann Marland, Greg Wheeler, and Chuck Humphreys. There was not a quorum for formal decisions. Nonetheless, the meeting discussed and recommended the following actions.

Thank you notes. The meeting suggested a color photo collage on the front and BW text on the back, and asked Donna to proceed without further Advisory Committee action.

Grants. Jeff noted that a usual prerequisite for obtaining grants is to have approval from affected landowners, which is the Forest Service for Crossroads and Black Butte trails (with the addition of the School District and the Deschutes Land Trust for the Tollgate paving. For the FS, all is contingent on completing the Environmental Assessment. With respect to grant applications, the meeting suggested pursuing both a “bundling” and an “individual” approach (for example, bundling all the EAs into one grant, but focusing on individual trails for design and construction costs). On this logic, we should pursue separate grants for the Crossroads – School Campus Commuting Trail (perhaps beginning with an 8’ gravel path that could later be paved), for the Crossroads singletrack, for the Tollgate Trail paving, and for the engineering design of the Sisters-Black Butte Trail. Different sources may favor “connecting paths” or “recreation paths.”

Sisters-Black Butte Trail. Jeff reported on the status of the work. The trail has been flagged to George McAllister Road, although the 1<sup>st</sup> segment may end at the entrance. The Forest Service must decide if the roads being used for parts of the trail can be decommissioned to eliminate user conflict. The problem of crossing Indian Ford Creek (given that the FS is removing the railroad culvert) is not yet resolved – there will be a field meeting on 19 October, at 9 am across from the Indian Ford Campground. The FS is, we hope, in the process of preparing a “collection agreement” to use STA funds to carry out the EA.

GPS map information. The meeting considered providing digital GPS files, for those that want virtual rather than paper maps, and perhaps printing the junction post coordinates on paper maps. Jeff is to follow up.

System-wide trail maps for kiosks. Chuck and Gary (in absentia) had suggested laminating system-wide trail maps to go alongside the PRT laminates at each of the kiosks (as there is sufficient room). Jeff wondered whether it would serve any function, other than showing lots of trails – it would not replace the need for paper maps. Chuck suggested it would be a way of showing users the range of trails available.

Chamber of Commerce trail information. What the CofC distributes on the trails is out of date. Someone needs to take responsibility to provide them with up-to-date trail descriptions.

STA summer course offerings. Of the 4 courses for which the meeting had data (kids ride, trailside maintenance, the Wolfree walk, and Michele’s ride), three were no shows and the fourth (kid’s ride) had only 2 participants besides family/friends. The meeting did not suggest any remedies.

Advisory Committee meeting date. Given the poor turnout, the meeting suggested the AC should, once again, consider at its next meeting moving its regular meeting to the traditional 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 8 am time.