



CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
(Commissioners Emmerich, Moravec, and Brentwood, Chair)
October 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 2

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us/>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1. CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION'S (IMBA) SUBARU TRAIL CARE CREW REQUEST FOR A TRAIL WORKDAY

Renee Johnson, a local mountain bike rider and trail enthusiast, will present a proposal for the Park Division to host a trail work day on November 12 in conjunction with the IMBA's Subaru Trail crew (proposal is attached). The day will begin with a mandatory training for volunteers conducted by Park staff and IMBA Trail crew leaders and then in the afternoon, volunteers will work on a trail. *Staff seeks a Natural Resource Committee recommendation for the full Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.*

2.2. UPDATE ON THE MIDDLE TRAIL REHABILITATION GRANT

Staff will provide a brief overview of the continuation of the Middle Trail Improvement project, and seek public input on the sections that will be worked on this Fall. The project will rehabilitate 6,040 linear feet of the Middle Trail with sustainable design features and restore erosion damaged areas. The completed project will provide a more user friendly trail for park visitors and restore the natural resources and beauty lost to erosion. *The report is for informational purposes and no action is required.*

2.3. CONSIDERATION OF A RE-ROUTE OF THE TRAIL LEADING UP TO THE MONKEY FACE OVERLOOK IN UPPER PARK.

The Bidwell Park Master Management Plan's Trail Plan lists as a priority the re-route of trails in "known problem areas" including Monkey Face. Issues of erosion and safety are paramount and according to the MMP, should be considered a high priority and receive the focus of maintenance funding and staff. (BPMMP, Appendix E. Trail Plan p. 15). *Staff recommends consideration and conceptual approval of a re-route trail plan for Monkey Face.*

3. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on 11/10/11 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2, Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation. This request should be received at least three working days prior to the meeting.



BPPC Staff Report

Meeting Date 10/13/11

DATE: October 4, 2011
TO: Natural Resource Committee
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: International Mountain Bicycling Association's (IMBA) Subaru Trail Care Crew Request for a Trail Workday

Recommendation

Staff seeks a Natural Resource Committee recommendation for the full Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.

Background

In November 2010, Renee Johnson, a local mountain bike rider and trail enthusiast, submitted a grant proposal to the International Mountain Bicycling Association's Subaru Trail Care Crew Program with the support of the local organization Chico Velo, local bicycle shops, and other individuals. The application was approved and IMBA Trail staff is scheduled to visit Chico on November 12, 2011. "The main focus of the visit is education, not trail work" and according to Ms. Johnson's proposal, "Through education we can heighten awareness regarding proper trail design, limit illegal trail work, and bring together the community by creating a stronger more educated volunteer network. Thus, allowing work to be done at a more progressive rate and with community support" (see attached proposal request).

IMBA was founded in 1988 to promote Mt. biking in the United States. IMBA's Trail crew conducted the same type of trail education and work day in Upper Bidwell Park in the spring of 2004.

Park staff will work with IMBA and Renee Johnson several days prior to the event to conduct assessments of the trail area to be worked on. The November 12 event will include a mandatory training in the morning for volunteers conducted by Park staff and IMBA Trail crew leaders and then in the afternoon, volunteers will work under the guidance of park and IMBA trail crew leaders.

Park staff is working on the development of a trail volunteer program to support work in Bidwell Park. The program will provide volunteers with training for rules, safety, ecology, the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP), the Park Division planning process and design, trails manual, etc. The goal would be to utilize the trail volunteers for special projects and authorized trail work. The program will need further development and revision of the Trails Manual. This program is independent of the IMBA request, but the IMBA trail day may provide us with an opportunity to recruit interested people for this program and determine the information that volunteers will need for a long-term program. Close coordination with Park staff will ensure that the trail day is consistent with the BPMMP and park policy.

This item is to discuss details of the IMBA trail day and consistency with the BPMMP and Parks programs. Staff will solicit a recommendation from the Natural Resource Committee and the item will come before the BPPC.

Attachment: Renee L. Johnson's letter request, September 20, 2011 and Request for Half Day of Trail Work in Bidwell Park with Park Division and the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

Renee L. Johnson

532 W 14th ST.
Chico, CA 95928

September 20, 2011

City of Chico Park and Playground Commission and Park Department
Attn: Dan Efseaff and Staff

Dear Park Commission and Bidwell Park Department,

I am requesting permission to work on trail(s) in Upper, Middle, or Lower Park on Saturday, November 12, 2011. Below you will find my proposal for the trail work which will be in conjunction with the International Mountain Bicycling Association's Subaru Trail Care Crew. Please include this information on the next Park Commission meeting for approval. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or e-mail me. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Renee Johnson
Home: 530-894-5872 Mobile: 530-321-8422
e-mail: fixiegal@yahoo.com

Request for Half Day of Trail Work in Bidwell Park with Park Division and the International Mountain Bicycling Association

DATE: 20, September 2011

TO: City of Chico Park Commission and Park Staff

Requesting permission to work in conjunction with the City of Chico Bidwell Park Staff in the afternoon on Saturday, November 12, 2011 on the trail(s) located on Upper, Middle, OR Lower Bidwell Park. The trail(s) decided upon for work will be chosen by the City of Chico Park staff with the help of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Subaru Trail Care Crew staff, and myself, Renée Johnson. Once the trail has been decided upon, weather permitting, I am requesting a half day of trail work be permitted on Saturday, November 12, 2011 with the public under the supervision of the Park staff, Subaru Trail Care Crew, and myself. Before any member of the public is permitted to work in the park they will be required to take the mandatory educational course presented by the Subaru Trail Care Crew pre-approved by the City of Chico Bidwell Park staff in the morning on Saturday, November 12, 2011.

NEED:

The trails in Bidwell Park are loved to death. Since the founding of Bidwell Park in 1905, the population of Chico and surrounding area has grown exponentially. Our growth in population has also grown our park and the usage within the park. Owning one of the largest municipal parks in the United States, our park is not built to sustain the amount of attention received from users every year. The trails in the park need a great deal of work in order to be sustainable for future generations to enjoy and current users to continue loving while being safe.

Recently the City of Chico received a grant to work on Middle trail in Upper Bidwell Park. The initial trail work created some complaints from other users. As a response to those complaints, in November of 2012, I applied for a grant from IMBA with the support of Chico Velo, local bicycle shops, Bidwell Park Staff, Mayor Ann Schwabb, and the general public. The value of the grant is approximately \$2,500 and consists of an educational visit from the IMBA Subaru Trail Care Crew (STCC). The main focus of the visit is education, not trail work. Through education we can heighten awareness regarding proper trail design, limit illegal trail work, and bring together the community by creating a stronger more educated volunteer network. Thus, allowing work to be done at a more

progressive rate and with community support. The visit will also allow time for questions to be answered and a deeper look at our very unique terrain.

The STCC provides a great opportunity to educate the public on sustainable trails and the current state of the trails in Bidwell Park. Through education the city will be able to more easily go about redesigning our trail system in order to preserve the trails for future generations.

The City of Chico, aware of the need to protect the park, established the Master Plan. In order to aid with the design of the master plan and create a more sustainable Park, I applied for a grant with IMBA to have the Subaru Trail Care Crew visit and educate the public and the city on current practices used to establish sustainable trails.

ORGANIZATION:

The International Mountain Bicycling Association was founded in 1988 to promote mountain bicycling in the United States. In their own words “IMBA has been bringing out the best in mountain biking by encouraging low-impact riding, volunteer trail work participation, cooperation among different trail user groups, grassroots advocacy and innovative trail management solutions”. Established in 1997, the Subaru Trail Care Crew assists IMBA in accomplishing their goals. The STCC have worked on trails all across the United States, promoting “...sustainable trail building, which means building lasting trails that require minimal maintenance. This helps reduce trail damage, protects the environment and enhances visitor enjoyment”. The main goal of the Subaru Trail Care Crew visit is not exclusively for trail construction, rather the main objective is education. By educating mountain bike users and the general public as to trail design and sustainability we are able to move forward in a progressive manner benefiting the entire community, accomplishing goals set forth in the Master Plan, and most of all benefitting our park.

EVENT:

Leading up to the half day of trail work on Saturday, November 12, 2011 the STCC will be working with the City staff and myself to prepare a design based upon need for trail work in Bidwell Park. The crew consists of two individuals. They do not use any motor operated or powered tools. Also, the crew does not provide tools for workers. So, any tools that are prohibited from being used in the park will be easily detained. Everything will go through checks and balances. The participation of fellow commission and city faculty is highly encouraged and welcomed.

The presentation on sustainable trails consists of photos with commentary allowing for input from land managers and/or city officials to assist in making a unique and individual educational experience for the public. Anyone wishing to partake in the trail work on Saturday, November 12 in

the afternoon, will have to attend the mandatory educational presentation in the morning on the same day. All individuals wishing to partake in trail work in the afternoon will have to attend the morning class otherwise they will not be permitted to work on the trail(s). The STCC visit is a joint effort between IMBA and the community. The STCC will meet with local officials two days before any work is done on the trails to discuss the area and alter Saturday's presentation as needed; as well as, meetings via the phone and e-mail leading up to the day of the event. Weather permitting, there will be a half day of trail work where attendees of the mandatory educational course on trails in the morning can apply what they just learned in class.

COST:

IMBA's visit is a grant project, any additional funding needed for the crew including housing and food will be funded by myself with the aide of outside resources. There is no financial obligation requested from the city other than voluntary participation.

CONCLUSION:

The current disconnect between trail users and the City Staff can be healed through education and participation from all entities. By opening our doors to an outside source and allowing them to teach us unfamiliar useful techniques, we are able to create an even better park for future generations. We have one of the largest municipal parks in the country, now we should strive to make our park one the most sustainable. In order to be successful in this goal we need to have the entire community involved and aware of how special an environment we frequently recreate. Allowing the STCC into our park, we are opening ourselves up to a wider knowledge base and an opportunity to educate and promote the goals set forth in the Master Plan for future generations to enjoy.

RESOURCES:

"Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew." www.imba.com/tcc. IMBA, n.d. Web. 19 Sept. 2011.

"About IMBA U.S." www.imba.com/about. IMBA, n.d. Web. 19 Sept. 2011.



Natural Resources Committee Report

Meeting Date 10/13/11

DATE: 10/04/11
TO: Natural Resources Committee (NRC)
FROM: Dan Efseaff
SUBJECT: Update on the Middle Trail Improvement Project

Recommendation

Informational only, no action required.

Report in Brief

Staff will provide a brief presentation to update the NRC on the continuation of the Middle Trail improvement project. Work on the Middle Trail portion will rehabilitate 6,040 linear feet with sustainable design features and restore erosion damaged areas. The Middle Trail project was funded by the CA Department of Parks and Recreation. Once completed, the results will be a more user friendly trail for park visitors and protection of natural resources.

Park staff has held several informational meetings on this trail project throughout its progress. The Parks and Natural Resource Manager has met with various stakeholders and collected information from field visits and visitors on problem areas and desirable features. The goals of this meeting are to share information about the project and to provide a forum for public input. Appropriate information will be folded into the design and construction of the project, or on future projects.

Distribution: BPPC and trail user email list-serve.



DATE: 10/04/11
TO: Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Dan Efseaff
SUBJECT: Consideration of a Re-Route of the Trail Leading up to the Monkey Face Overlook in Upper Bidwell Park

Recommendation

Staff will present information and some conceptual options for a re-routed trail to the Monkey Face overlook. Staff seeks Committee and public input to hear concerns and considerations to help refine these options.

Report in Brief

The Bidwell Park Master Management Plan's Trail Plan lists as a priority the re-route of trails in "known problem areas" including Monkey Face. Issues of erosion and safety are paramount and according to the MMP, should be considered a high priority and receive the focus of maintenance funding and staff. (BPMMP, Appendix E. Trail Plan p. 15).

The BPMMP's Horseshoe Lake Area Objectives, Implementation Strategies and Guidelines section (I. HL-1.) states "the Monkey Face area suffers from severe erosion, improper trail design, multiple unofficial paths, and wet season use." It recommends that multiple trails be consolidated and that appropriate routes should utilize switchbacks, stairs and other measures to reduce erosion.

Staff will provide a brief presentation on setting, problems of current trails, and valued features of the area. In addition, staff will outline principals that will be used to guide the design and how it may differ from the strategies outlined in the BPMMP. Staff will also provide a brief description of immediate measures to reduce erosion in the area.

Staff will bring fourth a more detailed description of design and routes.

Distribution: BPPC and trail user email list-serve.