**Minutes of the January 3, 2024**

**Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting**

The Ice Park Advisory Team held its regular winter meeting from 7:00 to 8:40 pm on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 in the San Juan room of the Ouray Community Center, attended by Elías de Andrés-Martos, Kristin Arnold (Zoom), Tres Barbatelli, Kitty Calhoun, Silas Clarke, Clint Cook, Corey Gera, Tamara Gulde, Angela Hawse (Zoom), John Hulburd, Sheldon Kerr, Grant Kleeves, Dolgio Nergui, Peter O’Neil, Frank Robertson, and Todd Rutledge (Zoom).

**Agenda:**

Intro new Board Liaison Frank

Executive action Peter

Operations update and plans Corey

Membership tactical action Tres

Feedback and suggestions All

Working Group update John

Ten-year plan Frank

Feedback and suggestions All

All In Ice Fest Sheldon and Kristin

Comp update Clint

Tamara Gulde is the City of Ouray’s Liaison to the OIPI Board in addition to representing City Council on the IPAT – thanks for all your support and counsel!

Peter reported new contributions from the Telluride Foundation ($25K) and an individual ($10K) to the Our Water Our Future capital campaign. Further work will get under way shortly (wet well this winter, more pipe come spring) toward having the new source on line for next season. A broadcast infotainment show highlighting things to do in Ouray and the Ice Park, is in the works, featuring local alpine luminary Anna Pfaff – stay tuned!

Eric Jacobson and the City of Ouray have concluded an agreement conveying Eric’s land in the south end of the Park to the City. At the same time (at a memorable Mi Mexico pre-season bash) OIPI vacated the easement Eric had previously granted to tie us over. South Park is now permanently part of the Ouray Ice Park.

Eric has also donated a parcel of land on Oak Street for OIPI to begin working on its next big challenge, affordable housing for employees in Ouray.

Great thanks to Eric, Peter, Silas, Greg Vallin (private attorney who did a ton of *pro bono* work for OIPI), and Carol Viner, Ouray City Attorney, for pulling these complicated and critical arrangements together.

Silas is working with the County to get to where the City owns all of the land in the Park, and will let us know of meetings where we should all show our support.

Corey and Crew opened the Park for everyone on December 29, with about half of the anchors available to climbers. Warm temps and limited water have made for a challenging early season, which we all knew would hit us eventually – Someday arrived in December. Amazing and tireless work by Staff and volunteers to get us that far. With excellent cooperation between Staff and Public Works, and systems in place to track the water supply, the City has given us permission to dip into the tanks a bit more than usual for Staff to overcome the slow start as quickly as can be responsibly managed. And just when you thought it was safe to go in the water, it started to rise... HydroWest is working hard get the high flow through the gorge down.

Tres announced several events to enhance member benefits: he already held a tool/crampon sharpening workshop and will schedule others; Michael Gardner and Anna Pfaff will present their adventures at the Ouray Adventure Center on Friday, January 12 (time TBA); OIPI will host MountainFilm at the Wright Opera House in February (stay tuned); and Micah has volunteered to hold a couple of skills sessions focused on climbing in the Park. Members will get free access and we hope others join at the door. Ouray Mountain Sports and San Juan Mountain Guides have contributed to the cause by paying for their employees’ memberships. Many thanks to all involved for helping to make membership more attractive and get more people to become members.

John reported continuing progress in the Ice Park Sustainability Working Group, citing improvements in web site information, social media reach, and communications with stakeholders.

The idea of adding an endowment to our hybrid funding model, introduced by Ralph Tingey years ago and highlighted from the Ouray Mountain Rescue Team’s efforts by OIPI board member Jenny Hart, will be developed for pursuit after we get the water project done. Kitty and others have suggested that more, and more moderate, mixed climbing routes will be needed (and Logan has already built some for us!).

Frank cited an academic study, publicized by the American Alpine Club, projecting feasible ski season durations shrinking by 30-40% with climate change over the coming decades; the straightforward implication for us is that if you have 2/3 the season, you need 1.5X the number of anchors to maintain the same climbing capacity. We’re going to need more terrain…

All of these concepts will be included in the ten-year plan OIPI will deliver to the City of Ouray, and the WG will frame ideas for IPAT consideration over the next year or so.

Sheldon and Kristin gave us the happy news that the All In Ice Fest is hosting some 30 clinics for 250 participants, including professional development for 25 aspiring guides from these communities by credentialed mentors. A much-appreciated aspect of these events is that the professional guides running this sprawling fest are maintaining 100% compliance with the Park’s policies on guide training and client ratios, and having 2 qualified guides present where aspiring guides are doing work in training. OIPI always appreciates that all CGOs are doing the same in their normal guiding operations.

But most important, the BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and adaptive climbers turning out for this gathering are having the time of their lives. Our profound gratitude to Liz and the All In company, all the guides and athletes, conductors of the programs and presenters, Paradox Sports, the Wright, and, as always, Christina, for pulling it all together.

Clint gave us an update on prep for the Ouray Ice Fest Comp, which will be a UIAA North America Continental event, including route-setting, judging, scoring, etc.. About 50 competitors will do two days of qualifying runs and the finals will be Saturday. Youth competition will be Sunday. No Speed this year.

Frank conveyed Dawn’s suggestion that a rack at the Park for snow bikes would be appreciated.

We need to get our contact mechanisms for volunteers sorted a bit more, as their work is critical to keeping the Park rolling, especially when we need to clear snow after storms, but also to get as many folks involved generally as possible so as to avoid burning anyone out. And many thanks to all our volunteers!