

# Minutes of the Ouray Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting

**April 7, 2021**

The IPAT met via Zoom from 5:30 to 7:35 pm on April 7, 2021. Katie Beringer, Xander Bianchi, Kitty Calhoun, Charlie Faust, Dawn Glanc, Angela Hawse, John Hulburd, Grant Kleeves, Micah Lewkowitz, Dolgio Nergui, Peter O'Neil, Frank Robertson, Lance Sullins, Logan Tyler, Matt Wade, Bayley Wood, and Dan Zokaites attended the virtual meeting.

## **Agenda:**

IPAT Membership	Frank update Team / New Member Introductions
Operations Update	Xander
Season and High Res Data	Peter / Frank
Feedback on the Season	All
Directions on Sustainability	Discussion with All

After the last meeting the Core Team decided to add two at-large members to increase general community representation relative to that of the City and OIPI. The incumbent at-large members all volunteered to continue for another year, so Kitty Calhoun and Angela Hawse join Elías de Andrés-Martos, Grant Kleeves, and Diane Mielcarz in that capacity. They each introduced themselves to the group with enthusiasm for our increased sustainability focus.

Xander summarized Operations, highlighting that the Farmers had managed to put up a lot of great ice despite limited water, thanks to cold temps for much of the season, balancing Park use against tank limits driven by municipal distribution needs. A big shout-out to City of Ouray Public Works for making that possible with real-time data and excellent communication.

One of our most experienced crews ever also increased efficiency by pulling second spray heads from quite a few stations and targeting applications to form up some of the best climbing in many years. Many bolts were replaced in the ongoing refresh program to keep them safe.

Peter and Frank presented very preliminary data on the season from the Ambassadors and from the high-resolution data collection in South Park over Presidents Day. Key take-aways are that the Park had greater capacity, a longer peak plateau, and more Users this season than the last two, up by significant margins on all metrics.

There is a lot more data to collect from CGOs and IGEs, as well as data validation and visualization work before OIPI delivers its post-season report to the City on May 15. We will then provide the IPAT with updated analysis as foundation for our discussion over the summer of capacity and allocations for next season.

Feedback on the season was provided by several folks: great ice; key to get as much terrain open early to spread User load; new tie-backs appreciated; and Ambassador beta function very helpful in finding open anchors. Having the clinics spread out over multiple weekends and several areas, and more CGOs providing them, were all viewed positively.

Suggestions on better signage, more robust stiles over the penstock, and checking anchor pads were already tagged by Ops Staff to get after this summer and fall. Parking discipline continues to be a problem, and OIPI will explore possible improvements, as well as the possibility of a food / drink concession in the Park. OIPI should explore opportunities for educational outreach on the Park and water conservation. A couple of CGOs confirmed increased business, consistent with our User data.

The Comp livestream and continuing on-line engagement recently logged over 160,000 views of about 20 minutes on average, and a very impressive documentary program is being broadcast. These media vectors, funded by the State of Colorado and the City of Ouray, overcame the challenge of holding this key component of our financial picture during the pandemic, and will expand our reach going forward. Interest in ice climbing outside the climber community is growing, and opportunities to leverage the video programs should be explored, as should expanding partnership with local businesses to expand community benefit.

Folks thought priority for the sustainability agenda should focus on climate impacts, education, risk management and financial resilience. The Park could be an excellent resource for quantifying a warmer, drier San Juan, and we should collaborate in this arena with interested outside organizations. Diversity of use should be assessed and opportunities identified, e.g. more engagement with schools and under-represented communities. Ops and risk management improvements should be documented, and enhancement of the funding base continued.

Our next regular meeting will be on August 4; one or two working sessions to start planning next season will be scheduled to prepare for it.