

Minutes of the August 7, 2019 Ouray Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting

The Team met at KJ Wood Distillery. Steve Berwanger, Dan Chehayl, Nate Disser, Mike Gibbs, Dawn Glanc, Grant Kleeves, Justin Perry, Lance Sullins, Matt Wade, and John Wood attended.

Thanks again to John (and Evelyn) for hosting.

Agenda:

Adoption of April 3 Meeting Minutes	All
City Employee Hire	Justin
Capacity Study	Dan
Concession / Allocation for 2019-20 season	Mike
Water Initiative	Frank
Discussion	All

The group had no feedback on the minutes of the April meeting, which are adopted and will be posted on the Ice Park web site.

Justin updated the group on the Ice Park “intern” agreed with the City. A job description has been finalized and the plan is to have a part-time employee for the upcoming season. The City proposed funding the position to be hired by OIPI instead of going through the City employment process. OIPI will respond to the proposal ASAP.

Dan presented the Capacity Study previously submitted to the City, per request of the IPAT last meeting. An inventory of routes, tallied by area, has been determined by the Ice Park based on counts over the past several years for two blocks of the season, before and after Ice Fest. They represent optimistic numbers of lines that can safely be climbed at a given time for early and prime season. The methods used, including what was excluded and why, were presented, but are not in the existing report. The numbers and methods were discussed at length. It was also suggested that OIPI improve its web site characterization of the route count to better manage expectations, which we will do.

The Team agreed that the inventory methods should be added to the report, and that a definitive set of topos with designated routes should be generated as a basis for capacity management going forward. OIPI has been working on that detailed inventory, with photos taken from across the gorge and a numbering system that was put in place for heavy-traffic areas during the high-resolution data collection days last season. We will expand and accelerate this effort to have a draft of “official” inventory / topos / route numbers for review before the season starts. We will also collect more data next season to break it into several time segments, so as to be able to model and manage capacity dynamically across a build / fluctuation / tail-off profile.

Mike laid out OIPI’s thinking on how we will manage the concession, ahead of our September 1 allocation decisions. The complex considerations were discussed at length and with much enthusiasm. The core issues to be worked out are how to apply a management system to the capacity numbers, which are in need of improvement over the coming season; what metric should be used; and how the system might be adjusted within the broader use targets in place for the coming season. These adjustments might include conversion to a new metric, measures to further incentivize weekday use; and perhaps ways to address suggestions for curtailing spikes in use and more access after the point in

the season we begin to see less congestion. The fees for Guided groups next season will be tied to those charged the Institutional Groups, currently \$15 per person per day, but may be tweaked for, e.g. weekday incentives.

We will continue to discuss and evolve the system, fixing it for 2019-20 based on existing allocations and moving toward the best system we can formulate to achieve overall balance among all user groups going forward.

The Team agreed that we should have ***a working session on concession management, set for Wednesday, August 28*** - details to be announced as soon as we can arrange a venue for that evening. Dan has previously provided the IPAT with the metrics definitions we use (Service, Rope, and User Days), and we will bring those to the working session. We have a lot to talk about.

We went an hour+ over our allotted two hours, so did not cover the water initiative. This effort launched in part as an outcome of the IPAT identifying water as our next priority after use data collection and concession management transition. Bottom line: to address the impact on the Ice Park from the continuing water shortage, we have to improve the water supply with the City Of Ouray, and we have started doing just that. Stay tuned...

Thanks for all your time, energy, and constructive advice in these discussions.

Frank