

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

ATV Highway Access Committee Webinar

Tuesday July 7, 2020

Minutes - Approved

<u>OHV Committee Members on Webinar</u> Barrett Brown, Ron Price, Tim Custer, Brian Worley, Lt. Craig Heuberger, and Eric Leaming

<u>Non-OHV Committee Members on Webinar</u> Darrin w/ODOT, Ken Brown (public), unknown phone in calls

<u>ATV Staff present</u> Ian Caldwell, Mike Law, Jeff Trejo

Barrett Brown called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Barrett - We're meeting to review the Spinreel Road Extension Project. Ian introduced new committee members. We have 3 new members on the advisory committee. Eric Learning replaced Angela Kargel, Ron Price replaced Wade Bryant and Tim Custer replaced John Omlin.

All attendees on Webinar introduced themselves.

Ian - We are recording this meeting. Barrett (former Vice Chair) will run the meeting but we'll need to have an election. The Chair position is for two years. We have been receiving public comments over email until last night of July 6. We received 32 comments in favor and 10 comments opposed. We will also talk about a couple other potential routes.

Barrett –Are there any nominations for the Chair position? Tim Custer would like to nominate Ron Price as the Chair and Barrett Brown as Vice Chair.

Motion: Tim Custer motioned to have Ron Price serve as the Chair and Barrett Brown serve as the Vice Chair. Brian Worley seconded. Call for vote by roll call; all in favor, none opposed. Motion Passed.

Barrett – regarding public comments, we could easily lose track of the intent of the Spinreel Rd extension, which is to make connections between open areas not get into details of the city's ordinance. We should avoid getting into these discussions. Ron agrees.

Ron Price – is now taking over the role of Chair.

Minutes from March 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Tim – he was on the call but will abstain since he was not a member of the committee at that time.

Motion: Brian Worley motioned to approve the March 7, 2019 minutes. Barrett Brown seconded. No discussion. Call for vote by roll call; Tim Custer abstained. All others in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Review of application

Ian reviewed background. Back in February we received an application from the city. We held off on processing until the city passed their ordinance which was passed on June 23, 2020. Reviewed Powerpoint – City has opened Business Routes including Airport Way, 8th Street and Park Ave. The ordinance passed on a trial period and will take affect when the rest of Spinreel Road becomes designated as an ATV Highway Access Route. There is a sunset date of December 31st of this year, as the city is planning will go to a vote in November. They limited hours of operation from 8am to Dark (30 minutes past official sunset). Ordinance is for all Classes of ATVs. Everyone has to wear helmets for motorcycles and ATVs. Only youth under 18 must have helmets for Side-by-sides. Seatbelts – everyone must wear seat belts for side-by-sides and sand rails. And must have a seat and seat belt for all persons in the vehicle. No youth can operate under 16yrs. Must have liability insurance, driver license, Safety Education Card and State Park ATV Permit (decal). Reviewed previous Spinreel Road approval.

Per SB344, we were required to hold a public meeting, take public comments, conduct stakeholder meetings and do a site visit. Public meeting was on July 1st, which we explained the proposed ATV Highway Access Route and we received comments through email to the end of the day of July 6, 2020. There were 32 comments in favor and 10 opposed. A lot of the comments were centered around the lack of law enforcement in the city, since they have no dedicated officers. Ian spoke with Will Coleman (Sgt from Coos County Sheriff's Office) and discussed possibility of patrolling with ATV Funds (ATV Permit Sales and Fuel Taxes). Jeff set up the Law Enforcement Tracking System (LETS) to track hours, citations and warnings in the City of Lakeside. A series of stakeholder's meetings were held with City, County, Sheriff's Office, USFS, ATV Club, and ODOT. A staff report was written for each. Due to COVID-19 a group site visit was not possible. Ian and Ron did a site visit in February associated with a town hall meeting in Lakeside. Eric Leaming did a site visit on June 19 and took video of the route. Tim Custer spent the last week camping at Spinreel and looked at the route again.

Today, we are to make a recommendation to approve or not approve. If we approve, then we would finalize a report for the Transportation Committee for their meeting on August 14, 2020.

ODOT developed a sign plan – most are ATVs on roadway signs. There were discussions regarding the road narrows signs at the overpass. Day use does not seem to be an issue but will install signs to prevent overnight camping. No ATV's beyond this point will be installed to prevent people from getting onto U.S. 101. ODOT right-of-way includes the entire intersection. The city is responsible for all other signs outside of the State right-of-way. There was a discussion to place signs on U.S. 101. Traffic investigators compared the signs on Hwy to other like situations and it would be best to have "ATV on Roadway" sign on Airport Way between U.S. 101 and Spinreel Road.

General discussion on road authorities. ODOT has road authority of Spinreel Road thru the Airport Way intersection. County has the maintenance of the County Road, but the City has the Road Authority to designate use within the City Limits for City and County Roads (ORS 810.010). Brain – The city is passing the ordinance but wants to make sure the county is onboard as well.

Barrett – What do we do with this section of Spinreel if they don't vote to extend the ordinance past the sunset clause? Ian – in meeting with USFS, that subject came up. USFS biggest concern is ATVs driving on pedestrian trails. If the city roads are no longer open, we do not want to keep the road open the entire length. Concept was to leave the route to the last residence at MP 223.08, providing local access to the sand dunes.

Ian - Reviewed video of Spinreel Road at overpass. Tim goes through there quite a bit with his truck. It's blind up to the narrow point. You can see if anyone is coming. Even though narrow, you still have a good line of site. With good signing, it should be ok.

Tim – read all public comments and believes all of the objections have been addressed with the signage, law enforcement, operating times and the community voting. He thinks everything has been addressed and feels good about being in favor of this. Ian – this concept has been discussed for a couple of years with a lot of town hall meetings to discuss with residents. SB344 is about local communities wanting to allow ATV use and this process is a process was set by legislators to create process to designate sections of State Highways which prevent access.

Brian – is there any preliminary data on the previous section of road? Eric – data is a few years behind only opened in 2019. They would like to have 3 years of crash data before making decisions. Nothing officially is in our database. Darrin – ODOT has not had any issues in the last 1.5 years. The signs helped with Law Enforcement. Ian – they have been using the road for about 10 years now. It has a long history of use and is going pretty well.

Barrett – is in favor of doing the Law Enforcement data tracking to back up the safety concerns. Ian – Coos County Law Enforcement gets funding and we'll allow them to patrol if the town is open to ATV use. Officers have sound meters. The funding is already there. We could potentially increase the dollar amount in the future if needed. We need to be careful with their time. We need to make sure we're not spending ATV funds for non-ATV Law Enforcement within the city. A deputy can respond to something else if they are in the area, but they just charge the time to a different account.

Motion: Barrett Brown motioned to approve the Sprinreel Road Extension Project as reviewed and presented and have staff finish the report. Tim Custer seconded. No discussion. Call for a vote by roll call; Lt. Craig Heuberger abstained. All others in favor, none opposed, Motion passed.

Review of other applications - Ian - No other applications have been submitted

- Sumpter has had City roads opened since 2003 and County roads for the last couple of years. Accessing sawmill gulch road is an issue to the south. There's a bridge crossing issue on the North side. Ian will reach out to ODOT District Manager.
- Town of Paisley People want to access Red House Road from Paisley using Highway 31 for about .5-mile to access BLM Land to the east.
- One other request is off Hwy 395 Between Burns and Lakeview at Hogback Summit about Milepost 65 where there's a .5-mile section of State Highway between 2 gravel roads. It is range land for BLM and Division of State Land. Additionally, there might room in the right-ofway. Ian will explore other options to avoid Highway use.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12am