

## Central Bench Neighborhood Association (CBNA) Quarterly Meeting

Monday July 27, 2020 6pm

Cassia Park

Attending:

Randy Johnson (CBNA, President)  
Gigi Ferreira (CBNA, Vice President)  
Hannah Laws (CBNA, Board Member)  
Brian McCarthy (Ada County Highway District)  
Zach Piepmeyer (City of Boise)  
Tom Laws (City of Boise)

Greg Curtis (Nampa Meridian Irrigation District)  
Elaine Clegg (Boise City Council President)  
Jimmy Hallyburton (Boise City Council Member)  
Patrick Bageant (Boise City Council Member)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- Randy Johnson welcomed, went over outline for the meeting

### 2. CASSIA BIKEWAY/PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Brian (ACHD) reviewed the project, full plan is available on the ACHD webpage, the maps are the same as what was presented at the open house in January 2020
- Project is programmed to start in fiscal year 2021, with canal connection starting during the non-irrigation season (January)
- People can sign up for email updates about construction on the ACHD webpage

### 3. Q&A

- Question on tree removal along canal
  - i. Greg (NMID) spoke to the easements and what is required for maintenance- tree removal is imminent for maintenance
  - ii. Elaine (City Council President) spoke to her tree initiative and promised that trees removed can be replaced in Cassia Park
  - iii. Resident spoke to the amount of dead/sick trees along the canal and would prefer them to be replaced with new trees
  - iv. Greg (NMID) spoke to easements being currently crowded by growth and private property, NMID unable to do maintenance unless canal is empty
    - 1. NMID is trying to gain back maintenance space (20' from edge of water)
    - 2. A canal crossing that goes over the maintenance road would be astronomically expensive
  - v. Resident asks Greg if one canal crossing would be preferable to two
    - 1. Greg responds that that is not the issue he would want to debate, the issue is the maintenance access-- regardless of whether there are canal crossings, NMID will try to gain back their full easement
- Resident asks about child safety measures
  - 1. Bridges would be unable to jumped off of

- ACHD reiterates that the canal crossing was the most popular feature of the project during the public comment period
- 4. CITY OF BOISE REVIEWS GARDEN-CASSIA CONNECTION
  - Zach (COB) presents the project's concept phase
    - i. Next steps would be to meet with and gain permission from ACHD and NMID to move forward
    - ii. Current assumption is canal would have to be piped
  - Tom (COB) reviews history of project going back 50 years
    - i. >10 neighborhood plans mention this pathway connection
    - ii. Goals of project are connectivity, safe routes to school, accessibility (improved access), connecting bikeways, improved access to downtown Boise
  - Residents have voiced concerns about loss of water feature, loss of privacy, loss of property value (unsupported by any data), and question the canal crossing's necessity
- 5. Q&A ON GARDEN-CASSIA CONNECTION
  - Residents voiced concerns on the following:
    - i. Canal being piped
    - ii. Loss of wildlife
    - iii. Cost of project
  - Residents voiced support on the following:
    - i. ADA accessibility
    - ii. Connection with neighbors rather than loss of privacy
    - iii. Accessibility to schools
    - iv. Connectivity of bikeways
    - v. Low-traffic access to Cassia Park (rather than having to use Roosevelt or Orchard)
- 6. Meeting adjourned, next meeting scheduled for October 26, 2020, location TBD