

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 11 2022
Held via conference call only
PRELIMINARY

Meeting called to order at 11:04 AM.

Present: Paul Spencer, Katie Stevens, Steve Schultz, Justin Ricks, Brian Murdock, Colin Topper, Brett Sutteer, Jacques Hadler, Laura Harris, Tyson Swasey

Absent: Kim Schappert, Marc Thomas, Kirsten Peterson, Cory Schurtleff, Maddie Logowitz, Kya Marienfeld

Guests: Mike Baird, Denise Ricks, Will Fisher, Elizabeth Wright, Neal Clark, Kristina Dillard-Crawford, Mike Dunaway, Ashley Korenblat

Approval Of Minutes: Jacques Hadler moved to approve the December minutes as published; seconded by Colin Topper. Passed unanimously.

Citizens to be Heard: No comments were received.

Presentation: Ashley Korenblat, head of Public Land Solutions, presented information about the America the Beautiful act. PLS is collecting input on existing outdoor recreational spaces, what is successful, and what needs improvement.

There was a consensus that both Sand Flats Recreational Area and the Brand Trails area are good examples of local success spots (one being a fee area, the other is free to use). An area that could use work is the Sovereign trails, which needs both some trail rebuilding as well as improved access (vehicles need to cross Courthouse Wash, which is impassible when wet, and difficult for cars). Ashley will organize a separate meeting to discuss and collect more detailed information in the near future; an invitation will go out to all Trail Mix members.

Elections: The slate of candidates was presented; since there were multiple candidates for the Trail Running position, Denise Ricks graciously bowed out. For positions with more than one candidate, a short introduction was read by the Chair, since all candidates were unable to attend.

A roll call election was held; for the position of Hiking representative, Kya Marienfeld received six votes, Sam Van Wetter received three, with one abstention. All other candidates were approved for their new position with nine votes for, none against, and one abstention.

Grand County Trail Mix elected positions for 2022:

- Chair: Colin Topper
- Vice Chair: Justin Ricks
- Hiking Rep: Kya Marienfeld
- Biking Rep: Mike Baird
- Equestrian Rep: Stephen Schultz
- Ski Rep: Kirstin Peterson
- Climbing Rep: Brett Sutteer
- Trail Running Rep: Jason Keith

At this point, Colin Topper took over the meeting as the new Chair.

Chair Report: Colin attended the Unified Transportation Group meeting in December; the group is working towards having a single cohesive transportation plan for Grand County and the Moab valley.

Hiking Report: not present

Equestrian Report: Steve announced that he was reelected as President of the local Back Country Horsemen chapter. He shared that the Moab Endurance Ride (in the Jug Rock / Dubinky Wells area) will return in 2022; Katie verified that the event - all on designated roads - is permitted, as well as a similar event in San Juan County.

Steve also expressed the desire to add horse corrals for camping up in the Lasal Mountains this year.

Vice Chair Report: Justin had nothing to report.

Climbing/Canyoneering Report: Brett has organized a group to remove some unneeded bolts and hardware on Funnel Arch this week, and do a general cleanup there.

Biking Report: Mike had nothing to report. There was a short discussion of the new Raptor State Park and how it will affect the Sovereign Trails. Access to the Klonzo trails may also be improved, but the trails themselves are on BLM land which will not change. The exact boundaries of the new park are unclear.

GCATT Report: Tyson reported that GCATT is mostly doing office work right now because of the weather. He welcomed input for the weekly Mud Reports.

County Report: Jacques reported that the water bottles for the Ambassador program had arrived.

Forest Service Report: Brian reported that the snow level is currently 150% of normal, although that will likely drop this week. There are a lot of trees down due to both fire damage and high winds; these are being cleared out.

A large number of people are getting their vehicles stuck in the mountains this year, and needing Search and Rescue to get out; at the County's request the Warner and Oowah roads were closed early. The County has been plowing Geyser Pass Road; current road conditions are up on the avalanche conditions facebook page; people getting stuck there are interfering with plowing operations. Comments on the Forest Plan Update are being reviewed.

BLM Report: Katie reports that work on the Labyrinth motorized travel plan, and on updating the restrictions on dispersed camping for wildlife protection, is continuing. The next BLM Customer Service Week will be February 1-3.

City Report: not present

Trail Running Report: not present

Skiing Report: not present

Action Items: none

Discussion Items: Colin surveyed the group about changing the Trail Mix meeting to an in-person outdoor meeting, or a Zoom video meeting.

Katie Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 PM. Steve Schultz seconded.