

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 9, 2021
Held via conference call only
APPROVED May 11 2021

Meeting called to order at 11:08 AM.

Present: Paul Spencer, Katie Stevens, Kya Marienfeld, Jacques Hadler, Marc Thomas, Colin Topper, Maddie Logowitz, Brian Murdock

Absent: Kirsten Peterson, Kim Schappert, Tyson Swasey, Steve Schultz, Justin Ricks, Mila Dunbar-Irwin, Cory Shurtleff, Brett Sutteer

Guests: Randall Fox

Approval Of Minutes: Skipped due to lack of quorum

Trail Mix Business: The rewording of the Grand County Resolution that forms Trail Mix is underway, to update the resolution, remove CNHA, add the Grand County Active Trails and Transportation department, add a residence requirement, delete the Treasurer position and all references to budgeting, and to make official the Climbing and Canyoneering, the Trail Running, and the Skiing representative positions. Once a new resolution is written it will be presented at a future Trail Mix meeting, and then voted on by the Grand County Commission.

Utah State Bill 142 on the so-called "Idaho Stop" - where stop signs may be considered as a yield sign in the absence of other traffic - was briefly discussed, although it concerns on-street cycling and so outside of Trail Mix's normal scope. All were in favor of the bill.

The official comment period for the revision of the Forest Service draft plan will open in March; all were encouraged to read the plan in detail. A County meeting will be organized by Evan Clapper to discuss a formal Grand County comment on the plan. Brian says the wording of the official proposed plan will not change from the draft version currently available. He adds that the ROS (Recreational Opportunities Spectrum) section of the plan is the most important for people to read and comment on; and that the plan will not close any existing roads or trails.

Marc asked about the Fund23 campaign to use some TRT money towards Stay-on-the-trail messaging; Jacques that there are no specifics yet and details on how the funds will be spent are still to be worked out. One consistent message for all forms of recreation was considered to be a good idea.

County Update: Jacques mentioned the Motorized Trails group were working on a proposal to create a new trailhead parking area on Gemini Bridges Road near US191, on BLM land. It was questioned whether this was needed, since there is a very large parking area already, on private land.

He also mentioned the comment period for the small connector path between the Moab Canyon pathway and the Arches National Park entrance booth.

City Update: not present

BLM Update: Katie mentioned that there will be a visit from State BLM later in the month. As part of this, there will be markers painted on the Moab Canyon Pathway commemorating the Old Spanish Trail. She also says that the Utah State BLM has an extra set of silhouettes available for installation anywhere in the state along the Old Spanish Trail. Chair volunteered to work with the Back Country Horsemen to get it installed somewhere within Grand County.

The approval process for rebuilding the OK Corral is underway.

The Red Hot running race will be this Saturday, on the Covid-modified course.

Forest Service Update: Brian notes that avalanche danger is extremely high this year; although there have been no incidents locally so far, the risk is there. Snowpack is currently at 65% of normal; trail grooming is underway, and the trails have been very popular.

The Geysers Pass Road widening project will also include improvements to parking at various trailheads, as well as a turnaround at the shuttle drop off point. All of the improvements are aimed at improved user safety. The EA for the project will be released later this month.

Trail Report: Maddie reports that the signage improvement project for the Whole Enchilada is progressing well. A pamphlet of information to hand out to shuttle riders is also being considered. Jacques said that this would be extremely useful, based on his experiences running a shuttle company. The redesign of the OK Corral is underway, with meetings from key people scheduled. A Vista Corps intern has been hired and will be working on several key projects. The spring maintenance schedule is currently being developed. Kya brought up some off-trail issues on Lower Ahab; Maddie and Tyson will be working on that particular issue tomorrow. Grand County Commission has funded a trail ambassador program for the Mill Creek area. Unfortunately the Mountain Bike ambassador program was not funded for 2021.

Biking Report: Colin asked for input on what is desired from the Biking representative and received input from many people.

Climbing/Canyoneering Report: not present

Equestrian Report: The US DOE will be doing a full environmental assessment on the installation of the figurines along the Old Spanish Trail.

Hiking Report: Marc reported that he is preparing a short writeup of new trails for the discovermoab.com web site.

Trail Running: not present

Skiing: not present

Citizens to be Heard: Two letters were received; one was from a new app specifically for trail condition reporting, which was forwarded to Maddie and Tyson. The other was from Audrey Graham from the community housing project Arroyo Crossing, asking about Trail Mix being involved in building public trails around the development. Trail Mix will be working with her on an easement.

Marc moved to adjourn meeting at 12:27 PM. Maddie seconded.