

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
APPROVED April 9 2019

Present: Paul Spencer, Scott Escott, Sharon Hogan, Maddie Logowitz, Tyson Swasey, Zachary Lowe, Katie Stevens, Kirstin Peterson, Elaine Gizler

Absent: Aaron Lindberg, Brett Sutteer, Marc Thomas, Stephen Schultz, Rani Derasary, Brian Murdock, Zacharia Levine, Evan Clapper

Guests: Neal Clark, Danelle Ballengee, Justin Ricks, Denise Ricks, Tom Rowe, Ben Heaton, Keri Nelson

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am

Introductions

Approval of January and February 2019 minutes

Tyson moved to approve both month's minutes, Scott seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's report

A correction was made by Sharon Hogan for January 2019 Treasurer's report errors. The November 2018 income of \$8500.00 previously reported as being from the US Forest Service was actually from the BLM Cost Share Match Grant.

CNHA confirmed with Sharon that the US Forest Service Cost Share Match Grant was received in December 2018 in the amount of \$7727.40.

CNHA also informed Sharon that they received a \$1000.00 donation in December 2018 from the Moab Trail Marathon fundraiser at their fall event. Thank-you Danelle Ballengee.

CNHA reported to Sharon that the final balance in their Trail Mix account was \$61,171.36. The County has invoiced CNHA for this amount, closing out CNHA's service to Trail Mix.

Trail Mix Business

Paul announced that the court appeal against the Big Burrito Trail proposal has been denied and the trail construction may proceed within the normal construction constraints already in place. Construction will ideally begin sometime in September 2019 according to Maddie, schedules permitting.

Paul noted that lack of signage prohibiting ebikes on the paved bike path from Moab to Highway 313 is responsible for the increase in e-bike traffic on the path. Discussion of solutions included agreement that all motorized road intersections require signage, but no consensus was reached as to exactly what the signs should look like or where the money will come from for the signs.

Tyson and Maddie agreed to add this project to their list, subject to schedule constraints.

Grand County update

Zacharia Levine and Evan Clapper absent. Tyson announced that Jones and DeMille Engineering has been contracted to look at the Spanish Valley Multi-Use Pathway plans, help identify problem spots and suggest ways to mitigate these. An open house will be then be scheduled giving property owners and others the opportunity to review and comment on the results.

Moab City update

Rani Derasary absent. No city business brought up for discussion.

Moab Area Travel Council update

Elaine Gizler announced that Michele Hill is no longer on the Travel Council staff and they are seeking to replace her, which is a full time benefitted position. Also, the Travel Council has hired a social media specialist, Melissa Stocks, who will be giving trail events greater coverage by photographing and posting on the Travel Council website. Elaine encouraged the committee members to check out the new Moab Outdoor Adventure Guide on the Discover Moab website.

BLM update

Katie Stevens commented that the Moab Duathlon race was run on the North Klondike trails in spite of a very muddy road. However, the race course was modified to move it off muddy trails. Danelle noted that after the race, she spent time on the Dinosaur Stomping Ground trail mitigating widening where racers were running out and back due to the course change.

Katie is working on the EA for the North Klondike and Klonzo camping management plan (designating drive-in campsites). There will be a public comment period starting around 4/1/19.

A proposal for the Bijou and Stern's Wash Horse Trail System has been compiled by Trail Mix Equestrian rep and Backcountry Horsemen member Stephen Schultz. This proposal creates 3 designated horse trails in the Professor Valley area that will connect the Hollywood Westerns Equestrian Trailhead to other BLM designated trails, expanding horse trail riding opportunities in this equine use target area. Maddie passed around a copy of the proposal with details, maps, and pictures. Maddie motioned for Trail Mix to approve the proposal, Scott seconded, all approved.

Katie mentioned that the Horsethief Campground has been expanded with the addition of smaller campsites for tent campers, separated from the larger RV sites. There are also 4 new group sites there. Scott asked that the BLM consider fencing between the campsites and the Chisholm Trail to keep campers from creating unofficial connecting trails from every campsite. This could also help keep cows out of the campground, although Katie said cattle guards on the entrance roads would be too expensive and won't be installed.

Katie mentioned that Arches NP is moving ahead with plans to connect the paved bike path to the Arches entrance road between the entrance station and the visitor's center, allowing bikers to bypass the line of waiting cars. It will cross the wash on the old CCC bridge.

Katie said that there is no paleontologist currently on staff at the BLM, but that their staff geologist could perform a paleontology review with Scott on the 1 mile section of new trail in the Athena Trail System in Green River.

Forest Service update

Zachary Lowe announced that the Forest Service has hired this season's trail crew and they're chomping at the bit to work on projects currently buried under snow. Projects for this summer include, but are not limited to, a reroute on the Bear Mountain Traverse, major repair of the switchbacks on Burro Pass, and Hazzard County tread realignment within existing clearances.

Zachary described the Whole Enchilada survey he has designed, from which he hopes to have usable data to determine ultimate carrying capacity and management strategies for this trail system by May of 2020. This is a multi-user, 20 question survey available to trail users at various

trail exits and online via a QR code. He wants to include input from local organizations like Trail Mix and shuttle and outfitter businesses.

Zachary announced that there is an avalanche safety course for motorized backcountry snow recreationists put on by Backcountryinstitute.com scheduled for 3/22-24/19.

Ski report

Kirstin Peterson reported that this winter's storms have dumped enough snow each time that it requires a multi-day effort to groom after each storm cycle. Her grooming crews have dwindled because their real jobs have started, so she only has a couple of dedicated retirees to groom now. Zachary said he could have his idle trail crew take up the slack. There are still lots of skiers and others using the groomed trails.

Kirstin mentioned that she is working on an RTP grant to help finance the replacement of the oldest snow machine that is worn out.

Trail report

Maddie thanked everyone who wrote letters of support for the Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant Application she just finished writing. The application is for the Moab Urban Biking Skills Trail and Park, Phase 1. It proposes construction by Trail Mix county employees of a bike skills park where the bike path terminates at 100 East near 200 South and is part of the City's planned improvements of this broader area, benefitting the Moab citizens/youth.

Maddie met with the Mill Creek Visioning and Brainstorming team that includes Jennifer Jones from the BLM and others. Maddie noted that last fall's Mill Creek multi-trail mitigation efforts have been successful, so far.

Maddie and Tyson attended the recent Utah Bike Summit and came away with inspiration for developing the community bike park, proactive solutions to potential disruptive trends in active transportation, i.e. e-scooters, e-bikes, more active transportation ideas from UDOT, among many other things.

Maddie and/or Tyson have had meetings with SUWA's trail specialist, Jeremy Lynch and with SITLA/Sovereign Lands representative, Tony Mancuso, about trail issues on state lands.

Maddie, Tyson and their staff represented Trail Mix with a booth at the Poison Spider Bicycles Spring Thaw event at the Moab Brands. The Red Devils Mountain Bike team did the necessary trail maintenance on the Brands trails after the Thaw event.

Tyson and Maddie and their staff have worked with volunteer groups on several projects: building new trail at Amasa Back (Specialized Bicycles sponsored a day with a crew and refreshments & the Utah Conservation Corp worked with Trail Mix during trail crew leader training), doing trail maintenance at Klondike (Colorado Outward Bound) and they used a college volunteer group on the reroute of the Jackson Street portion of Pipe Dream.

Tyson's Thursday Mud Report on Trail Mix Facebook page and website has been well received and heeded by locals and visitors. Bike shops share online and in person with customers. It's suggested that he also share through the Travel Council, Moab Gear Trader and Cycling Western Colorado Trail Conditions websites.

Maddie announced that there is climbing access trail work scheduled 3/21-24 in Indian Creek through the Front Range Climbing Stewards, a group that works with Trail Mix during the Craggin' Classic every year.

Paul asked Maddie and Tyson to thank the Grand County Maintenance Department crew for sweeping the paved bike path. It was mentioned that cyclists should show gratitude when they encounter these crews working on the path.

Hiking, Climbing, Biking, Equestrian reports

Marc Thomas, Brett Sutter, Aaron Lindberg absent. No reports.

Stephen Schultz absent, but Bijou Trail proposal discussed and approved during BLM report.

Citizens to be heard

Neal Clark with SUWA commented that braiding on Bull Run Trail seems to be worsening.

Tyson took note.

Neal asked if there is any discussion yet of issues surrounding electric scooter rentals.

Tyson: This is part of the active transportation issues addressed at the Bike Summit and is on the radar, but no action is currently being taken since there aren't any in Moab yet. Some e-scooters can be managed with on-board software which determines where they work. Electric transportation may prove to be an effective way to mitigate downtown motor vehicle congestion, parking problems and dangers, so should be considered with open mind.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 1:50 pm by Maddie, Tyson seconded. All approved.