

# Stewardship Committee Meeting minutes

## Thursday, March 15th, 2018

### 3:00 pm

#### Attendance

SFRA Staff:

- Andrea Brand (AB), SFRA Director
- Matt Olding (MO), SFRA staff

BLM:

- Misti Haines (MH)

Grand County Council:

- Jaylyn Hawks (JH) sitting in for Evan Clapper

Stewardship Committee Members

- Ber Knight (BK)
- Kimberly Schappert (KS)

#### Call to order

#### Approval of Minutes:

Discussion of minor spelling corrections, KS makes motion to approve with corrections, BK seconds; unanimously approved.

#### SFRA Reports:

Remits and Visitation Statistics

- AB- To date up 6% over last year
- KS- Is there a way to know how many of these folks are new to SFRA? AB- When we did our surveys in 2008-2009, 25% new and 2014-2015 30% new. Increased 25% in visitation over last 3 years.

#### Budget:

- AB reminds group that Balance Sheet for SFRA under Assets and Liabilities and Fund Equity is not accurate until after the April audit.
- \$300,000 fund balance carry over from 2017 to 2018. AB explains SFRA is saving money for campground improvements and additional campsites and paving road another 2 miles into the recreation area. \$100,000 has been moved over into investments for campgrounds.

#### Select Line Items:

- Youth Initiative Grant- \$8,000 grant from 2017 to spend this year.
- Capital Improvements- \$6,400 was blasting costs for Hell's Revenge Trailhead exit. \$5,800 was gravel road costs and this will be transferred over to GC road dept. out of Capital Improvements.
- Inventory-New Trek, Mt. Bike- \$1,849. KS asks about staff being covered for insurance if they patrol on dirt bikes. AB says she would have to research this for coverage. They are covered driving UTVs.

#### Discussion Items

Hell's Revenge trailhead exit is OPEN

- AB recounted last meeting and presentation of street light proposal and also proposal for exit road along boundary fence. At last meeting members were not satisfied with proposals and asked AB to meet with Bill Jackson, Grand County road department and look at lower fin idea again. AB met with Bill and it was found to be a feasible route with some blasting. AB explained process, EA, route change approval from County and BLM and contract. Showed pictures of construction and finished trail.
- Native plants moved and replanted and no trees were removed.
- Approximately 40 feet was blasted away from the rock to accommodate all different sizes of vehicles.
- New trailhead exit opened on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Outfitters all LIKE it, big Improvement, aka: called the “Cowboy” exit after Kent Green as it was his idea originally.
- Lots of positive feedback at booth and on social media.
- Discussion about a permit system in the future for Hells and Fins (TBD).

### **Grand County Job Evaluation and Compensation Study update**

- AB recounted problems with job descriptions, but now all up to date.
- JK- Council wants Department heads to write up what the changes to job descriptions were. Department heads know their departments’ job descriptions best. No timeline/no process yet, waiting for New Grand County Advisory Budget Board.

### **Recreation.gov is SFRA new online Group campsite reservation system as of January 1<sup>st</sup>**

- So far it has brought in more than 10k in reservations for the first 6 months of the year.
- Price increase started January 1st. \$60 per night plus a \$9 registration fee. Range for fee change was approved in 2015 when AB went before RAC board.
- AB This is better system for SFRA and user. All paid up when they arrive.
- MH wants feedback whether SFRA is seeing groups or more individual families.

### **Slickrock Dotted Routes**

- AB- Tom Dillon and David Olsen have been volunteering to working on this trail marking project.
- Need to finish painting the dots, will be ready in about two weeks.
- New trail is shown on the updated SFRA maps/brochures

### **Summer construction projects**

AB will work to secure contracts for construction of:

- Second concrete ramp to be installed at the exit to the Hells Revenge parking lot.
- Shade structure will be built at east side of Fins and Things parking area.

### **Juniper trail and trailhead parking**

- Trail and parking lot are completed.
- BLM heavy equipment will block off old road here with boulders as post and cable fence was being vandalized.
- AB explained moving egress of parking area and trail from Juniper campground across from each other and further west for safety. BLM heavy equipment operator moved egress 150 feet and SFRA moved trail after getting ok from BLM archeologist.
- Trail is on the new maps/brochures.
- New sign is on order, first one was made wrong.
- And there’s also a trailhead in the Juniper campground.
- In total the trail is approximately a 3 mile loop.

### **BLM building completed 885 Sand Flats road**

- SFRA has a storage unit/space (bay #1)
- Storage for UTVs and tools and supplies.

- Fencing materials, wood still in storage yard behind courthouse.
- Building agreement being drafted up by BLM and then AB will bring this before council.
- Discussed garage door and group wondered about putting in automatic garage door opener for safety. MH said she would follow up on this.

### **New Signs**

- AB- 5 improved signs are posted in town directing visitors to SFRA.
- Main Sand Flats road sign with new campground full sign will be placed across from Hell's Revenge exit next week. This allows space for visitors to turn around when they see campground is full sign. No longer place for this at corner of Mill Creek and Sand Flats road where old sign was.

### **Brochure updates for 2018**

- Updated main map to include hiking information for Juniper trail and Pinyon Interpretive hiking trail. Added hiking information to single page brochure. Updated Hell's and Slickrock descriptions.
- KS points out that key and dashed lines for other designated roads are not the same. AB makes note for next printing.
- KS and others note that e-bikes is in text but should be added to legend and/or map too. Both say non-motorized but not no e-bikes. MH e-bikes are considered motorized under federal government. KS recommends being specific with no e-bikes for LPS trail on SFRA website and brochures. AB and MH agree. MO asks what the national standard is for e-bikes. MH explains designation of non-motorized and motorized. KS says state of Utah says e-bikes are allowed except when local decisions are made to not allow them. In Moab e-bikes cannot ride on single track and paved path systems. KS feels it is an asset instead of being negative. KS says Trail Mix is working on a map for e-bikes.
- Medieval Chamber map will be printed instead of just copying.
- Just reprinted Whole Enchilada
- Junior Ranger brochure will be printed up for first time instead of just copying.
- Reprinting main brochure too.

### **New Topics**

#### **Three New employees hired**

- Mark Thornberry, Mary Santangelo in Youth Initiative grant position and Jared Erikson
- Had a full week of training, in the classroom and in the field.- Tim Graham on Pothole ecology, Tamsin McCormick on Geology, Ruth Dillon presented Team Building class, USGS, Travel Council, went to Tourism Expo, AB presented annual report and background of Sand Flats.

#### **County Ordinance for Fins and Things day use section**

- AB trying to have state and Sheriff meet and research whether something is already on the books that can be used to allow them to write tickets for after hour travel on section through campgrounds. Or confirm that county needs to write up ordinance. BLM can ticket for this.

#### **Grand County Council updates**

- JH nothing more to add.

#### **BLM updates**

- Hell's Revenge trail will allow two-way traffic this year. MH Federal register says Hell's Revenge is a one way trail during Jeep Safari. MH- Jennifer Jones, Assistant Field manager says there is some ambiguity and has decided that the trail will operate as normal for Jeep Safari. MH will send CFR to AB.
- Big Groups must do the full loop on Hell's Revenge.
- Groups of 25 or more need permit. MH asked commercial groups this year if they have more than 10 vehicles on trail at once to please let BLM know.

- AB discussed bringing vehicle number limits down on Hell's Revenge and Fins from 60 to 30. BK 60 is too many. Porcupine Rim allows 45 currently. MH Red Rock 4 wheelers would be conducive to reducing numbers. AB SFRA should put current group size limits on website too.
- MH Trailer rentals, 5 companies have permits and BLM is not allowing more than this at this time.

## **Adjourn**