

Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 9, 2019
APPROVED May 14 2019

Present: Paul Spencer, Scott Escott, Sharon Hogan, Evan Clapper, Brett Sutteer, Zacharia Levine, Katie Stevens, Sheri Griffith, Jennifer Jones, Justin Ricks, Denise Ricks, Zachary Lowe, Madeline Logowitz, Tyson Swasey, Aaron Lindberg

Absent: Stephen Schultz, Rani Derasary, Kirsten Peterson, Marc Thomas, Kim Schappert

Guests: Anna Sprout

Approval Of Minutes: Evan moved to approve the March minutes; Tyson seconded; unanimously approved.

Trail Mix Business: Paul sent a correction to a radiocast on KZMU that claimed that Trail Mix no longer existed and was replaced by Grand County Active Transportation.

There has been a rash of bike theft across town – from bike shops and parking lots, locked to racks, four bikes known so far.

Paul stated that there has been flare-up of unlicensed shuttle companies - some even renting e-bikes out at the Brands parking lot. The BLM would like photos of license plates if any of these illegal, unpermitted activities are seen.

Sand Flats requests a mud report at their San Flats booth- discussion ensued on how to accomplish this.

Anna reported that Moab Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) had their first meeting of the year. They talked about possibility of machine built trails, more advanced trails, and how places like Eagle and Phil's world have significantly expanded their trail mileage. Anna reports she will be taking over MMBA and reporting more with Trail Mix.

Paul presented a letter of recommendation that is in support of "Alternative A" for the BLM's change in management for the Klondike Bluffs area; this plan authorizes the BLM to collect fees and to make a campground- the hope being that it will minimize damage to the biological, paleontological and archeological resources in area. Evan motioned, Scott seconded and letter was approved.

Paul then began a discussion about starting the process to add a representative for the Trail Running community to the executive board of Trail Mix. Justin Ricks spoke to the broad differences between hiking users and trail running users - that trail runners were more likely to stay on trail and that they already use the multiuse trails. He added that in his opinion, trail runners are second biggest user group and think they need representation on the Discover Moab website. He furthered that there was little official information on trail running options in Moab.

Paul asked if Justin saw trail runners proposing trails or asking for trail running accommodations, then Scott also interjected that he is hesitant to add groups because of lack of resources for current maintenance- that adding more groups could strain already existing projects.

Maddie added that we can use a trail runner representation as defense of actions in why and how trails were made, adding that she saw no downside to adding another representative. Evan enumerated the benefits of trail running events saying they brought money to the county.

Zacharia spoke to the increase of trail running and added that every user group had to justify budget requests for money from county. Trail Mix could always use more experience and knowledge and by adding representation, could legitimize the running community in Moab. He added, that he could not see no reason to say no.

Sharon pointed out that Justin and Denise already had attended enough Trail Mix meetings to have a vote, and that main difference would be having a line item on the Trail Mix agenda instead of citizen to be heard.

Zacharia motioned to explore position for trail running representative. Evan seconded. There were no Nays recorded.

County Update: Zacharia reported that he is looking for additional office space for Tyson and Maddie. He has a grant submitted for a new boat ramp for the daily. Maddie and Tyson presented Trail Mix current activities to the City Council. They were well received and will be doing another presentation for the City Council.

Zacharia was approached by Clif Koontz about the County creating a motorized version of Trail Mix. Zacharia was requesting feedback on the lodging moratorium. He asked members of Trail Mix for feedback on Land Use Planning and Moab attractiveness. Paul said that he has friends who have left town because it's too busy. Tyson says that there are many businesses hiring and no housing. Maddie said there are overcrowding issues on BLM land. Scott noted that it is better now than it was, stating that the Bar M area used to be "trashed" and is now "cleaned up," meaning that there are more people, but impact on the desert is less. Jennifer Jones stated that visitors are having poor quality experience. She says that the BLM's expansion of camping and visiting is projected to keep growing and not go away. Zach stated that Moab's population is moving up in elevation toward the forest and that overcrowding issues are affecting them. Katie said that long-term visiting areas may be needed, like those in Arizona, such as RV Parks. Evan said BLM camping growth and not having new hotels will result in increased use of BLM camping. Aaron presented issues concerning the already high use of Moab trails, noting that event promotion may not be needed or warranted. He also stated that the Travel Council is supporting "unrestrained capitalism and needed to be stopped." He went on to say that the Travel Council is placing ads to get more visitors and this is against the desires of many local residents.

The land trade with the County for Willow Springs has been presented to the State Legislature.

Evan said that Sand Flats is meeting to have a 50 year Slickrock Anniversary celebration, likely at the end of September that will be low-key locals barbeque-style event.

The Sand Flats Recreation crew hiked the Big Burrito and had a negative perspective of it. Paul responded by saying that the Big Burrito will reduce Search and Rescue trips by providing bail-out options as well as creating a safer way to ride from town to Porcupine Rim. Katie stressed that the Environmental Assessment states that the Big Burrito should be built as an easier trail. Scott emphasized that the Big Burrito will be the only non-motorized bike

trail in the Sand Flats area and hopes the trail will reduce cross-country motorized abuse in that area.

City Update: The 100 West project is completed with segments of sidewalk missing. Maddie said the City wants specifics and advice on signage for the bike path. There is a new sustainability director for the City.

Forest Service Update: Avalanche forecasts officially end April 15, though Eric Trentbeth will continue to forecast during snow events. Cross county ski grooming will end April 15.

SUWA will be coordinating a volunteer day for trail maintenance on UPS on April 27.

Zach will be doing rider experience surveys on Whole Enchilada at Grandstaff Campground and at the end of UPS and is asking for volunteers.

Maddie suggested that more informational signage be created regarding trail etiquette and proposed that shuttles be mandated through their permits to have these signs displayed.

BLM Update: Katie reports that the Big Burrito's final 800 feet has been approved by the Forest Service.

Much of the recent trail work on the Chisholm Trail in the expanded campground area was destroyed and old, braided trails were being used instead. Scott responded that a range fence needs to be built around the campground.

Katie received the Bijoux Trail proposal and has archeologists working on it already. She hopes to get the EA approved by summer.

Trail Report: Maddie and Tyson are beginning to work with a number of volunteer groups this spring. They've started work on the Jackson Trail at Amasa Back with BLM volunteers. They are also working on a grant to build the Big Burrito.

Maddie attended the National Trail Builder Conference and got to demo a number of mechanized tools.

Lianna at USU was asked about bringing active transportation to the new campus location. She said that there is a long-term plan but nothing in the near future.

Tyson has been spending a lot of time maintaining local singletracks. The Pipedream-Jackson Street reroute is nearing completion.

Biking Report: Aaron had nothing to report.

Hiking Report: Absent

Equestrian Report: Absent

Ski Report: Absent

Climbing/Canyoneering Report: Brett reported that there was going to be meeting regarding bolting canyoneering routes in wilderness study areas. He notes there have been “bolt wars” going on. They are seeking consensus on the matter so that standards for guides can be agreed upon and followed.

Tyson moved to adjourn and Scott seconded.