

Grand County Trail Mix Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Held Grand Center

Meeting called to order at 11:03am.

Attendance

Present: Katie Stevens, Stephen Schultz, Paul Spencer, Dave Wilson, Sam Van Wetter, Kirstin Peterson, Colin Topper, Kya Marienfeld, Madeline Logowitz, Jessica Backer, Justin Ricks, Brian Murdock, Mike Baird, Brett Sutteer, Laura Harris, Jason Keith, Tyson Swasey

Absent: Kim Schappert, Jacques Hadler, Luke Wojciechowski, John Guenther, Brian Torgerson, Tim Smith, Sam Van Wetter, Paul Spencer

Guests: Nicolle Gaddis-Wyatt, Cliff Koontz

Approval Of Minutes

No minutes from 4/12 meeting

Citizens to be Heard

No comments were received

Member reports

BLM: Kestrel Run moving forward with EA. Hawk's Glide set for 2 month build starting September 1. Sug

Forest Service: Geyser pass road opens May 20th. Probably closed again in July for widening completion.

GCATT: working out agreement with FS for shared trail crew work in August. Anna Sprout has been working on a digital management, reaching out to trail apps. Looking for more local control with apps. Updated ebike brochures. Trail crew has been working out at N Klondike, rebuilding Homer, Alaska, and Mega Steps. This is the 5-10 year window for rebuilding trails. Worked with Colorado Rocky Mountain school for 2 days on Navajo Rocks and Horsethief campground. Repainted Goldbar and signed and gated the beginning of Portal. Horsethief Campground could use some better boundary delineation, possibly a fence to keep campers within designated areas. Still need Trail Ambassadors.

County: Sitla land exchange. Land amount cut in half. Still concerned. Areas include close to Horsethief Campground and top of Hell Roaring. Still questions about protection of existing trails in proposed areas. General Plan will need comment from TM at later date.

City: absent

Chair: Working with Maddie to come up with a more clear path forward for TM.

Vice chair: Absent

Secretary: Absent

Biking: Great work to GCATT on Navajo Rocks and N. Klondike. Working on Rake and Ride schedule. Dave suggested that " Rake and Ride" has a negative meaning to some, Mike agreed to entertain other naming ideas.

Climbing: Working with Todd on size limits and permitting for Canyons. Sorting through the complexities of standardizing anchor systems for Canyons.

Equestrian: still waiting on final approval from DOE for Metal OST silhouettes. Thanks to BLM for signing Courthouse area for horse trailer parking. Endurance event went well despite challenging weather the first day. No conflict with Jeep Safari overflow.

Hiking: Compliments on Mill Creek trail work. May have been UCC. Discussion about social training on Mill Creek Rim.

Trail running: No report. Questions about Trail Ambassadors.

Skiing: No report. Map sales still generating strong funding. Colin will talk to shops about donation through MTA map.

DWR: seasonal here. Working on Gusslers. Working at Se-go trailhead and Matheson wetlands.

Action items

N/a

Discussion items

Hidden Valley, Moab Rim Connection.

Jason's (pro) perspective:

- There are concerns about it being in a WSA ... but there is an exclusion allowing for such a trail

- This trail has previously been proposed and reviewed by Trail Mix ... Jason and Kaya both reviewed minutes from that meeting
- Jason proposes Trail Mix re-review and consider again
- There is currently no foot traffic from town - believes trail will be a huge asset for town
- Some people say this is an undisturbed area, but formal trail designations help mitigate impact on such areas
- Regarding concerns about tourists increasing usage there ... he believes there will not be a significant impact from tourists; rather, this will help the flow of local users by connecting these two areas and creating a great opportunity for local use
- Lots of local support from people in the neighborhood (Thatcher/Kelly, David/Susan, etc)

In response:

Question about trail maintenance ... the area is well protected, but it would need to be built to handle predicted erosion and other potential concerns

Kaya's (opposed) perspective:

- Notes from the previous exploration are sparse
- Concerned about driving more tourists into this area
- Concerned about refuge for wildlife and birds
- ACEC designation ... Monz research (?) ... WSA ...
- Hidden Valley and Stairmaster are getting hammered
- Guessing a 100 or 1000-fold increase in trail use
- If we have more trails to the rim, they will inherently drive people there
- People will push the trails out, looking for photo spots, etc – so impact will be greater

In response:

- Need a trailhead, approved by the neighborhood (consider what is happening at Hidden Valley)
- Local kids need access to the outdoors
- The chairlift parking lot could be considered
- That land has been bought mostly for the land on the rim, chairlift removed, Rocky Mtn Power removed the transformers
- Could potentially fit a few cars in there
- Getting from that parking lot to Pipedream is problematic because of private land