

Grand County Trail Mix Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Jun 14, 2022

Held Grand Center Pavillion

Meeting called to order at 11:00.

Attendance

Present: Katie Stevens, Stephen Schultz, Paul Spencer, Sam Van Wetter, Kirstin Peterson, Colin Topper, Jacques Hadler, Kya Marienfeld, Madeline Logowitz, Luke Wojciechowski, Brian Murdock, Jason Keith, Tyson Swasey, Brian Torgerson, Tim Smith, Kim Schappert

Absent: Dave Wilson, Jessica Backer, Justin Ricks, Laura Harris, John Guenther, Mike Baird, Brett Sutteer

Guests: Christina Sloan (GC Attorney), Jennifer Jones (BLM), Clif Koontz (GCMTTC), Brendon Cameron

Approval Of Minutes - April 12, May 10

Tabled until next meeting

Citizens to be Heard

None

Discussion items

Ebikes

Chrissy Sloan: New law requires we plan for ebikes on public trails. Bill was broad, related some to disability access but not in line with federal guidance - initiative wasn't borne by disability advocacy groups.

Aggressively pursued in Senate. Grand, Uintah Counties came out against the bill. Ebike industry/lobby infighting to clarify class designation allowance. Grand County attorney and lobbyists worked with Rep Stenquist - cyclist and disability advocate. Clarified "trail" designation does not include easements and has federal exemptions. Recreational Trail Program (RTP) language is likely to be amended federally.

Maddie: Ebikes aren't compatible with existing trail systems: trail design, user conflicts, volunteer stakeholders ought to have input (RTP funding is incommensurate with volunteer contributions).

Steve: equestrian conflicts increase with ebikes

Discussion regarding TrailMix's role in ebike control. ADA can act as smokescreen for recreation access. Ebikes are also used for commuting and recreation. Chrissy suggests we figure out more exactly where ebikes are within TrailMix's mandate. Is it premature to add ebike

representative to TrailMix? TrailMix has historically written LOS to Commission regarding preservation of user experience.

BLM Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Area maps

Sam: BLM maps for this TMA are forthcoming. TrailMix ought to prepare to write a LOS to the Commission in support of one particular map, with focus on reducing user conflicts and more accurately representing the use of the area.

Action items

Old Spanish Trail Silhouettes

Stephen: Will coordinate with Maddie and GCATT to find a day for working to install these sculptural silhouettes. He thanks everyone for support.

BLM Designated Dispersed Camping

Clif Koontz: Supports BLM's work to determine camping areas, limit impacts to public lands. Would like to see expansion of boundaries to account for expansion of camping areas. Displacement can lead to impacts beyond designations. Ideas do not conflict with Kya's letter; could be combined and submitted together. Letter largely serves to activate the public in regards to inventory, rationale, and resource preservation. Letter can encourage BLM to engage in the process with further public input.

Kya: Suggest offering designated dispersed as a model for dispersed camping across the county. There's been good surveying of current impacts, but we know there will be continued impact and this must be an ongoing process. BLM has discussed creating more front-country campsites which might augment the camping styles delineation. Should adhere to buffers, limitations to determine designated sites rather than picking and choosing specific sites. TrailMix can encourage BLM to assess designated dispersed over expanded field office area.

Kya motions to submit drafted TrailMix letter with the addition of asking the agency to analyze as part of this action areas which are high-use areas and might be impacted. Sam seconds. 10 votes yes, 5 abstentions.

Member reports

BLM: Jen Jones - Fisher tower site visit, connector trail from new lot to existing trail will happen within next 6 months - year. Toilets at Kane Creek Scenic Skyway, Colorado River day use area. Reservations for "venues" (rec.gov term) will come online 6/27 for a nominal fee. RAC approval for additional fees at SFRA in October - county has approved but RAC must too. Kestrel is close.

Forest Service: Geyser Pass will be closed July 5 - Aug 1. Snow's on Burro. 1 person trailcrew; they're logging trails. Volunteer logging should inform FS - no issue, they just want to know. Made agreement with GCATT to work this summer.

GCATT: Maddie: Hiring for summer crew. Will work with FS in August - 2 are hired, 2 more open. 40 hrs/week. Thanks to spring trail crew, finished last week. >30 miles maintained. OK Corral rebuild from last year flooded, scheduled again for this year (next few weeks). OK Corral connector grant-funded, can wait for BLM support. Will connect with BLM, possibly Western Spirit Cycling for a date. Update to County Commission available on meeting website.

Tyson: Great crew this spring and a larger crew helped to disperse efforts. Rebuilt 7.5 miles of Homer, Alaska, Megasteps. Installed first cattleguards at Rusty Spur, Rodeo.

Anna: Trail Ambassadors met 26,000 people and informed 20,000 of them last year. Only 2 positions filled right now and they're at Mill Creek & Whole Enchilada. More people are visiting Mill Ck, but WE users need more guidance (redirection to Raptor Route). There are now 5 drop locations to drop Wag bags. October is Poop Awareness Month. VisitMoab.com/poop - needs to add information about dog/pet waste. Ambassadors have seen/smelled people smoking which is a fire risk. Will signage help? Hidden Valley is on the list but needs staff to fulfill.

County: Jacques: Noise discussion at next County Commission meeting (6/21). Public comment up to 2 minutes from 2-2:30, 2:30-4 will be a discussion of strategy to reduce noise in town. Signage about fire restrictions is available at Copy Center.

City: Luke: City is reviewing unified transportation master plan. City Council meeting rescheduled to 6/15 due to noticing issues.

Annie: Successfully got grant to Pack Creek footbridge. Accidents at YGP/Mill Creek underpass are being studied.

Chair: Colin: Mud Springs conversations about the future of the project.

Vice Chair: Absent

Secretary: Sam: Please review minutes so we can get them approved.

Biking: Mike: Trail maintenance days are upcoming. Rake & Ride name might be changed.

Climbing: Brett: Has added an anchor at Bow & Arrow Canyon to increase canyoneering access.

Equestrian: Stephen: Thanks Clif for support with SITLA / Aspen Cattle Guard to make them horse-friendly - need man gates alongside. Rodeo was a great success!

Hiking: Kya: Hot in the desert, dry in the mountains. Preventative SAR/EMS for dehydrated hikers, people in trouble.

Trail running: Jason: Nothing to report. Trail proposal will be tabled until the fall.

Skiing: Absent.

DNR: Working on Se-go trailhead. Proposing to improve parking at TH.

Chair adjourned meeting at 13:07.