



**GRAND COUNTY  
COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**Grand County Commission Chambers  
Held virtually on Zoom  
Moab, Utah**

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**MINUTES  
15 June, 2021**

**The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on 15 June, 2021. The meeting was streamed/attended electronically. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Commissioners in attendance were Evan Clapper, Jacques Hadler, Trish Hedin, Mary McGann, Sarah Stock, Kevin Walker, and Gabriel Woytek. Also present were County Commission Administrator Chris Baird, County Commission Associate Administrator Mallory Nassau, County Attorney Christina Sloan, and Clerk/Auditor Quinn Hall**

**2:30 p.m. – Commission Workshops**

**Grand County Redistricting Workshop MGGG Redistricting Lab Consultant**

Chair McGann called the meeting to order at 2:32. Commissioners present for the workshop were Mary McGann, Evan Clapper, Jacques Hadler, Trish Hedin, and Kevin Walker. Gabriel Woytek arrived at 2:39 pm. Sarah Stock arrived at 2:43. Also present were County Attorney Christina Sloan, County Commission Administrator Chris Baird, Associate County Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau, and Clerk Auditor Quinn Hall.

Chair McGann introduced Moon Duchin and the topic of redistricting.

Moon described the redistricting process and offered some background. Moon shared some legislative history that has informed voting and redistricting. Moon shared redistricting best practices like contiguity, compactness, communities of interest, and partisan fairness.

Moon discussed computer modeling and the challenges with algorithms and redistricting. Moon demonstrated different models and the way they relate to redistricting.

Kevin asked about population distribution and partisan bias, and Moon discussed some of the challenges and geographic factors that come into play with redistricting.

Moon discussed the mapping aspect of redistricting and fair methods.

Moon demonstrated the mapping feature of the website, along with the comment features available to the public. Moon discussed the availability of other data sets. Mary asked about public engagement, and Moon noted in-person meetings help drive public engagement.

Evan asked about resources and advantages of splitting zones. Moon offered some suggestions and noted that occasionally splitting communities can be advantageous.

## **2021 Fire Season Workshop with Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands Area, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service**

Michael Englehart, Rob Kephart, and Clark Maughn discussed recent fire activity and management goals for the fire season. Rob discussed the need to continue to manage for COVID response and noted management has gained some flexibility in fighting fires this year. Rob discussed current tactics and increased funding for prevention work. Rob discussed defensible space and fire-wise communities. Rob noted recreation staff will be helping enforce fire restrictions.

Sarah asked about the upcoming fire ban and what would still be allowed. Michael noted the draft order would likely still permit fires in developed campgrounds and gas stoves. Michael noted visitor behavior is considered before implementing stricter rules. Michael noted the order is still in draft form, and subject to change in the future. Mary noted the commission would like to see a complete fire ban vs. partial. Michael discussed some of the challenges of communicating between agencies.

Clark Maughn discussed some restrictions on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. Clark noted the potential to move to Stage 2 fire restrictions based on observed behavior. BLM has asked for severity funding to help offset increased firefighting and prevention costs. Clark offered thanks to the Moab Fire Department for their services at the beginning of the fire.

Trish asked about potential fuel removal to prevent wildfires. Clark discussed fuel reduction efforts. Michael noted they have a very active fuel reduction program including mastication and prescribed burns. Michael noted that occasionally fires will burn regardless of fuel reduction programs. Michael discussed the difficulty with fuel reduction efforts in such dry conditions.

Rob offered thanks for all the efforts of fire fighters recently, and noted some recent successes. Rob noted they're doing all they can to prevent the wildfires this year.

Trish offered thanks for the efforts of the fire fighters.

Sarah asked about the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team, and suggested the County would like to be involved in any efforts they're able to assist with. Michael discussed the BAER team and future efforts to stabilize burned areas.

Chair McGann recessed the meeting until 4:00 pm.

### **4:00 p.m. Thompson Springs Special Service Fire District Board Meeting (see separate minutes)**

**4:04 p.m. Call to Order** (All commissioners present)

**Citizens to Be Heard** (and again at approximately 6:00 pm)  
(none at this time)

**Approval of Minutes** (Quinn Hall, Grand County Clerk/Auditor)

A. June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (Regular County Commission Meeting)

**Motion by** Trish Hedin to postpone approval of minutes from 01 June, 2021 to the next meeting.

**Motion Seconded by** Kevin Walker

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Ratification of Payment of Bills**

**Motion by** Gabriel Woytek to ratify payment of bills totaling \$1,096,219.62 and payroll totaling \$260,851.26 for a combined total of \$1,357,070.88.

**Motion Seconded by** Jacques Hadler

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Commission Member Disclosures**

(none at this time)

**General Commission Reports and Future Considerations**

Sarah Stock

- Attended Pack Creek Fire stakeholders meeting

Trish Hedin

- Thompson Springs cleanup finished
- Attended planning commission meeting
- Attended Homeless Coordinating Meeting

Jacques Hadler

- Attended Old Spanish Trail Arena (OSTA) meeting
- Attended a Trail Mix Meeting
- Attended Utah Association of Counties breakfast
- Attended Mortorized Trails Committee meeting

Kevin Walker

- Dark Night Skies ordinance needs to be implemented and City and County should begin incentivizing and preparing. The County should come into compliance as well
- Suggested increased fire awareness messaging through Travel Council - fire safety could be included with current campaigns

Evan Clapper

- Met with Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)
- Attended UAC meeting
- Met with Sandflats Stewardship committee
- Met with Cemetery District Board

Gabriel Woytek

- Attended 4 Corners Behavioral Health groundbreaking
- Attended Pack Creek Fire stakeholders meeting
- Attended Thompson Springs cleanup
- Working on fireworks messaging

Mary McGann

- Attended Airport Board meeting
- Attended Travel Council Meeting
- Met with UAC
- Met with Kate Hammond from NPS
- Fire planning meetings are nightly at OSTA

## **Elected Official Reports**

### **Commission Administrator Report**

Chris Baird discussed the new code enforcement officer. Chris discussed the Dark Skies ordinance and potential implementation. Chris thanked the OSTA staff for their efforts during the fire. Chris discussed the fire and its current state. Chris discussed some challenges with current County salaries and the difficulty recruiting new hires.

Mallory noted the State Indigent Defense Commission approved a grant for Grand County. The County will need a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a public defender. Mallory has begun revising the policies and procedures for the governing body. Mallory has been updating an annual procedures list. Mallory briefly discussed the updated face covering policy.

### **Department Reports**

B. Report on the Facilities Department (Shawn Fugit, Facilities Supervisor)

Shawn discussed the facilities and maintenance of the County. Shawn described the duties of staff and offered an overview of the maintenance program. Shawn discussed the challenges of mitigating COVID and staffing challenges during the last year. Shawn shared some photos of projects at the Courthouse and the Museum.

### **Agency Reports**

C. Report from Parental Defender (Autumn Fitzgerald, Attorney at Law)  
(postponed) - (5:22 pm)

Autumn discussed the juvenile court in Grand County and offered a report on her recent cases. Autumn discussed the current caseload, and the other duties of her office. Autumn discussed typical timelines of cases and the needs of at-risk families. Autumn discussed family drug court and the importance of helping families that struggle with substance abuse. Autumn discussed the different types of juvenile cases and the challenges of the job.

## **Presentations**

### **General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:**

D. Approving Grand County's participation in Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky Subscriber Solar program (Commissioner Stock, Chair McGann and Debra Dull, Rocky Mountain Power)

### **Presentation**

Sarah discussed the potential solar program and introduced Stacy Davis from Rocky Mountain Power. Stacy discussed the program and the benefits of the Blue Sky program. Stacy discussed the subscriber solar program and noted some usage is covered by solar power. Stacy discussed the County's meters and usage. Stacy discussed potential savings with the subscriber solar program, noting some of the County's meters were a good fit with the program.

Kevin asked about the increase to our current bills, and Stacy noted the increase over current County bills. Mary asked about potential grants, and Stacy noted the potential for future grants and renewable energy.

Evan asked about other districts joining, and Stacy discussed the Cemetery district, noting potential savings. Stacy discussed the different programs and potential availability.

Sarah suggested support for more renewable energy. Mary agreed.

Chris discussed the potential Blue Sky subscription, noting the County could likely work it into the mid-year budget amendment.

**Motion by Evan Clapper** to approve Grand County's participation in the Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky Subscriber Solar program for eight (8) power meters at various County-owned facilities.

**Motion seconded by** Kevin Walker

#### **Discussion**

Sarah noted the need for an agreement with the Mosquito Abatement District. Chris noted Grand County owns the building and splits the utilities with the District.

#### **Motion passes 7-0**

E. Approving Letter of Support for 2022 Utah Office of Tourism Cooperative Marketing Program Grant Match to the Moab Area Travel Council (Elaine Gizler, Moab Area Travel Council Director)

#### **Presentation**

Elaine discussed the grant, noting the state offers matching funds annually. The Travel Council is applying to use Transient Room Tax as a match for the grant. Funds would be split to support ad campaigns at Canyonlands Regional Airport, the Chicago market and Salt Lake City Airport. The grant/match would also support Utah.com. Messaging would include responsible recreation. Howard discussed the funding and noted the improvements at the airport. Howard noted the importance of the matching component.

Kevin asked about the matching component, and Elaine noted the total budget would be spent on marketing, noting marketing in the Midwest is more expensive. Howard noted the grants are not guaranteed.

Sarah asked about future marketing efforts that are encouraging responsible recreation. Elaine noted all marketing efforts are currently directed toward responsible recreation. Sarah expressed apprehension about spending more money on marketing. Elaine noted all marketing is currently attempting to encourage responsible recreation and draw tourists that will visit and need outfitters and guides.

Mary suggested the tourists know about Moab, and suggested that marketing toward a different demographic could be beneficial.

Jacques suggested people that visit via air travel are generally good visitors, and asked about Chicago marketing specifically. Elaine noted the Chicago market was often searching for trips to Moab, but not converting to sales.

Howard discussed the rationale behind choosing Chicago, and discussed the need for year round tourism.

Chris explained the TRT taxes and the requirements to spend funds on specific marketing efforts.

Trish discussed the promotional and educational aspects of campaigns.

Mary noted the “recreate responsibly” message was important and would be the focus of the campaign.

Evan noted he originally opposed the matching funds, and suggested the spend on marketing should be approached cautiously. Evan noted better contact with tourists and focused marketing on responsible recreation could be a good thing. Evan suggested support for year-round marketing efforts.

**Motion by** Evan Clapper to approve the Letter of Support for the 2022 Utah Office of Tourism Cooperative Marketing Program grant match to the Moab Area Travel Council.

**Motion seconded by** Jacques Hadler

**Discussion**

Kevin suggested support, but agreed with Sarah, noting perhaps tourism is only a part of the focus of the commission.

Sarah noted appreciation of “recreate responsibly” messaging, but expressed concern about increased messaging.

**Motion passes 7-0**

F. Approving Grade change for Old Spanish Trail Arena Maintenance Worker from Grade 2 to Grade 3 (Renee Baker, Personnel Services Director)

**Presentation**

Renee discussed the grade change reasons, noting the difficulty in finding staff at OSTA.

**Motion by** Sarah Stock to approve the grade change for the Old Spanish Trail Arena Maintenance Worker from a Grade 2 to a Grade 3 effective June 16, 2021.

**Motion seconded by** Kevin Walker

**Discussion**

Jacques noted OSTA staff is overwhelmed and needs help.

**Motion passes 7-0**

G. Update on Planning & Zoning Work Plan, approving request for the Planning Commission to initiate the General Plan update process and appointing a Commission liaison to the General Plan Update Steering Committee (John J. Guenther, Planning & Zoning Director)

**Presentation**

John Guenther discussed the general plan update and proposed studies. John suggested a comprehensive plan that would involve everyone and include public engagement later. John noted there would be 13 members on the steering committee. John ran down some of the responsibilities of the committee. John suggested the importance of a solid long-range plan. John discussed the near term timeline.

Kevin asked about meeting frequency, and John suggested bi-weekly.

Kevin and Mary suggested 2 commissioners on the steering committee.

Mary asked about interest. Kevin suggested interest.

**Motion by** Kevin Walker to approve the request for the Planning Commission to initiate the General Plan update process and appoint Commissioners Mary McGann and Kevin Walker as liaisons to the Steering Committee for the General Plan development.

**Motion seconded by** Gabriel Woytek

**Discussion**

Evan suggested there are several citizens that may be interested in being involved.

John noted both client and community engagement is important.

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Citizens to Be Heard - 6:15 p.m.**

(none at this time)

H. Reaffirming Resolution No. 3146 to Respect our Neighbors' Rights and the Rule of Law Regarding the Use of Legal Fireworks (Chair McGann and Vice-Chair Woytek)

**Presentation**

Mary noted the resolution comes across as respectful, but the real challenge will be enforcement. Mary noted the professional displays have never caused a fire.

Gabriel discussed the resolution, and noted community support. Gabriel noted the importance of messaging surrounding private fireworks displays.

**Motion by** Gabriel Woytek to reaffirm Resolution No. 3146 to Respect our Neighbors' Rights and the Rule of Law Regarding the Use of Legal Fireworks.

**Motion seconded by** Evan Clapper

**Discussion**

Chris Baird discussed the law and state statute surrounding fireworks. Chris noted fireworks are prohibited on state-owned lands and unincorporated lands. Chris discussed Moab City's fireworks laws.

Gabriel suggested everyone celebrate the 4th of July but recreate responsibly.

**Motion passes 7-0**

I. Approving the Amended and Restated Rules and Regulations for High Density Housing Overlay Developments in response to Hearing Officer's Conclusions of Law and Order in HDHO Appeals (Christina Sloan, County Attorney)

**Presentation**

Christina discussed the restated rules and regulations for the High Density Housing Overlay Developments and the rulings delivered by the hearing officer. Christina noted the hearing officer's ruling decision that struck down two of the regulations. Christina discussed some of the options available to the County regarding the High Density Housing Overlay.

**Motion by** Kevin Walker to approve the Amended and Restated Rules and Regulations for High Density Housing Overlay Developments, to be effective immediately.

**Motion seconded by** Jacques Hadler

**Discussion**

Kevin suggested support.

**Motion passes 7-0**

J. Adopting Resolution approving the Corrected Final Plat and First Amendment to Development Agreement for Arroyo Crossing, Phase I (Christina Sloan, County Attorney)

**Presentation**

Christina discussed the final plat for Arroyo Crossing, noting the commission has approved the final plat, but there are some corrections needed. Christina discussed the changes/corrections.

Evan asked about the split, and Christina and Audrey explained the split. Audrey noted the potential for future amendments with different programs.

Kevin asked about the deed restrictions and affordability. Audrey discussed the deed restrictions and contracts. Audrey discussed the build ratio, and noted the County would end up with more deed restricted housing.

Chris shared some background of the resolution and offered some insights on the impetus for the legislation.

**Motion by** Evan Clapper to adopt the proposed Resolution approving the Corrected Final Plat and First Amendment to Development Agreement for Arroyo Crossing, Phase I, subject to the following condition:

- Owner shall record the Neighborhood Covenants referenced in the Final Plat in the real property records of Grand County, Utah simultaneously with the Corrected Final Plat and First Amendment;

and waive the plat amendment processing fees in the amount of \$650 plus \$125 per lot in excess of 5 lots.

**Motion seconded by** Gabriel Woytek

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

K. Adopting Resolution regarding Grand County's commitment to funding a "Recreational Hotspot" transit shuttle pilot program (Chris Baird, Commission Administrator)

**Presentation**

Chris discussed the pilot program, noting the City has already committed funding for the program. This contributes funding from the County over a 5 year period. It will be paid with TRT funds. Chris noted an interlocal agreement would be needed eventually.

**Motion by** Trish Hedin to approve the resolution regarding Grand County's Commitment to Funding a "Recreational Hotspot" Transit Shuttle Pilot Program

**Motion seconded by** Evan Clapper



**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 6-0** (Gabriel Woytek currently unavailable - 7-0 after the fact)

L. Approving updates to the Grand County Face Covering Policy (Chris Baird, Commission Administrator)

**Presentation**

Mallory discussed the face covering update. Mallory noted this is based on the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

**Motion by** Kevin Walker to approve the updates to the Grand County Face Covering Policy

**Motion seconded by** Jacques Hadler

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Consent Agenda- Action Items**

M. Ratifying the Chair's signature on a Federal Aviation Administration grant (038) for the snow removal equipment building design in the amount of \$146,000, and associated Cooperative Agreement with the Aeronautical Operations Division of the State of Utah

N. Ratifying the Chair's signature on a Federal Aviation Administration grant (039) to acquire snow removal equipment (Loader) in the amount of \$274,930, and associated Cooperative Agreement with the Aeronautical Operations Division of the State of Utah

**Motion by** Jacques Hadler to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

**Motion seconded by** Kevin Walker

**Discussion**

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Discussion Items**

O. Calendar items and special events (Mallory Nassau, Associate Commission Administrator)

Mallory discussed upcoming events, noting the fireworks display on the 4th of July. Mallory noted the need for a special meeting to finalize the Certified Tax Rates. Monday the 21st, at 9:00 am.

Mallory discussed the joint workshop with the City. Mallory noted the City has moved to a "hybrid" meeting system. The City is proposing an in-person meeting.

Jacques noted the change of date on the calendar for the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

**Public Hearings- Possible Action Items**

**Closed Session(s)** (if necessary)

**Adjourn**

**Chair McGann adjourned the meeting at 6:54**

**ATTEST:**

DocuSigned by:

*Mary McGann*

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Mary McGann  
Chair, Grand County Commission

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*QH*

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Quinn Hall  
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