



**GRAND COUNTY/MOAB CITY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

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

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**MINUTES
22 June, 2021**

The Moab City Council and the Grand County Commission met in a special joint meeting on 22 June, 2021. Commissioners in attendance were Evan Clapper, Trish Hedin, Sarah Stock, Kevin Walker, and Gabriel Woytek. Also present were County Commission Administrator Chris Baird.

6:00 pm. Call to Order

Mayor Emily Niehaus called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.
(Minutes courtesy Moab City)

In attendance were Councilmembers Tawny Knuteson-Boyd, Mike Duncan, Rani Derasary and Karen Guzman-Newton. Councilmember Kalen Jones was not present. City staff in attendance were City Manager Joel Linares, Assistant Manager Carly Castle, Attorney Laurie Simonson, Recorder Sommar Johnson, Administrative Assistant Kelley McInerney and Finance Director Ben Billingsley. Also in attendance were Grand County Commission Chair Mary McGann and Grand County Commissioners Kevin Walker, Trisha Hedin, Jacques Hadler, Gabriel Woytek, Evan Clapper and Sarah Stock. Grand County Council Administrator Chris Baird also attended.

Kara Dohrenwend from Rim to Rim Restoration presented an update on behalf of the Mill Creek Community Collaborative (MCCC). A brief history of the group described the need for action to address impacts from increasing recreational use in Mill Creek Canyon. Dohrenwend explained the mission of the group to examine and recommend steps to facilitate a quality experience for Mill Creek canyon visitors in a way that protects the natural and cultural resources of the area and addresses impacts to nearby neighborhoods.

Dohrenwend presented statistics on visitation and described increased rescue incidents, an overview of outreach and community engagement was discussed, as well as the results of 2019 and 2020 user surveys to determine community views regarding the Mill Creek area. Various options were presented as well as suggestions from MCCC.

Dohrenwend explained the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to complete a separate public process, which could take up to two years. The recommendations of the MCCC group included a bike path connecting the Mill Creek Parkway to the Sand Flats road, connection to a proposed shuttle system, construction of a pedestrian bridge, designation of a trail system within the canyon and completion of archaeological, traffic and law enforcement assessments. User fees, pipe safes and fee booths were discussed as well as participation on behalf of the off-road community.

Dohrenwend also explained that hydrological elements of Mill Creek, including water quantity and quality, were not considered as part of the MCCC process.

County Commissioner Stock pointed out none of the management options considered limiting capacity and Dohrenwend explained the lack of ability to actively enforce capacity limits as well as the existence of too many access points to the area.

County Commissioner Walker brought up the transfer of ownership of the property from the BLM to mitigate complications due to various agencies owning parts of the canyon. Parking lots and paving were discussed and Councilmember Derasary asked about next steps. It was explained that a BLM process would ensue.

Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Mary McGann

Mary McGann
Chair, Grand County Commission

QH

Quinn Hall
Grand County Clerk / Auditor