

**Grand County Trail Mix Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 9, 2019**  
**PRELIMINARY**

**Present:** Paul Spencer, Aaron Lindberg, Sharon Hogan, Scott Escott, Tyson Swasey, Marc Thomas, Sheri Griffith, Kirsten Peterson, Brett Sutteer, Zacharia Levine, Evan Clapper, Katie Stevens, Anna Sprout, Keri Fransden

**Absent:** Justin Ricks, Rani Derasary, Steven Schultz, Brian Murdock, Maddie Logowitz

**Guests:** Betsy Byrne, Sandy Freethey, Clif Koontz

**Special Guest:** Betsy Byrne, from the National Park Service, talked about her survey for the Mill Creek area of Moab. She has been meeting with various stakeholders and is looking for solutions to negative impacts caused by increased visitation. She is doing an analysis of situation and will be presenting her report to the community this fall.

She asked for input from the Trail Mix board. Paul questioned if there were going to be any access or uses to be removed, to which, she replied that there was none brought up but she is still gathering information. Tyson stated that in-valley active transportation has interests in this area, such as the Scenic Snake Trail which is in the Grand County Non-motorized Master Plan, and he asks that she consider the importance of non-motorized routes as they come up with solutions. Tyson also suggested looking at Strava heat maps to gather more information on usage. Aaron suggested that the BLM charge for access, and limit access numbers like the Sedona has in the West Fork of Oak Creek. He added that locals would generally accept this idea, even though it maybe controversial. Evan suggested that during Betsy's research phase that she does not promote other places along the creek.

**Minutes:** The proposed equestrian trail is 'Bijou' and not 'Bijoux'. Sharon moved to approve June minutes with that correction; Marc seconded, approved unanimously.

**Trail Mix Business:** Paul reports that July 22, 1969 was the date of the official opening ceremony of the Slickrock Trail. The September 14<sup>th</sup> celebration is proceeding; Tyson is preparing a flyer.

**County Update:** Zacharia started by saying the Spanish Valley Drive project is proceeding. He is reaching out to private property owners in regard to right of way and design. The final design should be ready around November, after that, the County will identify funding sources.

He continued by saying there has been work on establishing a County committee representing motorized trail users, modeled on Trail Mix. Clif Koontz is leading this effort.

Grand County approved an interlocal agreement with San Juan County that allows Trail Mix employees to work in San Juan County; the short term focus is on the La Sal mountains, but in the long term will allow more inter-county projects.

Zacharia also stated that a grant for the proposed bike skills park at 100 East was approved.

Paul asked about the status of Willow Springs, to which Evan replied that the state is working out land swap details internally and that the county was waiting for this to be resolved.

**BLM Update:** Katie reports that NICA needs a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile extension to make the Athena Trail an official race course. This extension needs to be submitted to the BLM and an EA done before it can be constructed.

Katie continued her report saying the Green River Gap trail proposal is waiting for Archeological approval. She also said the Klondike camping regulation changes will probably take 18 months to be approved.

Marc reported that the Dellenbaugh Tunnel trail needed some repainting. This prompted a discussion about painting techniques and materials.

**Forest Service:** Brian was absent; Tyson reported that Moonlight Meadows is open but Burro pass is still snowbound, and will be for a while.

**Trail Report:** Thanks to Geoff and Sandy Freethy for the kiosks at Horsethief trailhead.

Tyson reports the Lasso trail is done, which completes a two mile trail circling the Horsethief campground. A new cattle guard for the trail is in the works.

He reported that the Amasa back connector received good reviews; and that the spring flooding water level was well above the new bridge, but did no damage.

Tyson has been working on the Squaw Springs Exit trail on Forest Service land; and also has been working with Bill Jackson on parking solutions in Sand Flats.

Tyson presented his hot-off-the-press Ebike brochure; he is looking forward to some last edits and suggestions before mass distribution to local bike shops and the visitor center.

**Climbing Report:** Brett has been communicating with Todd Murdock at the BLM about bolting issues, such as adding some bolts (for common use) in some commercially used areas, and removing illegal and excess bolts in wilderness areas. There has also been some discussion about limiting group sizes of commercial operations.

**Equestrian Report:** Sheri has been trying to figure out their user group needs. The backcountry Horsemen are trying to see what size of trailers people are transporting their horses in and also what type of user they are – e.g. are they out camping or staying in hotels. With this info they can assess what types and sizes of corrals, campgrounds and trailheads are needed.

**Hiking Report:** Marc questioned the group about possibility of adding a spur trail leading off the Corona Arch trail, over to Pinto Arch (sometimes called Gold Bar Arch). That short addition would allow visitors to see two different arches on the same hike.

Tyson also suggested the possibility of a hiking trail from the Amasaback parking area to to Birthing Rock.

**Citizens To Be Heard:** Anna Sprout reported that in August she will host a MMBA trail day and group ride. She is also organizing some women's rides.

Clif Koontz of Ride with Respect wanted to thank Trail Mix for their advice and support of a motorized trail user County Committee.

Tyson moved to adjourn, Sharon seconded, all agreed.