



**GRAND COUNTY
COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

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

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**MINUTES
17 Aug, 2021**

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on 17 August, 2021. The meeting was streamed/attended electronically. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Commissioners in attendance were 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, Planning and Zoning administrator John Guenther, and Clerk/Auditor Quinn Hall. Evan Clapper arrived at 1:35 pm.

1:30 p.m. Workshop #3 on Grand County Strategic Plan Update

Chair McGann called the workshop to order at 1:33 pm.

John introduced the workshop and offered some guidance on the process to commissioners. John reviewed the last meeting and started the discussion.

John shared some wellbeing stats from a recent Utah State University (USU) survey for participating Utah cities. John discussed quantitative vs qualitative data and the role it plays in creating a plan. John reviewed the commission's suggestions and comments regarding the updated and evolving vision statement.

Sarah suggested some small changes, noting local limitations on water resources. Gabriel offered support for a statement that includes language encouraging responsible water usage. Sarah suggested adding language that addresses future data collection and potential changes to future studies. Kevin discussed adding language that was more goal-oriented vs. process oriented.

Kevin suggested avoiding buzzwords and discussed emphasizing the small town feel and future planning efforts to grow in a carefully planned manner. Kevin also suggested emphasizing diversity and some language regarding limited water resources. Mary suggested the desire to change Grand County may not be entirely external, but could come from within the community too. Sarah suggested some measureable metrics to quantify "quality of life."

Gabriel suggested trying to create the most distilled and condensed version possible. Gabriel expressed support for language that supports the desire to remain rural and unique in the American West. Kevin suggested support for a concise statement. Kevin suggested better defining "resilience." Sarah discussed the perceived difference between "sustainability" and "resilience."

Mary discussed the role local government plays in the lives of residents, and noted the importance of the health and safety of residents and of the local environment.

Sarah discussed possible core values such as housing affordability, a diverse economy, and multi-modal transportation. Sarah discussed the importance of sustainability, stewardship of public lands, and ranked her priorities. Evan suggested potentially leaving existing plans out of the vision statement. Gabriel suggested

the term “livable community” may be overly broad, and could perhaps be better defined. Mary discussed the importance of sidewalks (or lack thereof) in the county, and noted pedestrians often feel vulnerable when walking in the county. Kevin discussed rearranging and possibly condensing some of the priorities and offered some suggestions regarding increased language about sustainability.

Trish discussed her priority rankings, and Sarah suggested support for Trish’s comments about respect for diversity. Gabriel suggested encapsulating diversity into the “small town feel” line. Jacques suggested support for “small town feel,” but noted often that phrase can exclude a feeling of diversity. Sarah noted the importance of agrarian tracts in small towns in the rural west. Jacques noted even tourists are aware of and appreciate the small town feel of Moab.

Kevin suggested using plain language and noted the distinction between what could be considered urban Grand County, or Moab City, and the rest of suburban or rural Grand County. John discussed revitalization and redeveloping and explained the differences.

Sarah and Kevin supported acknowledging responsibility for local stewardship. Jacques discussed the importance of encouraging responsible economic development and including language that addresses the adventurous spirit of Moab. Kevin suggested perhaps including “adventurous spirit” language may not be appropriate and could sound more like marketing language than language for a planning or guiding document. Sarah suggested adding more economic development or economic diversity language. Evan discussed the importance of maintaining access to adventurous pursuits for locals, and noted the intent of the strategic plan is to make locals happy, not necessarily tourists. Trish suggested the adventurous spirit perhaps lives in all residents of small, rural, western towns.

Evan discussed the importance of diverse and safe travel modes. Evan discussed different transportation modes and the potential future impact. Evan suggested alternative modes of transportation should be “nice.” Evan suggested attempting to capture and address areas that have less than perfect transportation and preserve them.

Chair McGann recessed the meeting until 4:00 pm.

Chair McGann called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

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

Call to Order

Chair McGann called the Regular County Commission meeting to order at 4:06. All Commissioners present except Commissioner Walker. Commissioner Walker arrived at 4:54 pm.

Citizens to Be Heard (and again at approximately 6:00 pm)

Emily Campbell commented that she is in favor of the mask mandate. Emily noted the amount of information and disinformation, but noted masks should help protect the most vulnerable of our population. Emily offered her thanks to the Commission.

Michael Skarda (Namaste Rock) discussed his application for a small lot residential rezone. Michael noted he’s been waiting for over a year to be heard by the County Commission. Michael noted he’s met all the requirements and would like to have the rezone application heard.

Logan expressed concern over the mask mandate. Logan noted he’s not against masks, but he’s against the government dictating behaviors. Logan suggested there are studies that may prove masks are not effective.

Crystal Harrison is against the mask mandate. Crystal suggested we should celebrate herd immunity.

Heather Taylor has 2 kids in Helen M Knight (HMK) elementary. They are against the mask mandate. Heather believes in everyone's right to make decisions. They do not feel the kids should be forced to wear masks. Heather suggested she'd spoken to the Governor's office and they didn't understand why the mandate was enacted.

Nicole Taylor commented she has faith in HMK to keep kids healthy without masks. Nicole suggested it isn't fair to the kids to make them wear masks.

Megan Schafer has a daughter entering 3rd grade at HMK. Megan is frustrated the parents weren't consulted about the mask mandate. Megan considers the decision reckless. Megan suggested the mask mandate doesn't feel planned out.

Approval of Minutes (Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor)

A. August 3, 2021 (Regular County Commission Meeting)

Motion by Sarah Stock to approve the minutes from 3 August, 2021.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0

Ratification of Payment of Bills

Motion by Gabriel Woytek to ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$790,895.69 and payroll in the amount of \$258,344.68 for a combined total of \$1,049,240.37.

Motion seconded by Evan Clapper

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0

Commission Member Disclosures

Evan Clapper disclosed he is involved with the Utah High School Cycling Team

General Commission Reports and Future Considerations

Mary McGann

- Mary recognized employees Bill Hulse and Bill Jackson for their efforts in the recent flood cleanup
- Mary noted Elaine Gizler is moving to work with San Juan County and offered thanks for her work
- Worked with John Curtis on immigration
- Worked with people in Denver on overcrowding

Trish Hedin

- Thompson Springs Water District meeting
- Thompson Springs Special Service District meeting

Sarah Stock

- Working on water monitoring projects
- Met with Patti Trapp about timed entry pilot program
- Attended Weed Board meeting

Evan Clapper

- Met with Park Service about timed entry program
- Met with John Curtis
- Met with Emergency Medical Service (EMS) about new building
- There are 3 open spots on the Boundary Commission

Gabriel Woytek

- Met with Grand County Economic Advisory Council
- Met with August Granath about the Council and reforming land use code
- Met with Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments
- Met with the Healthcare Special Service District
- Met with NPS about timed entry at Arches National Park

Jacques Hadler

- Met with Patti Trapp about potential timed entry system at Arches National Park
- Met with John Curtis
- Met with Trail Mix and both Non and Motorized Trails Committees

Kevin Walker

- Met with John Curtis and NPS

Elected Official Reports

(none at this time)

Commission Administrator Report

Chris Baird thanked Bill Hulse and Bill Jackson for their recent flood work. Chris noted Andy Solsvig received an accreditation from the Federal Airport Administration (FAA). Chris noted the Budget Advisory Board meetings will start in September and run through December.

Mallory discussed the potential hybrid meetings in the near future. Mallory discussed the updated special event ordinance.

Department Reports

B. Report from Personnel Services (Renee Baker, Personnel Services Director)

Renee discussed Personnel Services and the different roles the department oversees. Renee discussed different aspects of Human Resources and the ways the Personnel Services provides facilitates employee progress across the County. Renee discussed employee advancement and coaching, benefit plans and administration, and risk management. Renee shared some metrics related to COVID-19 and employment and 2020 furloughs. Renee discussed current open positions at Grand County.

C. Report from Grand Center (Verleen Striblen, Grand Center Director)

Verleen discussed events and the past year at the Grand Center. Verleen discussed the 2020 COVID-19 closures and all the meals they delivered during the pandemic. Chris thanked the staff at the Grand Center for all the hard work over the last year.

Agency Reports (none at this time)

Presentations

D. Presentation on proposed expansion of Arches National Park (Walt Dabney)

Kevin introduced Walt Dabney, former superintendent of Arches National Park.

Walt discussed the history of Arches National Park and the different iterations of the boundaries. Walt discussed potential additions to the park west of the Windows section and along the northeastern boundary. Trish thanked Walt for the presentation and asked about potential cattle permits in the area. Walt noted there is no evidence that the area is being used. Kevin offered thanks for the presentation, and Walt noted he'd be happy to offer any input needed.

General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:

Motion by Gabriel Woytek to move Item "N" up in the schedule.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

(N - out of order) Approving Joint Public Health Order (Brady Bradford, Southeastern Utah Health Department Director and Chair McGann)

Presentation

Brady Bradford discussed the health order, and noted concerns surrounding the opening of schools across the country. Brady discussed the historical pediatric cases. Brady noted the lack of access to vaccines for kids in K-6th grades. Dylan Cole (Moab Regional Hospital) discussed the decision to implement the mask mandate, and noted the increased transmissibility of evolving variants. Dylan shared information regarding current transmission levels compared to last year. Dylan discussed the use of masks and the effectiveness and reasons behind the mask order. Dylan discussed the toll on surrounding states and Intensive Care Units (ICU's). Bradon discussed the possible termination of the order after 30 days. Jen Sadoff (Moab Regional Hospital) discussed the need to protect the population of kids under 12 until there is a vaccine available for younger kids.

Taryn Kay (Grand County School District) thanked the healthcare professionals for all their work on behalf of the community to protect the youth. Taryn discussed the outdoor time, and the mask breaks for the kids. Taryn discussed the importance of social and emotional development.

Chair McGann read the letter of support.

Motion by Trish Hedin to approve the letter of support to Grand County School District and the Southeastern Utah Health Department for the 30-day K-6 mask mandate.

Motion seconded by Gabriel Woytek

Discussion

Trish discussed the mask mandate last year, noting the effectiveness of masks. Jacques offered thanks to Dylan, Brady, and Jen, noting he's grateful to them for making tough decisions. Evan offered support and thanks for the hard decisions made by the health department. Gabriel offered thanks and support for the mask mandate.

Motion passes 7-0

Citizens to Be Heard 6:14 pm

Peter Lawson commented in support of the Moab Mountain Bike Team, and offered to answer any questions.

- E. Approving a Request for Proposals for Land Use Levels of Service Analysis, not to exceed \$60,000 (John Guenther, Planning & Zoning Director)

Presentation

John discussed the proposal, noting the need to consider the ordinances in conjunction with our larger land use code. This would hire a consultant to start the process.

Motion by Trish Hedin to approve the posting of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Land Use Levels of Service Analysis for a budget not to exceed \$60,000.

Motion seconded by Sarah Stock

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- F. Adopting a Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 2248 (1995) in relevant part and approving the Hideaway Estates Subdivision Final Plat and Subdivision Improvement Agreement (Planning & Zoning Staff)

Presentation

Mary discussed the Hideaway Estates and the improvement agreement. Mary discussed some challenges facing planning and zoning, and noted the progress of the department of over the last year.

Motion by Evan Clapper to adopt the proposed resolution repealing Resolution No. 2248 in relevant part to remove Tract 1 and approving the Final Plat for the Hideaway Estates Subdivision and Subdivision Improvements Agreement, with the following conditions:

1. Continued compliance with the County Engineer's requirements;
2. The Owner shall record the SIA simultaneously with the Final Plat in the Recorder's Office; and
3. The Owner shall submit an acceptable completion assurance bond for the incomplete public improvements and infrastructure warranty bond for completed accepted public improvements as established in the SIA to the County in the amounts set forth in the SIA prior to recordation of the Final Plat.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion

Kevin asked about the parcel size, and the subdivision, and Mary responded.

Motion passes 7-0

- G. Approving Special Event Permit for the Red Sand Pow Wow at Old Spanish Trail Arena (Angie Book, Old Spanish Trail Arena Director)

Presentation

Angie discussed the Red Sand Pow Wow special event and the pending permit.

Motion by Sarah Stock to approve the 2021 Red Sand Pow Wow Special Event Permit.

Motion seconded by Trish Hedin

Discussion

Trish expressed support. Sara expressed support.

Motion passes 7-0

- H. Approving Part-time Law Clerk Job Description and Pay Grade (Renee Baker, Personnel Services Director)

Presentation

Renee discussed the position, noting it's part time, and discussed some of the duties. Chris discussed the challenges of hiring new employees at Grand County.

Motion by Kevin Walker to approve the Part-time Law Clerk job description and placement pay range of \$15-\$25/hour depending on experience, and authorize recruitment and hiring effective 8/18/2021.

Motion seconded by Evan Clapper

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- I. Approving eliminating OSTA Maintenance Worker position and moving two positions to OSTA Maintenance Tech (Renee Baker, Personnel Services Director)

Presentation

Renee discussed the position, noting difficulties finding help at OSTA.

Motion by Evan Clapper to approve eliminating the OSTA Maintenance Worker (Grade 3) position and moving the two positions to OSTA Maintenance Technician (Grade 5), effective 8/18/2021.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- J. Adopting Ordinance repealing and replacing Article 9 (Administration and Procedures) and amending Article 10 (Definitions) of the Grand County Land Use Code (LUC) (John Guenther, Planning & Zoning Director and Mallory Nassau, Associate Commission Administrator)

Presentation

Mallory discussed Articles 9 and 10, noting this will clean things up and streamline processes, but it needs a little more work.

Motion by Evan Clapper to postpone adopting the Ordinance repealing and replacing Article 9 and amending Article 10 of the Grand County Land Use Code.

Motion seconded by Trish Hedin

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- K. Adopting Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 8.16 (Special Events) of the Grand County General Ordinances and related Ordinance No. 637 (Mallory Nassau, Associate Commission Administrator)

Presentation

Mallory discussed the special events ordinance and the changes proposed. Gabriel asked about pre-authorization list and feedback from event sponsors and Mallory discussed some of the challenges with special events and the organizing process. Chris discussed potential timeline issues with special events permitting and the ability to streamline the process.

Motion by Kevin Walker to repeal Chapter 8.16 (Special Events) of the Grand County General Ordinances and related Ordinance No. 637 and adopt new Chapter 8.16 (Special Events), as set forth in the attached Ordinance and its Exhibit A.

Motion seconded by Sarah Stock

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- L. Approving special event pre-authorization list (Mallory Nassau, Associate Commission Administrator)

Presentation

Mallory discussed the list, noting past events that have demonstrated good compliance to local regulations. Kevin asked about the approval process.

Motion by Sarah Stock to approve the special event pre-authorization list and authorize the Clerk/Auditor to approve or deny the applications listed, based on the Special Events Advisory Committee's recommendation.

Motion seconded by Jacques Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- M. Appointing two volunteer board members to the Thompson Special Service District (Water Board) (Commissioner Hedin)

Presentation

Trish discussed the appointments. Chris noted Lori Bell wishes to resign and assume role of secretary.

Motion by Trish Hedin to approve the following appointments to the Thompson Special Service District Board:

Russell Bauer, with the term expiring 12/31/2022

Cory Antes, with the term expiring 12/31/2024

Motion seconded by Gabriel Woytek

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

- N. **(DISPOSED OF EARLIER)** Approving Joint Public Health Order (Brady Bradford, Southeastern Utah Health Department Director and Chair McGann)

Consent Agenda- Action Items

- O. Approving local consent for alcohol sales for the Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo
- P. Approving bid award and Notice of Award for the purchase of airport snow removal equipment
- Q. Approving First Amendment to Independent Contractor Agreement with Statefire DC Specialties, LLC for Old Spanish Trail Arena
- R. Approving Cooperative Agreement between the Grand County Weed Department and the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources, for Colorado River Restoration Project 5.0
- S. Approval of Amendment Contract between Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments (SEUALG) Area Agency OF Aging Interlocal Cooperation and Contract Agreement Reimbursement through June 30, 2022 (Payment for Various Services Related to Aging and Nutrition through June 30, 2022)

Motion by Trish Hedin to adopt the consent agenda as presented

Motion seconded by Sarah Stock

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

Discussion Items

- T. Discussion on Title 17 (Use of Public Lands) (Commissioner Clapper)

Evan discussed Title 17 and the appropriateness of use of the bridge at Lion's Park. Evan noted he's been fielding a lot of questions about slacklining. Andy Lewis asked about the impetus for the ban on slacklining on the pedestrian bridge. Chris responded that much of the impetus was based on the liability facing the County. Chris discussed some other issues surrounding the bridge like alignment and anchoring. Evan discussed the potential of outside funding to create purpose-built slacklining structures. Gabriel asked about any other structures, and Andy said there are no other structures. Sarah discussed the impetus for title 17. Evan discussed some analogous activities like climbing and asked about potential future workarounds. Kevin further discussed the liability issues, and noted that as tourism and population increase, laws and regulations increase, and generally they benefit everyone. Trish noted the differences between slacklining and climbing are very different, and should perhaps not be associated with one another. Mary discussed the potential support from the County, but noted that public infrastructure is likely never appropriate simply due to liability issues.

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

Mallory discussed the upcoming and pending events.

Public Hearings- Possible Action Items

Closed Session(s) (if necessary)

Chair McGann adjourned the meeting at 7:35.

ATTEST:

Mary McGann

Mary McGann, Chair, Grand County Commission

QH

Quinn Hall, Clerk / Auditor