

Grand County Trail Mix Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sep 13, 2022

Held Grand Center Pavillion (moved indoors during rain)

Meeting called to order at 11:05.

Attendance

Present: Zane Taylor, Katie Stevens, Stephen Schultz, Paul Spencer, Sam Van Wetter, Colin Topper, Jacques Hadler, Brian Murdock, Jason Keith, Annie McVey, Zane Taylor, Brendon Cameron, Kade Lazenby, Tyson Swasey

Absent: Dave Wilson, Kirstin Peterson, Kya Marienfeld, Madeline Logowitz, Jessica Backer, Luke Wojciechowski, Justin Ricks, Mike Baird, Brett Sutteer, Laura Harris, John Guenther, Brian Torgerson, Tim Smith, Kim Schappert

Guests: Mickey Smith, Scott Escott, Sharon Hogan, Clif Koontz, Mark Howe

Approval Of Minutes

Zane Taylor made a motion, approval by all present except Paul Spencer and Jacques Hadler who were absent last meeting.

Citizens to be Heard

Mickey Smith presented information on her endurance horseback ride as she has inherited the event from Sherri Griffith. Occurs north of Moab near Dubinky Wells and Bartlett Wash. Route is all on roads, will be flagged. Endurance riding is losing some popularity: it's difficult for riders and horses but promises to be a strong event. Sept 30-Oct 2, 2022. More information:

mickeysmt.wixsite.com/moabenduranceride

Action items

None

Discussion items

BLM Laby/Gemini Bridges

Sam briefly laid out the history of the TMP and how the process works: first revision to the TMP since 2008, resultant from a 2017 lawsuit. Last fall Grand County Commission asked for a better conservation option and these maps are a result of that. Alternative A is the TMA as is, B is a conservation option (will close motorized routes), C is somewhere between the two and D is pro-motorized (though still contains closures). Did not suggest that TrailMix advocate for any

one of these, as they do not directly affect non-motorized trails, but it's an opportunity to recognize the Commission's support for balanced use and redress of problematic routes. Katie points out that this is a spectrum – A-D are not hard plans but rather options from which the final plan will be sourced from. We may end up with B- or C+, for instance. Clif Koontz notes that there are no new trails added on these maps. Large closures will create compliance issues, especially in 10-Mile and the Endurance Loop. Many users have contributed many volunteer hours building these trails. Once trails are closed, it's nigh impossible for them to be reopened. Scott Escott says that the roads off of 313 are often repetitive and would not greatly reduce motorized access. Katie reminds everyone that a TMP is changeable, even outside of these planning processes. Between 2008 and now there have been many changes within this area. A version of one of these maps, however, will be the framework. Stephen suggests that TrailMix could comment on individual routes that affect non-motorized recreation. Paul reminds us that TrailMix has commented on TMPs previously. Sam suggests that TrailMix may write a letter of commendation for Alternative B and more largely the Commission's advocacy for non-motorized recreation and a balance between user groups. Steve made a motion for no action on the part of the committee. Motion failed. Sam made a motion to draft a letter that makes clear our support for the Commission's consideration for balanced recreation user groups within the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges TMA with the acknowledgement that the individual closures will likely need further analysis. Paul seconded, carried with 4 abstentions. Jacques notes that this will likely come up at one of the next 2 commission meetings, so this must stay on our front burner. Sam will draft a letter and send to committee for approval this week.

Flood response

Grandstaff is being worked on by American Hiking Society.
Concern about pedestrian bridge (to Gonzo Inn) being used for water line. Will it be open to pedestrians any time soon? Annie says the City is working on it.
Mill Ck above Powerdam - other groups are working on it.

Recent efforts:

Bikes Skills Park is dug out. Over 40 people showed up to help dig out features and it was a great community event.
Mill Creek Parkway was worked on for 4 nights last week and efforts were really successful. Lots of people turned out and participation ramped up over the course of the week – from 8 people on Tuesday to 25 on Wednesday to 47 on Thursday to 50+ on Friday evening. Music and pizza made for good appreciation for volunteer efforts. The big thing that's preventing further effort is the amount of sediment under the Main St Bridge and the stream channel requires additional permitting. City is working to get more dug out this week.

Future efforts:

Monthly maintenance day, determined by Maddie & Tyson. What day works best? Consistency is key. Could 2 events – one weekday evening and one weekend – work?

Thursday 9/15 - 5:30-7:30 - Brand Trail Parking lot goathead removal

Saturday 9/17 - 9-4pm Hawk's Glide volunteer day.

Movie Premiere

Oct 1 at Star Hall, 7pm - movie premiere that benefits TrailMix. Brayden Bringhurst's new film.

Member reports

BLM: Katie sent a letter to State Parks on behalf of RTP funds. Seems assured that they will release the grant for Kestrel Run and Hawk's Glide. Next time GCATT should ask for the letter sooner. NICA Race, Outerbike, Endurance Ride, and Mad Moose Running Race are all upcoming.

Forest Service: via email – Zach Lowe is filling Brian's role. 1-man trail crew is leaving at the end of this week, UT Conservation Corp helped with some trail maintenance. Brush clearing and tread work accomplished. S***w Springs renamed Tukuhtnikivatz Springs. Geyser Pass road is open but will be closed if there are safety concerns. Trail Stewardship Act has been expanded to allow permit holders and guide companies to work on trails to offset permit fees.

GCATT: Trail Ambassadors are fully staffed! One might move to trail work. Volunteer Trail Ambassador program has launched and is in the field. WanderMap app was purchased by the County and will launch in Spring 2023 with the intention to tailor info to local users, including trail closures, LNT info, and is easily editable. Will be studied as it rolls out. Thanks to the Forest Service for collaboration, especially around Clark Lake with new growth aspen mitigation, Burro Pass work on drains and tree triage, and Shuman's Trail with one rad new berm. Trail work positions are hiring for the fall, flexible scheduling. Pipe Dream Trail birthday party included some trailwork and was a great success. Grant awarded for Hawk's Glide and Kestrel Run. Volunteers are welcome every Wednesday and Thursday at 9am at Sand Flats Stock Tanks. National Public Lands Day is 9/17; show up at 9am at the Stock Tanks. More info grandcountyutah.net/980/Volunteer. Mud Springs trail building development was approved by San Juan County Commission, Grand County is enthusiastic too. Volunteer Appreciation Party is tentatively scheduled 11/15 in collaboration with We Wave. Committee help will be solicited. Trail improvement ideas for 2023 are in planning; next year's budget is being written. Maddie and Anna are in Kamas for an Outdoor Trail Summit. Mark your calendars: Captain Ahab 10th Birthday Spring 2023!

County: Not much to report, met with responsible recreation group for volunteer efforts.

City: Annie thanks TrailMix for city trail cleanup efforts.

DNR: Hosted bat event and reptile day. Will broadcast events to TrailMix in the future.

Chair: T-Shirts printed for volunteer day! Figuring out how many volunteer hours deserve a t-shirt. Bike Skills Park cleanup was a healing event: an individual who previously opposed the park showed up with support. Parks and trails make a difference in our community.

Vice Chair: Justin has stepped down from the vice chair. Position is open and needs to be filled and an election will be on agenda next month.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Biking: Absent

Climbing: Absent

Equestrian: Requests to post on TrailMix site not to pull flagging on endurance ride. Great coverage of silhouettes on KZMU. Group ride in Arch Canyon Oct. 7-9.

Hiking: Absent

Trail running: Nothing to report

Skiing: Absent

Meeting adjourned at 1:06.