

Grand County TRAIL MIX COMMITTEE Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Grand Center, 182 N. 500 W., Moab, Utah

Attendees: Sandy Freethey, Geoff Freethey, Sharon Hogan, Scott Escott, Zacharia Levine, Paul Spencer, Kim Schappert, Brian Murdock, Chris Baird, Mimi Trudeau, Neal Clark, Kirstin Peterson, Katie Stevens, Maddie Logowitz, Brett Sutteer, Tom Dillon, Marc Thomas, Richard Coffinberry, Bill Jackson, Janet Mallory, Kya Marienfed (SUWA) 21 people attended.

Call to Order: Chair Sandy Freethey called the meeting to order at 12:04PM

Approval of minutes from December 8, 2015: *Mimi Trudeau*

The minutes regarding counters and sculpture donations were revised with information provided by Kim Schappert. Additionally, the income since last report was adjusted to read \$7423.00. Marc Thomas moved to approve the minutes as amended and Paul Spencer seconded the motion. The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: *Sharon Hogan*

- a. Income update since last report \$86,999.00
- b. Expenditures through 12/8/15: \$39,318.16
- c. Total income in 2016: \$1,250.00
- d. General Fund Balance: \$95,433.98

\$1000 from MTA - Maps for Trails donation.

\$250 donated by mountain biker Wally Tibbits.

County/City updates: *Chris Baird, Zacharia Levine. Sandy Freethey and City Rep.*

The committee voted on Trail Mix Representatives for 2016. Tom Dillon was elected to be the new Bike Rep, and the others remain the same as last year: Sandy Freethey, Chair, Paul Spencer, Co-Chair, Kirstin Peterson, Skiing Rep, Richard Coffinberry, Equestrian Rep, Marc Thomas, Hiking Rep, and Kim Schappert, MTA Rep.

The Chair re-appointed Sharon Hogan as Treasurer, and Mimi Trudeau as Secretary.

Chris Baird remains County Rep and Zacharia Levine, County Liaison.

City Parks, Rec and Trails position has been filled. The successful candidate will be the new City Rep. to Trail Mix

Need to hire additional trail workers by mid February - spread the word! Sandy will email the job description to members of Trail Mix.

Chris reported that San Juan County hasn't, and probably won't be able to plow the road in the La Sals at all this year, since they don't have the resources. So far, there has been 199% snow pack and their priority is to keep the road open to San Juan County schools. The Forest Service will try to help keep the road open this year, and some grants are being explored for Grand County to do some of the plowing. B road money may cover plowing snow but it is allocated according to priorities. The road is open for skiers at this time. Kirstin thanked Bill Jackson and the county for stepping in. Graders were used for the plowing and although they

did a good job, it wasn't complete. Almost 11 hours in one instance and they went up another day as well. There were several snows and since no plowing was done between them, it accumulated. The snow pack in Gold Basin is close to 70" - more than they have had in a long time! The Forest Service is engaging in the solution they are looking at grant opportunities. Citizens are advised not to keep calling to complain to the San Juan county road department, as it is not helpful. The road is plowed to the parking lot; however only one lane is open and something needs to be done before the next storm.

Moab Active Transportation Committee update: *Zacharia Levine*

No updates today.

Forest Service updates: *Brian Murdock*

- Yurt in Gold Basin is up and running - Photos and article in Moab Sun by Rudy Herndon. A second Yurt will be located at Geyser Pass.
- Abajos offer good opportunities for skiing – local snowmobilers have packed it down pretty well and some groomed loops are available.
- Avalanche 101 class is being given this weekend.

Ski Report: *Kirstin Peterson*

Slowly getting the grooming program up and running.

BLM info and Trail updates: Katie Stevens and others.

- Article on MLP & 16 Oil Wells highlights Navajo Rocks Trail and Recreation in the Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction).
- Big Burrito Trail is approved to build, however we are within the 30-day appeal period. Before building can start, there are some wildlife constraints to be considered.
- **Proposal to Trail Mix regarding climbing route access:**

Maddie Logowitz presented TM with an opportunity to work with climbers to restore and rebuild some of the access trails to climbing routes. She is applying for an Access Fund grant with a matching component. She provided the executive committee with a detailed proposal that they have shared and reviewed. Various options were discussed at the meeting including using TM funds to support a match for the grant, working on the access trails with Maddie, and hiring Maddie as a trail worker.

The routes currently being considered are Ice Cream Parlor (Kane Creek) Maverick Butte (Long Canyon), Lighthouse Tower, Dolomite Tower, and Big Bend Butte (River Road). These 3 trails need defined access to eliminate multiple access points, braiding, and erosion. Maintenance as well as some step building is needed. At Big Bend Butte, the switchbacks need to be sustainable. Katie said that the archeologist will need to check this out. She acknowledged that although Castleton is a designated route, she is not sure about Ice Cream Parlor. The Moab Climbing guide has hundreds of trails listed for Grand County and this impacts where people are going. More than just locals are using them now.

It is clear that the work needs to be done. If the trails are designated officially, more money may be put towards them. Dan Stenta keeps track of this. Some areas are very popular and well used but not necessarily

designated. It is legal for people to walk anywhere but it is best for people to be channeled to one trail.

Chris pointed out that since the government funds TM, it can only give funds to non-profits. However, there is the possibility of contracting, as long as the contractor has a business license. However, it is easiest to give a grant to a non-profit because the onerous amount of paperwork needed for a brief period of employment. Brett offered to contribute employee hours to help with this situation. Perhaps part of the employee contribution could be attributed to the matching funds. Sandy stated that the Trail Mix crew could do the work and asked if Maddie and other climbers want to do the work. Brett said he is interested in participating, his workers can be the core and he can utilize supervised volunteers to help. This is how the BLM does it for Public Lands Day. Since Brett is already established as a business, there is the potential to contract with him, but employment paperwork would still be needed. Katie brought up the question that if most bike trails are built with volunteers, shouldn't climbers volunteer too? Chris interjected that if you are building steps, you have to get the biggest rocks you can move so they last and don't wash away and this requires a lot of work. A couple of people getting paid are needed and then you can round up a bunch of volunteers to help. Katie said the BLM can donate some of their college kid volunteers to Trail Mix and they could be deployed as TM sees fit. Maddie sent Scott her trail building resume and he was very impressed.

Neal asked us to consider if we want to add these trails to the TM workload and questioned why it hasn't been done in the past. Brett answered that new Moab Climbing guide books and canyoneering books are promoting lots of interest in the activity, and since people don't know where to go, we need to help direct them. He pointed out that people are using the GPS coordinates in the books and then get to the locations any way possible. This is a problem. Sandy would like to see TM work on trails that are brought to the group as a priority. These are simply short hiking trails that provide access for climbing. Paul is concerned about the workload, but Scott pointed out that we need 2-3 full time trail builders regardless, in the next year. Sandy reminded the group that the priority has to be maintenance.

Marc asked which scenario Maddie is interested in and she answered that her priority is working on climbing trails and she would like to survey new areas in the future. She said that she would like the job, but was reminded that if hired, she would also be working on bike and hiking trails, digging postholes for parking lots, etc. Since the added pressure on CNHA for hiring for just a short term is problematic – TM would be looking to hire for a longer period of time. Sandy asked if there is any other way that money can go towards the Access Grant (and volunteer labor). Paul asked if Maddie would be willing to volunteer with the regular Trail Mix workers. Chris suggested that if TM hires Maddie, she could freelance whenever she wants, as long as TM sets the priorities for the trail. He pointed out that she is coming up with a lot of the revenue. *Katie suggested this become an executive committee discussion!

Adding a Climbing/Canyoneering Access user group to Trail Mix Executive Committee:

Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that canyoneering access should be added to climbing access in the title of the new user group. It was clarified that Trail Mix's involvement is limited to the public access trail to the climbing,

canyoneering route, or wall. Although the hiking rep could assume this responsibility, this large user group has a different focus and therefore a distinct rep would best serve this growing sport! The committee voted to approve this new user group. There will be a need for new signs to regulate and educate, and TM can help with this. The question arose as to whether or not a rep can be a member of the executive committee if they are also a TM employee? Chris responded that it is probably a conflict of interest. There may not be any specific rules, but it is not a good idea. The decision to hire Maddie was put on hold. Additionally, the question of who to appoint as Climbing/Canyoneering Access representative was put on hold as well. Brett Sutteer, as an outfitter, is interested in the position.

- Equestrian Trail Head update: Road #233 near CFI turn off is approved to build! We are still waiting for the MTA/Trail Mix Tread Lightly Grant for fencing and kiosk. Hopefully the bobcat will be able to build this.
- Ida Gulch Equestrian Trailhead-approved to build. Need bigger equipment to build.
- Seven Mile Canyon Equestrian Trailhead is still under consideration.
- North Klondike Trailhead/Parking/Primitive Toilet is ready to build. Cultural and paleo surveys been done.
- Castle Valley Trail update – Katie reported that the existing bike trail that parallels CV road was included in a land exchange between BLM and SITLA. They are looking to adopt the 3-mile long trail at the request of CV. They are going through the normal EA process.

Hiking update: *Marc Thomas*

Marc asked Katie if BLM has heard who owns Fidelity's assets now. Katie responded that oil prices are down and it has not been sold yet. She also shared that the rescue on Longbow arch was probably a result of someone slipping on the ice.

There will be a Sierra Club hike to Dellenbaugh Arch on Feb 27th. Marc will scout the trail for a proposal at that time.

The Utah chapter of the Sierra club wants to schedule service trips on BLM land for restoration and maintenance work to help define ORV routes and eliminate trail braiding and off trail tracks.

Equestrian update: *Richard Coffinberry*

Richard would like to see a connecting trail from Ida Gulch, due east to Stearns Gulch, then Professor Valley. He will scout out the feasibility. More marked, rideable trails in Onion Creek would also be useful.

Trail Articles, bits and photos:

- Moab Happenings: Kirstin Peterson – Skiing in the LaSals. This is the 2nd printing – it has run two months in row!
- Mtn. biking photos shared -Sharon and Scott

Maintenance: Holidays and Snow Days grinds maintenance to a halt. A few new signs installed at Mill Creek Powerhouse.

Citizens to be heard/Subjects not on the agenda: Lions Park trailhead is almost complete but it won't be open until March. Sand Flats office was temporarily closed as they

moved their office to the Old Senior Center at the east end of Center Street . The Sand Flats cat, "Russ Von Cat", will be residing with the Dillons, Tom and Ruth.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Trudeau

Trail Mix Secretary

Sandy Freethey

Trail Mix Chair signature: _____