

Grand County TRAIL MIX COMMITTEE Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 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, Marc Thomas, Mimi Trudeau, Neal Clark, Kirstin Peterson, Katie Stevens, Russ von Koch, Matt Heberd, Rani Derasary, Maddie Logowitz, Tom Dillon, Herb Crimp 19 people attended.

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

Approval of minutes from March 8, 2016: *Kristin Peterson for Mimi Trudeau*

The minutes were revised, per request by Richard Coffinberry, noting that there was a discussion about the 7 Mile Canyon Equestrian parking lot and Chris needs to talk to the BLM. Sharon made a motion to approve, Scott seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: *Sharon Hogan*

- a. Expenditures through 3/31/16: \$9347.22
- b. Total income in 2016: \$10,750.00
- c. General Fund Balance: \$102, 536.79

\$10,000 annual grant funds for 2016 received 2/29/16

\$500 donated from the Moab Off-Road Duathlon Event 3/31/16 – thank you Danelle Ballengee, race promoter

\$6000 received today from Maps for Trails program – thanks to bike shops and MTA!

Kim requested that MTA be recognized on signs for their role in putting together the trail maps. Although the BLM typically frowns upon listing sponsorship, Katie will look into this further since they are a non-profit.

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

- Lions Park Opens! Climbing Boulders arrive. Tif Miller article in the Time Independent. Rock color will be adjusted to look more natural.
- Tom Adams – GOED (Governor's Office of Economic Development) new Director of Outdoor Recreation will be coming to the May10th Trail Mix meeting. He will spend 2 days in Moab observing trail maintenance, climbers, and having dinner with the group. Zacharia thanked Scott for recommending that he visit Moab. Every small town is now looking at tourism as a way to boost their economy and Trail Mix is a model in the state.
- Paved Path problems fixed – Thank you to the County and City Crews! Bridge is not rising, the abutments are settling!
- There was a discussion about tourism and Moab's popularity. Other counties need to find a replacement for their extraction industries. Although we currently are trail system leaders, it is essential that we keep up our maintenance program.
- We were contacted by Eagle, Colorado and Torrey, Utah about our TM organization, however it turns out Torrey was interested in motorized trails.
- Good News! Goat Heads officially declared "noxious weeds – to be contained" – pull on sight!

Moab Active Transportation Committee update: *Zacharia Levine*

- San Miguel Street/trail issue: Long process – everyone needs to be clear about the enforceability of easements. Hope to have a decision before the end of next year.
- Bike summit took place and went very well - providing input for statewide active transportation plan.
- Continued work on the Spanish Valley Dr. path planning phase. There is now a RFQ to discover who could provide the services. Stumbling blocks encountered with width of right of way, etc.
- Federal Lands access grant is being sought to improve road on Kane Creek to Pritchett Canyon. There is a matching grant available. Zacharia and Kristen will meet to continue discussion. A bike lane is being proposed in the design.
- Flat grant options were discussed – Kane Creek Road and Half Mile Gap of the SR 128 Bike Path. Don't know if NEPA is needed or already done on Kane Creek.

Forest Service updates: *Brian Murdock*

- Snow is melting but there are still about 75" in the LaSals! All campgrounds are still closed. Trails are completely covered. People need to stay off roads.
- Geyser Pass snow plowing...still working on an agreement with the county. Chris Baird, Bill Jackson & Brian Murdock involved along with other County officials and attorneys.
- Prescribed burning is currently taking place.
- A \$58,000 Utah Parks and Rec. grant application is being submitted for a V-wing snowplow and other equipment. It will be matched with overall winter programs like LUNA and Avalanche forecasting.
- Rim Rocker trail from Montrose to Moab will be going around South Mountain as opposed to through Pack Creek. It will be signed this year, some issues need to be ironed out in Colorado – in Utah the roads are all set.
- Grand opening of the FS Bull Canyon Interpretive area (Dinosaur track site) will be June 24th.
- 2014 National Volunteer, Service and Citizenship Award was presented to Kirstin Peterson and Matt Heberd for their role with LUNA. 1800 volunteer hours were contributed this season to this incredibly successful program!
- FS just purchased another snow machine with the money awarded from the 2015 RTP Grant. Geyser pass trailhead is the second busiest location in the mountains.
- E-bike policy now in effect by the FS – they will be treated as motorized. This concurs with the BLM policy on e-bikes as motorized vehicles.

BLM info and Trail updates: Katie Stevens and others.

- Equestrian Update:
 - Two Equestrian Trailheads created! Ida Gulch & Professor Creek near CFI. Thank you to Bill the equip driver, and the BLM engineers, Matt and Dan. Cookies to celebrate!
 - Back Country Horsemen/Trail Mix on KCYN Apr. 20, 8am.
 - Since the opening of the Ida Gulch trailhead, the CBCH did a ride and posted pictures on their Facebook page. The post was then shared with the national organization and numerous chapters, and within 6 days of posting, there were 11,300 views! According to Stephen Shultz, "the Castle Valley, Professor Valley /Onion creek area is a "Horse Holy Land." Richard first proposed these trailheads for this popular area. The trailhead is now signed "no camping". Existing trails need better signage and we will coordinate a volunteer day to get the Back Country Horsemen to help with the post and

rails to define the trailhead. Suggestion was made to display the shape of the trailhead on a sign to inform people about how/where to park.

- If more people start using this area, there will need to be an expanded trail network. We need an equestrian to find the connections between the trails and then champion them. Designated trails will be put on the map following the EA process.
- Big Burrito – “Stay” was granted on building the trail. 1-2 year appeal continues.
- Longbow Arch Hiking Trail – Slickrock has been repainted - the lime green is now camouflage sage green. Discussion followed about different greens that could be used; the color should be subtle, but not too subtle to follow. It was noted that cairns are problematic as they are visible to motorized vehicles and are typically knocked over leading to braiding and disregarding of the trails.
- Dellenbaugh Tunnel Hiking Trail – Trail has been re-routed to avoid steep section and the need for cable or chain. Sandy maintains that paint is still needed. Cairns aren’t advisable for several reasons: there aren’t rocks available, the sandstone is white and will dissolve, the cairns would be visible to motorized users, and hikers tend to kick them down. People have to be routed around sensitive areas (crypto). Jared will be going out shortly to do archaeo.
- There needs to be proactive communication with the upcoming “Rally on the Rocks.” A lot of damage has been done by ATVs as was noted on the Dellenbaugh Tunnel 4x4 route after the Jeep Safari.
- **Action Item: Authorize Trail Mix to submit a proposal to the BLM for the West Horsethief Mt. Bike Trails Expansion - Phase 1.** These trails will create connections linking the BLM Horsethief and Cowboy Camps to several notable trail systems, including the Magnificent 7, Seven Up, and Navajo Rock. A few stacked loops will provide additional trails south west of the Horsethief Campground which will delight the campers and others. Phase 1 is about 13 ½ miles. Zacharia mentioned that Tim Smith is planning to make Dead Horse the first groomed path for fat tires in winter (grooming north side only). Neal expressed concern about where these additional miles put TM in terms of the RMP. Katie responded that the RMP says that 150 miles is the goal to build, but not the limit. If given a choice, Scott stated that he would rather build these trails now and deal with SUWA about going over the 150 miles for the Big Burrito in the future. Katie reminded the group that 50 miles is the goal for hiking, but if we want to do 52, we can just do it. Neil disagrees with this interpretation. Kim made a motion to approve submitting the proposal, Tom seconded it and the motion passed.
- **Action Item: Proposal to pursue a grant application to Utah Division of Parks and Recreation.** The grant will be for maintenance of trails with the emphasis on Climbing and Canyoneering access trails. Included would be signs, kiosks or other infrastructure items. The grant will be matched in part with volunteer labor. Perhaps MTA could get money to match. The grant is due immediately and Sandy is currently writing it. Kim offered to help. Kirstin made a motion to pursue and Scott seconded – the motion passed. Zacharia will write a letter of support.
- Katie is also writing a grant for putting in a new toilet off of Navajo rocks.

Trails Coordinator report: *Scott Escott*

- South Dakota and Wyoming, Boulder, North Idaho Volunteers /Chisholm Trail – Great groups of young students, worked very hard and got a lot done on the trail building effort.
- Mill Creek Powerdam post and rail fence was added near the toilet to better delineate the trail. Sara Melnicoff and Geoff Freethey installed the new information signs about Beavers.
- Jeep Arch Hiking Trail - sign down was reported, Scott will install the new sign made by the BLM.
- Russ Von Koch spoke about how Bike Patrol could coordinate with Trail Mix. The bike patrol was established in the 90s – a different era with most riding on the roads. Most of the 15 members live away from Moab but come here regularly. There is no cost to joining and they are looking for new members. The group was more active in the past but would now like to be more involved. A patrol log is maintained and a new emphasis can be placed on trail maintenance (signs that are down, missing, etc.) Work days can be advertised in conjunction with Trail Mix. Scott offered to be the contact. He will update and train the volunteers.
- Ice Cream Parlor project almost done! Photos passed around. Maddie Logowitz recognized for pointing out the resource damage. Recently the damage has increased as the number of climbers increase. There are now very big steps and monuments to delineate the trail. Must have kiosks and post and cable. There has to be education to keep people on the designated trails in order to allow the soil to recover and the flowers to grow on the hillside.

Hiking update: *Marc Thomas*

Katie believes that locals don't want to share their favorite trails and consequently take down signs. She added that she isn't seeing a lot of push for mountain bikes in the wilderness and doesn't believe there will be enough votes to make it happen.

Trail Articles, bits, photos, Events:

- Moab Happenings: Longbow Arch – Marc Thomas – Thank you! – More authors needed!
- Reports on lots of events including Thaw, Outerbike, Skinny Tire, Half Marathon celebrated. Gran Fondo coming.....something every weekend, and a variety of activities for everyone! Tourist season is in full swing.

Citizens to be heard/Subjects not on the agenda: none

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Trudeau

Trail Mix Secretary

Sandy Freethey

Trail Mix Chair signature: _____