

Grand County TRAIL MIX COMMITTEE Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016

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

Attendees: Sandy Freethey, Geoff Freethey, Sharon Hogan, Scott Escott, Zacharia Levine, Tif Miller, Chris Baird, Paul Spencer, Kim Schappert, Mimi Trudeau, Marc Thomas, Kirstin Peterson, Russ Von Koch, Gerrish Willis, Maddie Logowitz, Tom Dillon, Katie Stevens, Brett Sutteer, Justin Jones, Andrea Brand, 20 people attended

Call to Order: Chair Sandy Freethey called the meeting to order at 12:03PM

Approval of minutes from October 11, 2016: *Mimi Trudeau/Kim Schappert*

Minutes were not received before the county deadline. Sharon moved to postpone the vote until next month. Paul seconded, and we will vote to approve next month.

Treasurer's report: *Sharon Hogan*

- a. Expenditures through 10/31/16: \$40,746.03
- b. Total income in 2016: \$33,745.00
- c. General Fund Balance: \$94,132.98

Income since last report:

\$4000 from MTA Maps for Trails

\$30 from Steve Young, local mountain biker

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

- Thanks to Scott and Zacharia, **Trail Mix has been assigned a 4-wheel drive County Vehicle!** The details are now being negotiated. We will need a rack for rakes, and a magnetic Trail Mix sign. The use of this vehicle should not have an impact on the TM budget; at the current time people are reimbursed for their gas and mileage. TM will have to pay for parts, but not maintenance costs. The county will pay for insurance and we will look into getting the bulk rate for gas through the county.
- **Trail Mix 2017 Budget:** Thank you to Sharon and Geoff for working on the advance financial details to help the executive board review the budget in our recent executive meeting. Thanks also to the executive board for entering new data and ideas for the budget. The Trail Mix Estimated Budget was distributed and reviewed, and people had an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. There was a discussion about how the 2016-18 State Park Grant, whose final reimbursement will not occur until late 2018, will impact the estimated carryover in 2017. It was noted that line items were added to the budget for education and public relations. Sandy reminded the group that these items should receive prior authorization from TM committee before trips/expenditures are planned. Marc was concerned that this proposed budget will cut substantially into our carryover, however the Sand Flats single track trail Big Burrito is currently under appeal and is likely not to happen next year (\$22,000). The urban trails line item is being kept in the budget just in case something unexpected arises. Geoff made a motion to approve the budget, Gerrish seconded the motion, and it was passed.
- Zacharia inquired as to how someone donates to Trail Mix. Donations should be sent to CNHA with a notation that the money be directed to Trail Mix. Katie mentioned there is a BLM donation box at the Bar M trailhead. Potential donors could be directed to a bike shop to buy maps. Kim stated that people often buy all the maps that are available in order to support TM. We also get a lot of money from money raised at events.

Unfortunately the donations from Grand Fondo will be missing next year because of road closure.

- **UDOT – SR 313 road work:** There are some pavement drop off problems at several parking lots, such as Navajo Rocks, making it difficult to access the main road. A total of five places need aprons to remedy this problem.
- **San Miguel neighborhood path** is currently being reviewed in the legal system; several individuals have been deposed, and information is being collected. It is hoped that it will stay out of the courts.
- **Active Transportation Group**– Zacharia Levine
Rumble strips are being planned on SR 313. Feedback from the community has been sought and UDOT is better informed as a result. The county council in their tentative 2017 budget included \$100,000 for bike and pedestrian path planning along Spanish Valley drive. The budget for constructing the 5 miles of path from the city limits to the county line is \$2.6 million (not including right of way acquisitions that may be needed).
- **TIF** reported that things have been pretty slow recently. The Turkey Trot is coming up.

* At this point - Sandy passed around cupcakes to celebrate Marc Thomas' birthday and the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series in his honor!

Forest Service updates:

Roadwork has not yet begun on the Loop Rd. from Pinhook to Castle Valley. The closure should take place later this month.

An agreement was reached with the county to temporarily close Geyser Pass road when it is being plowed. This should only take a few hours. A gate has been installed and a sign will indicate "Closed for Plowing."

BLM info and Trail updates: Katie Stevens, Sandy Freethey, Scott Escott

- Campbell Hall Kids – This is the 7th year they have been doing volunteer projects with TM. We are very grateful, as they have built many miles of trails. This year they worked on damage to the parking lot at Gemini Bridges, they re-lined Megasteps, turning it back into a single lane, and also did maintenance on Klono and Mag 7. They put in a total of 230 volunteer hours which is a \$5500 equivalent!
- Maintenance Trail Mix: *Scott* - A lot of small maintenance projects are going on including new paint on Gemini Bridges kiosk, removing graffiti on Bar M, repairing carsonites at Little Salty/EKG Intersection, etc.
- A bench at OK Corral for parents watching their kids has been proposed.
- Mill Creek – Photos were passed around of the new steps at Mill Creek, and the new metal Mill Creek "Falls" directional sign, created by Geoff.
- The Navajo Rocks/Ramblin' trailhead rails were broken and Klono signs were stolen again. It appears that someone objects to signs at Klono. Signs on both the trail and parking lot have needed to be replaced repeatedly; the signs as well as the posts are being removed and often thrown. The plan for the future is to go with minimal carsonites instead. It was noted that the forest service sometimes puts grease on the back of signs to deter sign removal, and there is a new bike lock that releases a skunk odor if cut.

- Maddie/Geoff: Photos of “No E-Bikes/No Pedal Assist Electric Assist bikes on Non-Motorized Trails” were passed around. We will be ordering these signs as well as decals. The issue of Ebikes on local non-motorized trails in Grand Junction was mentioned; it is unlikely that these will jeopardize future funding from the Colorado Riverfront Commission.

There was also a brief discussion, and photos passed around, about issues surrounding adapted bikes: hand cyclists on non-motorized trails, some using e-bikes, some off the trail.

- Local sewer problems, as they relate to the BLM’s grant to install 2 new toilets at Navajo Rocks and Mill Creek Dinosaur Tracks, were briefly discussed. A photo was passed around of a helicopter hauling sewage out at Zion’s Angels Landing!
- West Horsethief mtn. bike trail proposal – to SHPO for review
- Maddie reported – 17 volunteers worked on the Ice Cream Parlor climbing access trail and parking issues. Most people are now using the proper trail at Ice Cream Parlor.
- BLM is investigating some proposals for more equestrian trails in Onion Creek, Sylvester area– working towards meeting the RMP goals. Scouting is being done.
- Sandy is working with the BLM equipment drivers to address drainage issues at the 7 Mile Canyon equestrian trailhead.

Equestrian update:

- Justin Jones was voted in as the new Trail Mix Equestrian Representative. He is a member of the Back Country Horseman and a rancher. He works for USDA Vet Services and has lived in Moab for 14 years. Thanks for joining Trail Mix!
- The Back Country Horsemen voted for the name “Hollywood Westerns Equestrian Trailhead” for the new equestrian trailhead at the CFI area along SR 128. Photo was passed around. TM posted a small Equestrian Trailhead sign next to the CFI sign.
- Thank you to BLM’s equipment driver Bill Frank for the work on Ida Gulch and the Hollywood Westerns Equestrian trailheads. Photo passed around.
- Justin is concerned about horseman riding along bike trails and coming upon a fence with no bypass gate for a horse. He mentioned one such area on the Jimmy Keen trail, that he took care of because it was on his grazing allotment, and he is responsible for maintaining the fences. When cattle guards are built for bikes, there needs to be consideration for horsemen, we need to be courteous to all users. Paul suggested that if horsemen have a concern about a particular location, they should share the GPS coordinates. Katie asked if step over fences were good for horses, as they would still keep out ATVs. Justin said they would work for horses, but would not keep out cows.
- In response to a question, Justin stated that cattlemen/ranchers agree that spring protection is a good thing. They are required to maintain the spring enclosures on their allotments. He also noted that horsemen support no bikes in wilderness!

Climbing/Canyoneering Access update: Brett Sutteer

- Canyoneering Coalition of America met with Brett and BLM – they talked about possible closure dates in the Long Canyon area for big horn sheep.
- Morning Glory Arch and other climbing areas were topics of discussion in terms of limiting the size of the groups.
- Maddie reported on the climbing conference she attended. The group addressed access issues, and encouragement of women, minorities and others who have been traditionally excluded from climbing.
- Salt Lake Climbing Alliance is moving more toward Trail Mix model.

- Signage on Potash rd. kiosk is ready to go in on Wall St. We will need to get an encroachment permit from UDOT.

Hiking update: Marc Thomas (Red Onion hike reviewed).

- Marc proposed a connector trail called Red Onion, between Fisher Towers and Onion Creek. A large trailhead parking area is located at an abandoned drill hole area; high clearance vehicles may be occasionally needed to access it. Mark is still in the process of scouting – it is a 3-mile round trip trail. It would be relatively easy to build, since it is in two canyon bottoms
- Russ said that some group already mapped out two trails in this area. One is from Hittle Bottom connecting to Fisher Towers trailhead; the other is in the Onion creek area. Dave Stolfa mapped these routes and they are on the Trail Mix non-motorized trails master plan – we have his data.
- Scott has a recommendation for a hiking trail near Juniper campgrounds in Sand Flats – he will go out with Andrea and Marc. It is less than 5 miles long and doesn't go into the WSA. It would be hiking only.
- Sandy mentioned that the cable at Funnel arch off of Kane Creek is gone. Brett will find out what happened to the cable. – he knows who took it down. Most people won't go up without a cable.

Biking update: Tom Dillon

Tom has corrected the problematic narrow point on Prospector Trail that was mentioned at last month's meeting. Other maintenance is needed.

Bike Patrol update: Russ Von Koch

- Russ talked about a super trail App he learned about that is used on the Greek Island of Sifnos. Sifnos has a lot of historic trails and the most miles of trails of any Greek island. The app is free, operates offline, and is very impressive. You get a notification when you approach a trail and it notifies you when you leave the trail. It includes an elevation profile, coordinates, photos, and a bar moves to show you where you are in elevation.
- A lot of maintenance reports are yet to be entered into the bike patrol spreadsheet – a lot of people have been out on the trails collecting information.

Trail Articles, bits, photos, Events:

- Moab Ho-Down Mt. Bike Festival – Oct 27-30.
- Local Mt. Biking Red Devils doing great in their races.
- Moab Craggin Classic Oct28-30 (climbers)
- Moab Trail Marathon, Half and 5K –Nov 5-6 (2000 runners)
- Dead Horse Ultra – Nov.19 (this is a running event on mtn. bike trails)

Citizens to be heard/Subjects not on the agenda:

Kim reported the latest paved path count for the 2016 season. The data indicates that an astounding, estimated 1700 people per day on average (compared to 995 in 2015) use the system. Better counters are being used at each of the locations.

It was noted that Sand Flats campground was filled by 4pm this past Friday.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Trudeau

Trail Mix Secretary

Sandy Freethey

Trail Mix Chair signature: _____