

Grand County Trail Mix Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sep 10, 2024

Held Grand Center Pavillion

Draft

Meeting called to order at 11:00am

Attendance

Brianna Bowker (City parks), Colin Topper (Chair), Jacques Hadler (County), Jason Keith (Running), Keri Nelson (BLM), Madeline Logowitz (GCATT), Mark Howe (FOAB), Reid Bakken, Sam Van Wetter (Secretary), Kirstin Peterson (Skiing), Stephen Schultz (Equestrian), Tyson Swasey (GCATT), Tim Rau (At-Large), Maggie Nielsen (GSAR), Marty Bauer (Equestrian), Samantha Derbyshire (At-Large), Mark Jolissaint (climbing), Dave Wilson (At-Large),
Guests: Kathy Grossman (Moab Happenings), Judi Brawer (SUWA), Ron Thomas, Donald Cotton (Public Health), Steve Hamilton

Approval Of Minutes

Approved – July and August (unanimous)

Citizens to be Heard

None

Action items

Falcon Flow email vote approved climbing trail.

Discussion items

Public scoping for ebike rule has been delayed and will likely open in October. BLM will update.

Moab Happenings is looking for a monthly column from TrailMix. There was historically a column that ran on topics of specific trails/trail systems, PSAs, and events. It became difficult to get articles written. We could do it less frequently – quarterly? Volunteers to write ~500 words with accompanying photos are welcome.

Flood mitigation efforts are ongoing. The Trail Crew is finishing work in the mountains and will start focusing on flood work soon. Pipe Dream and Bar M are priorities. GCATT might make a wide call for volunteers to show up throughout the project window. Grandstaff and Hidden Valley have also been reported as needing attention.

Bar M expansion efforts are going through NEPA process with Moab BLM. BLM advises bundling new trail scoping together so that they can do one environmental assessment for all of them, instead of separate EA documents. Not a hard rule but could be a helpful suggestion.

The Request for Proposals for Mud Springs work is currently open, until 10/11/24.

Volunteer Appreciation Party will be Nov. 20 at Dewey's.

Falcon Flow climbing trail proposal was approved via email vote last week. A discussion followed regarding established directionality for trails for hiking, running, and biking.

National Public Lands Day is Saturday, September 21. TrailMix will be hosting a work event at the Jackson TH of Pipedream from 9:30-3.

Jason has walked a .65 mile hiking trail off 313. Tyson and GCATT will put together a proposal.

Member reports

BLM: Keri has no updates beyond her reports on the ebike scoping and Bar M expansion.

Forest Service: Absent

GCATT: Maddie shares these upcoming dates: Outerbike Oct. 4-6; ebike research project happening mid-October; Oct 13-19 USU is hosting the Moab Base Camp, a combo event with tourism impacts and management.

GCATT will be a test case for a state program to develop technical trail-building skills. This will be a workshop on Pipedream to help staff learn skills and grip-hoist training.

Oct. 2 is a town-hall workshop in Green River with the State, who is interested in collaborating on responsible recreation messaging.

Maddie is attending the Utah Tourism Conference to learn about responsible recreation messaging. Maddie & Anna will attend the Leave No Trace Global Summit in Colorado to learn about best practices for different environments.

Weeding Wednesday is Sept. 18 at the Aspen St. TH of Pipe Dream from 4:30-7pm.

Anna shares that they submitted the LNT award application. GCATT was a finalist for the Summit's stewardship award.

County: Jacques attended the Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit and made good connections in other parts of the state. County budgeting season is now, so if you have particular requests start submitting those.

City: Bri reports that Mill Creek Parkway is as cleaned up as it can be for now with larger work forthcoming. The City is working with the Nature Conservancy to move the Bridge to Nowhere to Skunk Alley.

Southern Utah Health: Donald reports that they've handed out tons of wag bags this summer.

Chair: Colin reports that Saturday 9/14 is a community day of service. Pancake breakfast is 8-9a and projects are happening 9-12 with a focus on Grand County School grounds. Donations are appreciated.

Wish for Wheels is a nonprofit that works with Title 1 schools to provide bikes to students. Every second grader in Moab can receive a bike! We need volunteers to help assemble the bikes. It will happen Sept. 30 – volunteers will help assemble bikes at HMK and then give those bikes to students. Sign up with Colin.

Vice Chair: Absent

Secretary: Nothing to report

Biking: Absent

Climbing: Mark identifies maintenance needs at Mill Creek (Sunnyside - big tree eroding; the approach to the Barrels).

Equestrian: Stephen reports that equestrians have been working on Upper Onion Creek Site A with new corral gates with money from a grant. Local 4H had a horse expo at the arena which was wildly successful in fundraising. La Sal Mountain campout group ride was well-attended, despite conflict with Moab flooding event. In collaboration with National BLM they've worked on an Old Spanish Trail mobile app with info about local history and sites.

Hiking: Absent

Trail running: Jason welcomes feedback about damaged foot-trails and ideas for the 313 interpretive trail.

Skiing: Out of season

Active Transport: Makeda is stepping down. Nominations are open for active transportation reps.

SAR: Maggie reports that they're pretty quiet right now and TrailMix can think of GCSAR as a resource for volunteers and people power.

At Large: Dave suggests we move the Groff Skills Park to another location in the City.

Tim reports that EKG's marking has disappeared.

Samantha says shuttle season is ramping up! Bar M/sidewinder has a spicy rut. Hymasa marking paint is worn off. She thanks the City and County for their efforts.

Mark reports that the Hodown is happening Oct. 24-27 and will benefit FOAB – moabhodown.com

Meeting adjourned at 12:52.