

## Grand County Trail Mix Committee

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11 a.m. Grand Center, Moab, Utah**

1. Meeting called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Brendon Cameron, Chair

2. 25 attendees in person and virtually. A full spreadsheet is provided by Samantha Derbyshire.

Brad Walker (State Parks), Brendon Cameron (Chair), Brett Sutteer (At Large), Brian Murdock (US Forest Service), Colin Topper (At Large), David Glover (Biking rep), Emily Lessner (brand new Active Transportation rep), Faith Dickey (Climbing/Roped Activities rep), Jacques Hadler (Grand County), Johnathan Dutrow (SEU Health Dept), Joy Dannelly (GCATT), Judi Brawer, Kathy Grossman (Secretary), Katie Stevens (BLM), Keri Nelson (BLM), Madeline Logowitz (GCATT), Mark Howe (At Large), Marti Bauer (Equestrian rep), Matt Olding (Running rep), Nate Ament (NPS), Patrick Trim (City Parks), Samantha Derbyshire (Vice Chair),

Scott Solle (SAR and EMS), Tim Rau (At Large), and Tim Shaw.

**3. Guest.** Nate Ament (NPS)

**4. Approval of Minutes.** Motion made, seconded, approved with emailed changes.

**5. Citizens to be Heard.** None.

**6. Action Items**

- **Vote on Active Transportation nominee Emily Lessner.** Introduction of Emily Lessner, nominee for Active Transportation representative. She's the BLM paleontologist, from Denver, in Moab 1-1/2 years. Tries not to use car, would rather actively transport. At school in Columbia MO during Covid, part of Local Motion, an organization promoting active transportation. Noticed things not feeling safe on Moab streets, that things could be improved: safety improvements, active intersections (people put in danger); surveying Active Map. Joy talked about Master Plan, wanting to know how to get around town. How we can improve our trails, connections, understand wants and needs of our community. Need a connection to Spanish Valley, new things in play: quality of life and safety. Exciting that Trail Mix will have a person focusing on this. Motion to approve Emily, seconded, voted to approve Emily.
- **Vote on proposed Trail Mix Bylaw Updates.** County Attorney and GC Commission asked us to come into compliance, met with attorney, for instance we needed to change what constitutes a member. Quorum based on number of voting members we have. SITLA, UDOT, MTA not required to attend but perhaps leave them there as a placeholder. Is there anyone else, beside Kirstin, representing MTA? Samantha says MMBA may be replacing Trail Alliance.
- MMBA reignited, maybe could help financially. MTA used to help fund Trail Mix, now just does maps. GCATT still sometimes partners with them. Take away UDOT and SITLA. Add SAR because they're involved with all trails, and their input is quite valuable. Jacques will put a placeholder on the commission agenda for approval of these changes. Attendance is not required to become a voting member, group votes you in. Can't miss more than two meetings in a row, or they could send a rep. Required to have more than half of the voting members here (the quorum), more than 50%. Have had the bylaws circulating for consideration for over two months.
- Is there anyone representing Castle Valley? A citizen asked for more mountain bike trail access.
- All At Large positions are filled.
- Maddie says members all look like government entities, makes sense to have at least one non-profit represented. Would a rep from MMBA attend our meetings? Tyson is the chair of MMBA but he comes to represent GCATT. What about Friends for Indian Creek, motorized committee, Sand Flats (Andrea has come in past)? Sand Flats is BLM/Grand County, both of which have representation. Is there another place MMBA could be represented? Some double-repping sometimes happens, like Backcountry Horsemen for Equestrian. What about business people: guiding, shuttling, tour businesses, often overlap.
- Comfortable enough to send it off to Grand County today? Samantha says yes. Changes are removing SITLA, MTA, and MMBA. Trail Running to Running, Climbing to Roped Activities, and removing attendance requirement. **Voting members voted to approve.**

**7. Discussion Items**

- **Post e-Bike discussion: What we learned. Did you feel heard, comfortable?** Some business owners who rent e-bikes felt they weren't included in discussions, though they weren't discouraged. Trail Mix recommended variation of Article B, a slow transition, removing a few trails in that. Motorized committee wanted to open all BLM trails, some biz owners wanted to vote for C. Everyone's voice counts, there are disagreements, we all came to a consensus and voted for B with variations. David says lot of people said it was intimidating at our meetings. Reid Bakken a big part of our earlier discussions, was able to speak. Jacques (who is on many boards) felt our recommendation represented the bike community, feels that Trail Mix is very welcoming, with a rotating cast of characters. Bike community isn't the bike business community. A number of business

owners disagreed with others' complaints. Chamber of Commerce, etc., does give them a voice. This citizen group is very important. Reps can be anyone.

- It can be a socially intimidating experience to go to any meeting when you don't know anyone, Faith expresses giving people a chance. *Sun* will post on Instagram, encouraging citizens to come. Do people feel their voices aren't heard? Tim says he's hearing from volunteers and random people that business owners are profit-motivated. Trails are for people who work hard and want to live here, ride the trails, volunteer, community members; too much push by business owners for e-bikes. Decisions shouldn't be made solely by people making money here.
- Trail Mix votes for what's good for the entire community, we hear from many perspectives. Is it good for horses? Good for business? Opportunities for how reps can be engaged, fill that role for their communities, David has raised the bar. Asking for input, not our responsibility to make sure other voices are heard. When you don't agree, come tell us! When it's all about mountain biking, others felt not involved at the beginning. Back in 2010, Trail Mix was all mountain biking; but not including all the users, Matt now feels included. Trail Mix was a "mountain biking club," but not now. Need to get that message out in the *Sun*, *Happenings*, etc.
- Scott asks what's the difference between designing a mountain biking trail and one for e-bikes. E-bikes have better ability uphill, better capability in sand, making user-created damage easier when you can go off trail, might invite problems. Mud Springs will be bench cut [creating a level path into the side of a slope], designed for Class 2 e-bikes. Complaints riding up Falcon Flow, if Class 1 e-bikes going up, easier for them, more conflicts. E-bikes go faster, can get into trouble faster, difficult to carry people out when trail cut into hillside since responders can't carry a litter on both sides. With pedal-assist, e-bikes go faster, designs with speed suppression might not reflect slowness with e-bikes. Jonah Chiarenza [Community and Transportation Planner] employed by National Department of Transportation has done various studies.
- People with motorized bikes get into trouble, people pass others since they're faster, but leapfrogging when they get to technical sections when others pass them. Better ways to get info out to people, but many aren't on social media. Need to also use newspapers, other ways to direct community to specific reps. \*\*\*\* Add to September's discussion items. \*\*\*\*
- **Mud Springs Volunteer Dates and Discussion.** Broke ground, actively building trails. August 18 will have engineers on site, getting ready for gravel and toilets. Moved on to Phase 2 yesterday [August 11], environmental process more complicated, update on our timeline. Hope to get the core loops completed, closed in the winter for wildlife and mud.
- Saturday, September 27, is Public Lands Day, big volunteer day at Mud Springs. Volunteer Day Saturday, October 18. Finishing up more advanced trails in fall. Hoping to have a draft EA by next year, can begin contracting. Area will be closed Dec 14 to April 14, then opens up again April 15. Open call for volunteers T-W-Th, schedule Joy or Maddie to set up group volunteering. Bench cutting a good workout, could get some gym rats in on this. Surveying Mill Creek bike path, some shifts available, can hang out and chat with folks, before and after school, understand where people are going, how often they use the trails. Trail Ambassador training starts again in September, opportunities to get involved.

## 8. Member Reports

- **GCATT** (Maddie Logowitz) Thank you to MMBA and Western Spirit, 15 people altogether, some camped out. Trail crew up in mountains, now out at Medicine Lake. Master Plan asking for ideas. Focus groups, workshops, survey, interactive map, can comment on active transportation. Hoping to have comment period open for 30 days, then close it. Podcast is about to be released, Scott helped, topics like SAR adventures gone sideways, how to avoid becoming a rescue. Trail Ambassador program continues till end of year at reduced funding.
- **BLM** (Keri Nelson, Katie Stevens) Mud Springs the big news, also getting new signs up, improving facilities. Keri: closed comments on the e-bike EA. 1,500 comments (though 1,200 were a form letter), so really 300 comments, parsing through them.
- **Forest Service** (Brian Murdock) Fire! Stage 2 fire restrictions are on. For the first time, not allowing internal combustion chainsaws on mountain, never tried before, Electric chainsaws not included, a big deal, woodcutters affected. Deer Creek Fire still active, largest fire ever in the district. Still closures, closed up less, some openings. Two Mile open, but OHV trail closed for a year or so, where fire burned heaviest. Volunteer event, Alex plus 15 people there, reroutes done. GCATT up on the mountain, including Maddie. Loop Road still closed between 8 and 5. Tuk Springs Trail, worked on with state crew, then all were called for fire work. Brian's color-coordinated schedule lasted one day, then all hands sucked into fire duty.
- **NPS** (Nate Ament) Effort into marking Devil's Garden primitive loop, SAR stats down, work on gate at White Rim bottom of Shafer, e-bike patrol program on roads, positive response saying really cool that they patrol on e-bikes, CNHA provided the money. Carrying an extra battery on e-bike makes it pretty heavy.

- **State Parks** (Brad Walker) The park's still there. Went to Maine for July, that's the time to go! Phase 2 for getting fossils and artifacts, ramping up in the fall, interpretive programs starting, on a test run found a metatarsal dinosaur bone (smallest foot bone), Perseid meteor shower event. Utah Friends of Paleontology (UFOP) raises lots of money for us, such as Utahraptor skeleton, video being made of its discovery, with leftover money bought a very cool telescope, will start doing dark sky stuff, learning and riding the Sovereign Trail System, so can finish up grant. What kind of signage is good for this high desert environment? Other members mention great resources, ordering from a place in the midwest. Blinking lights used on 191 for Utahraptor SP since park's name is too long for just adding it to signs.
- **County** (Jacques Hadler) Glad to fund Ambassador program a little bit, likely program will leave the county, but it's great and belongs in the county.
- **City** (Patrick Trim) Met with Alta for way-finding signs, Millcreek Parkway, tie into large trail system (like Bar M), contingent on funding level, different sign types, uniform, branded with the city, would clear up a lot of confusion with how they're navigating the parkway. Worked with GCATT Katie getting counter at Robin Groff, collect data. All Wheels Park in discussions, talked to some contractors, waiting to hear from City, Center Street Ballfields identified as next project, in our master plan. Looking at grants, lot of interest, not if but when it will happen. Swanny Park footprint, skate park, etc. Groff Park: can't get to all features, many are tired of volunteer shoveling days.
- **SAR** (Scott Solle) Tourism is down, but rescue percentages are up, more calls than last year, not as high as 2015-16, typical of what you'd see at Delicate Arch. Last three weeks, three calls to Fisher Towers, such as coming back from Titan, then unintentionally turning down Red Onion. Looking for e-bike numbers. Some will ride Slickrock with one water bottle, get quite far away, then get into trouble.
- **SEU Health Department** (Jonathan Duthrow on line) Soft launch of app to report poop.
- **Chair** (Brendon Cameron) Thanks to all of you for coming today!
- **Vice Chair** (Samantha Derbyshire) Greetings from City of Brotherly Love.
- **Secretary** (Kathy Grossman) A shout out to people who write, support, and supervise those who write grants.
- **Biking** (David Glover) Nothing more.
- **Roped activities** (Faith Dickey) Finished survey to send out to climbing community, what work to be done, suggestions, comments. Sent to Katie and Brett, no feedback yet.
- **Equestrian** (Marti Bauer) Horsemen the original creators and users of trails. Stephen sent out app for volunteers for Pack It Out Utah, through Utah State U, can sign up through September. Pick watershed or trail you want to work on and clean up. Chapter Meeting this week, perhaps their group will pick a project.
- **Hiking** (Judi Brawer commenting for Kya Marienfeld) SUWA is getting donations for Door Dash for Kya, Kya's family had a GoFundMe.
- **Running** (Matt Holding) 11 out of 18 races completed for this year, the Ute 100 was in the La Sals this weekend. True Grit out at Red Cliffs in September, raising funds for cancer research.
- **Skiing/Non-motorized snow sports** (Kirstin Peterson) Nothing to report
- **Active Transportation** (Emily Lessner) Nothing yet to report.
- **At Large**
  - Tim Rau. MMBA turned out really well at Oowah Lake. Friendly otter at Oowah, likes kids. "More dog bites than otter bites."
  - Mark Howe. Praise for Maddie, grant writing. Funds for benches, etc. at Anonymous Park. Ho Down Mountain Bike Festival, October 23 through 26, will include bike races, mechanics clinics, films.
  - Colin Topper. Jacques submitted letter about high-visibility crosswalks, etc. Proposed that as crosswalks are upgraded, be made high visibility; UDOT said no, worried about creating a new standard, maintenance, *did* budge on more pedestrian crosswalks, for instance by Dogwood Avenue and where Pack Creek dumps out onto 191. Will look at more improvements as north side of town develops more. Small victories. Mentioned how Kathy Grossman has adopted the dog park area of Millcreek Parkway with (in addition to throwing the ball for her dog) raking, pruning, sweeping. Faith Dickey, founder of Elevate Outdoors Guiding, was just awarded Southern Utah Female Entrepreneur of the Year.
  - Brett Sutteer. On crutches since June, so not active lately.

9. **Future considerations/add discussion item for next meeting.** Better ways to get info out to people, since many aren't on social media, need to also use newspapers, other ways to direct community to specific reps.

10. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Next meeting is **Tuesday, September 9, 2025** at the Grand Center