

Grand County Trail Mix Committee

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Grand Center, 182 N. 500 W., Moab, UT 84532

1. Meeting called to order at 11:01 by Brendon Cameron, Chair

2. 24 attendees, named below. Additionally, a spreadsheet is provided by Samantha Derbyshire, who also provided banana bread and lemon cookies.

Andrea Brand (Sand Flats), Anna Sprout (GCATT), Brad Walker (State Parks), Brendon Cameron (Chair), Brian Murdock (US Forest Service), Colin Topper (At Large), Dave Wilson (At Large), David Glover (Biking), Diego Velasquez, Emily Lessner (Active Transportation), Faith Dickey (Roped Activities), Jacques Hadler via Zoom (Grand County), Joy Dannelly (GCATT), Judi Brawer (Hiking rep), Kathy Grossman (Secretary), Katie Stevens via Zoom (BLM), Keri Nelson (BLM), Kirstin Peterson (Skiing), Lily Gowens, Mark Howe (At Large), Marti Bauer (Equestrian), Matthew Olding (Running), Mike Thomas (Bike Fiend), Reid Bakken, Samantha Derbyshire (Vice Chair), Scott Solle (SAR and EMS), Tim Rau (At Large), Tim Schall, and Tyson Swasey (GCATT).

3. Guests/new attendees. Some new attendees and citizens today were added into the attendance list.

4. Approval of Minutes. Motion made, seconded, minutes were approved.

5. Citizens to be heard. None.

6. Action items

Vote on Proposed Trail Mix Bylaws Updates

- Samantha. Stephen Shultz took issue with people being appointed, not voted in. Requirement of attendance to be a member, how we would monitor that. It's "recommended," not required.
- Land agencies have been removed as voting stakeholders. Brendon says land managers (e.g., Forest Service) cannot vote, typically don't vote anyway. Helps us get to a quorum: used to have to be 14 voting members, now 9. We did keep City, County, San Juan, Health Dept, SAR as voting members. Colin says the land managers help with the "mix" of Trail Mix, wants them to continue coming. How to make sure they keep coming? Samantha's baked goods! Could we keep them as "not-voting stakeholders"? Jacques says they could be ex-officio. Tyson says Grand County requests they be here. Andrea says BLM cannot vote, County liaison can vote. Katie says BLM is ex-officio. NPS Sam Hodges doesn't want to miss meetings. Brian says it's a huge benefit to Forest Service. Motion made to approve updated by-laws with land managers as ex-officio members (Jacques will add this). Motion seconded, voted on and approved. Will let county attorney know.

7. Discussion items

- **Utah Open Meetings Training and Discussion.** Takes 15 minutes to take the video training. Brendon will leave this on agenda every month. Brendon not a formal person, but he's learned some formal things.
- **Grand County Non-Motorized Master Plan**, guiding plan for county trails, recreation trails for future, last plan was done 2011. Visioning document for the future. Worked with city for transportation, connectivity. Plan ongoing till end of October, hope to have it mostly done, present to various councils for approval.
- Open House at Grand Center. Lots of people, some private landowners, asked questions, great feedback. A draft plan, though still taking input, taking comments, Katie M working with Alta, maybe by next meeting will have another draft. Colin says Open House was amazing. Process flawed several years ago, but this time landowners came in early in the process, ready to fight, but he watched evolution over the night from upset turning into happiness to be part of the process, cool to see. Message now is conceptual: want to connect Point A to B. How could we incentivize this? Engagement is now happening and in early stages of planning; this was missing last time. How *do* you talk to landowners? Katie M has been talking to landowners and they are mostly saying okay. Reid says they reached out to all landowners who were on the map, which probably drove the engagement. Katie M's done a great job. Marti learned a lot from presentation boards: options for crossings, lot of work went into it. What about the costs? Who pays for it? Some from optional sales tax, some from grants. Active transportation and recreation trails (paved vs. dirt). Hopes and dreams, suggestions from community, trail interconnectivity: 3 to 4 years of building's been planned out already. As those are completed, more will be added, so still opportunities for new trails. Not a draft PDF yet.
- **Mud Springs Volunteer Dates and Discussion.** Going really well, contractor ahead of schedule, many volunteer days coming up. A 3/4 mile segment needs to be built by hand before machines can work. Taking volunteers Tues-Wed starting next week, open call for volunteers for Mud Springs. Two big gravel parking areas. Meet just off the highway.

Saturday, 27th, National Public Lands Day and October 18. Will be more open call days in October. Reid offers to bring a barbecue.

- Brendon says it's really cool to be part of building a new trail, adaptive, NICA, official single-track trail in San Juan County. Joy hefted a boulder on the Pipe Dream rebuild: now called "Joy's rock." Set aside a day for NICA kids. Work is all bench-cutting, route is flagged out, good opportunity for those who want to learn how to build trails.
- Master Plan nose just above water. Historic Trail Inventory: a digital inventory of historic trails, such as for moving cattle, etc. Not a good digital source for that; some parts of these are vanishing (e.g., juniper logs degrading).
- Mud Springs will close end of November. MMBA does a fall race series, racing out at Moab Brands, people will be riding really fast. Rusty Spur, Deadman's, Barbie, Lazy: an advanced course, a NICA discount, \$30 to participate.
- New attendee **Diego** started building trails with Tyson. Wants to give back, wants to get involved. Bike Fiend citizen **Mike**'s been here for 5 years, wants to get involved.

8. Member reports

- **BLM** (Katie Stevens via Zoom/Keri Nelson). Katie: BLM has started getting a right of way for Pipe Dream, possible disposal of public lands, some lands in the valley tagged, disposed of; Pipe Dream goes through some of those, securing a right of way. If those lands are disposed of, parts of Pipe Dream would remain. We want eyes on all things.
- Some people getting confused about Fisher Towers and Red Onion routes. SAR trying to hone in on where people are getting confused, perhaps they were tired, dehydrated, or it was a social trail they followed. Getting lost, turned around can have serious implications.
- Keri: getting better idea location of Isley's milkvetch (*Asragalus iselyi*) habitat. may require trail modification, making sure trails don't go where it's growing. Trailhead gravel put down at Mud Springs, plus boulders, posts, toilets scheduled to be put in next week, working on trailhead signs. NICA excited, wanted to see Mud Springs. No dedicated turn lane from 191. UDOT has a lot of similar locations needing added lanes. Mac MacDonald has been talking to UDOT. No set date for when it might happen. Brendon recommends continued pestering of UDOT, hoping to get UDOT officials to come out to inspect. What can we do to help this funding come along for a safer entry?
- Fisher Towers adding a loop trail to go around plants. Trail Ambassador Program funded until end of year. Jacques says majority of Commission not interested, so he formed a working group looking at what assets would go along with them, potential funding sources, other groups interested such as non-profits, CNHA. The Health Department partially funded Ambassadors, could perhaps become a home for them. Commissioner Melodie McCandless and Jacques see this as a matter of concern. Judy wants to still see their smiling faces at trailheads. Lost biking ambassadors, do you want that to come back? May not be operating at its full scope as previously, but want to see continuation. Emily was at Mud Springs doing paleo work, found none. Cody from San Juan provided an SAR perspective. Scott would be happy to be part of that conversation, build bridges with that community.
- **Forest Service** (Brian Murdock). GCATT wrapped up with installing last bridge. Some funding left over, paperwork figuring out how to use it now more complicated. Trail crew on till Oct 18. Let them stay on longer than 6 months? First two weeks of Oct. will work on Trans La-Sal: Tuk Springs Exit Trail, bit of a UTV trail to get in there, but otherwise a whole new trail. Mon-Thurs, workers camping out. Still in Stage 1 of fire restrictions. Loop Road liaison says they need to put seal on: the only full closure remaining.
- **NPS** (Sam Hodges not present). Any questions should go to Brendon to pass along to him.
- **State Parks** (Brad Walker). Getting self-educated about drinking water, water rights, making their way, time-consuming. Russian thistle a bane of their existence. Doing a trail inventory, lots of operations, building from ground up. Oct 16 will meet with UDOT about a paved trail connector to Moab Giants and discussing a bridge crossing the highway. Campgrounds getting busier. E-bikes allowed on their mountain bike trails, adaptive trails. Next thing is how can we get more hiking and biking, need input for Master Plan. Kirstin says if you put in designated hiking trails, people will come. The wash is a big issue, recently pulled out three Toyota Camrys. Would like to develop the quarry for interpretation.
- **County** (Jacques Hadler via Zoom) Started Trail Ambassador working group, meeting weekly.
- **City** (Patrick Trim not here, receiving a vehicle) Working on making 300 South crossing safer, has little tractor to help clean up sand at Robin Groff bike park.
- **SAR** (Scott Solle) Business up, including rescuing two climbers on Castleton Tower. Back from Beyond podcast on Spotify, Apple podcasts, Discover Moab. Episode One was on Castleton Tower, like and share! Total of six episodes. Jacques says he and his daughter listened to first episode, fantastic! On Porcupine Rim, SAR saved somebody's life, shout out to the crew, Air Medical. Got grant to get two more UTVs, will show them off at Outerbike (Oct 3-5),

educate people on mountain bike accidents. With fall season, trying to reach out to shuttle people to educate clients on SAR things, provide info to those who might need their services.

- **Sand Flats** (Andrea Brand) Budget and stewardship committee meetings, motorized trail committee concerning Slickrock and Fins and Things, two different ideas, Non-motorized Trail Master Plan, getting ideas to them. Seasonals coming back, including Matthew O. Film this fall on old growth pinyon-juniper forests of Colorado Plateau, films to be on Channel 6, three running right now. Revenue down 1.5 %. May was hotter earlier, so not too worried about it, was up 8% last year. Have seven new campsites, Raptor Route parking area, two new toilets, BLM has added campsites in B, C, and D (from H). Loops had enough toilets. Emily has been working on protecting, barricading more sauropod-like tracks on Hell's Revenge that have become exposed, need to add post-and-cable, pipe fences. Will apply for paving again, maybe just to Falcon Flow, keeping the dust down. Tyson had a fabulous ride on Kestrel, sat under metal roof during rain. More Star Party, Scorpion Hike, other Dark Sky events.
- **Chair** (Brendon Cameron) Outerbike first weekend in Oct. Hitting up bike shops, businesses for Oct 3 at 1:30 for the kid bike build under the big tent. Jason Taylor bringing them to Multi Cultural Center (to pick the kids), rest to Navajo Reservation.
- **Vice Chair** (Samantha Derbyshire) Shuttles picking up.
- **Secretary** (Kathy Grossman) Shout out to night hiking programs: star parties, moonlight, bat, and scorpion hikes, offered at various parks. Good for mental health to have cool alternative to July and August heat.
- **Biking** (David Glover) NICA kids who work for him (at Moab Cyclery) saying, When will we have jump trails?
- **Roped Activities** (Faith Dickey) Survey for roped activities, shared responses, hopes to keep it live for a while. Fall is when lots of climbers come to Moab, recirculate survey then. Surprised no one complained about user conflicts. New canyoneering book coming out with 160 (!) new canyons covered, time to look at hiking trails for these. Rope swinging companies, a few new ones opened, so 3 to 4 now in town. [Rope Swing Moab offers bachelorette parties.] Guiding really slow, hoping in fall things will improve.
- **Equestrian** (Marti Bauer) Update on Stephen: at Denver's National Jewish Hospital where a team specializing in and doing primary research on his disease. On the 20th, had a workday in La Sal on Burl Friends Trail. At Medicine Lake, hoping to install posts, hitching rails, for incoming travelers who want to camp with their horses. Brian hopes to deliver hitching rails.
- **Hiking** (Kya Marienfeld up in Orem with baby Arthur, Judy Brawer filling in) Panel looking at differences in interconnectedness, improving recreational access, when you'd use which kind of access in what circumstances. Recreation Summit coming.
- **Trail Running** (Matthew Olding) 11 running events, 4,000+ finishers. Coming up, John Wayne True Grit Series fundraiser at Professor Valley; Arches Marathon (626 signed up) at Behind the Rocks; then Moab 240 (miles) down to Abajos, to La Sals, on Oct 10.
- **Active Transportation** (Emily Lessner) Over 400 responded to survey, homeowners and long-time residents looking for connectivity, safety (personal, weather, crossing). Lots of bike focus, didn't have sidewalk connectivity data. Joy has been seeing sandwich boards with QR codes about pedestrian bump-outs and safety.
- **At Large**
 - **Tim Rau.** Rode Loop Road on gravel road, doesn't want chip seal added. Working on Pipe Dream.
 - **Mark Howe.** MMBA putting on Moab Ho Down Mountain Bike Festival, race on Ahab, mechanics clinics, costume party, jump jam, working on park to get it ready. Tyson: hoping to have multiple adaptive group rides, bring in adaptive community, working on logistics.
 - **Colin Topper.** Alerting Katie Stevens that UDOT conducting survey at Dogwood and 191 this fall. [BLM office is on Dogwood.] First East paving happening next week [as sidewalks now getting poured]. Uranium Drive now open. You can now go under 300 South bridge. Holdup is City looking for funding for whole bridge replacement, it's sectioned, so collects lots of debris in floods, a \$12 million project. Samantha asked about timeline for this replacement bridge. Hopefully sooner than later, federal lobbyist should help get us funding for this since we're a gateway community.
 - First round of bids coming in for sidewalk repair, plus adding sidewalks where there haven't been sidewalks. Bump outs [or curb extensions/modifications that project into the roadway, improving pedestrian safety] on Main Street intersections look bad, like they came from somebody's backyard. Complaints that it's harder to turn right: a very car-centric approach. Present bump outs are temporary, and will be replaced, signage added. Now have delays on traffic lights to allow pedestrians to get out and be seen. "Bridge to Nowhere" will be used in Skunk Alley on Pack Creek.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 1:05. Maps and charts brought by Tyson for perusal.
NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 11 a.m.