

Urban Trails Committee
Minutes – October 8, 2019

Present: Orin Zyvan, David Lehmann, Sarah Johnson, Shana Wade, Dr. Kristin Heumann, Andy Gingrich, Devon Balet, Steve Meyer

Not Present:

Also Present: Lance Gloss, Associate Planner for the City of Grand Junction, Vara Kursal, Horizon Drive Business Improvement District, Chris Dorboski, City of Grand Junction GIS' Paul Jagim, City of Grand Junction, Libby Collins, Colorado West Land Trust, Steve Carter, Pat Kennedy, public, Trent Prall – Grand Junction Public Works Director, Brandon Stam, DDA Executive Director, Jane Quimby, Board member of Colorado West Land Trust and Michele Rohrbach, One Riverfront Staff

Chair, Orin Zyvan called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm at City Hall.

Agenda amendment: Need to add reappointment of co-chairs. Kristin/Sarah. Motion passed.

Announcements – Orin announced that Paul Jagim is leaving the City. He has accepted a position with a consultant who works with the Department of Energy.

Community Streets Event – October 19th

Mesa County Long Range Plan – second meeting October 28th at Central Library from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

David said bicycle and pedestrian counts completed last month. Hope can meet with Paul before he leaves at the end of the week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Consideration of September 10, 2019 minutes

Action: Kristin motioned to approve the minutes. Steve seconded.

NOMINATION OF NEW CO-CHAIRS – David suggested that Gary become Chair and Orin become Vice Chair. Gary said he'd be happy if Orin continued as Chair because of all the connections he's made. Orin is fine with the status. David motioned for Orin to stay as Chair. Sarah second. Motion unanimously passed. Shana motioned to keep Gary as Vice Chair. Devon second. Motion unanimously passed.

Discussion Items

DDA Plan of Development Update – Brandon talked about the Artline project that the DDA is working with Grand Junction Parks and Rec Department that will go from downtown to the river. Another idea is to convert 4th and 5th Streets back to two ways from one way. Breezeway reactivation and a plaza for events so not having to constantly close off Main Street for events. David asked about the 9th, 12th and South Street for bikes not really lining up with UTC's way finding signs. Brandon explained that residents suggested 9th Street as a different point of connectivity. He stated that cost associated with 7th Street could be more expensive due to railroad crossing and the possibility of a bridge. He hopes that the plan doesn't just sit on a shelf. There is still an opportunity to give feedback. Brandon stated I-70B that the public had input and that CDOT will see an alternate vision for the plan rather than just a blighted thoroughfare. Looking at ways to create quiet barriers along sidewalks to make more comfortable for pedestrians. Brandon did state that they did recommend a way-finding plan. Plan will go for adoption before City Council on November 6th.

Colorado West Land Trust Update – Water Tank Properties now know as Redlands 360. Libby introduced Jane Quimby and stated that Jane is designated contact here for LaPlata, developer of the property (has projects over in Colorado Springs). Jane gave a history of the property and the project. Want to make the project where community has input, knows not all will be happy with what the developer has planned. Size of property is 640 acres. 40 acres of BLM is outside the boundaries. Libby showed a draft plan. Jane said that there are LaPlata projects that are contiguous to the 640 acres. She added that there are challenges to development due to topography. Orin asked about guiding principal for development. Jane stated that there will be parks and trails but some of the current trails aren't sustainable for the future. There won't be fences to keep people out, want the community to have access. Libby talked about CWLT's open space plan and that they have been working with Mr. MacGregor since 2014 on a plan. She stated they have been meeting with other groups to see what areas would be open space (the ridgeline shown on the map). CWLT was approved to the Enterprise Zone. Have seed money to jump start the project and fee acquisition for conservation easements. Will be trying to keep access open. The property will connect into the Monument Trail Connection to create a 10-mile loop.

Kristin ask how the project will be marketed. Jane said need a concept before marketing project. It will be a master planned community with various densities since it's an infill project.

Hope to start moving dirt in December. Ten to twenty year project but concept plan should be done by the end of the year. Some of the land is in the county and needs to be annexed into the City.

Orin stated that UTC would be beneficial with reviewing connectivity and safe routes. Kristin stated parking will be an issue with people living in the area not wanting people from other areas parking in neighborhoods.

Jane stated once concept plan done, she will be meeting with people/groups. Currently there is a great deal of misinformation and rumors out there.

Kristin asked if LaPalata has done any Community Gardens in any of their other projects. Jane said no but it is a great idea.

Orin thanked Libby and Jane. Both agreed to stay for informal questions after the meeting.

Update on CO State Park Fees – Orin talked about meeting with Pete Firmin with CPW and how CPW doesn't have taxpayer funding to maintain trails or build trails. He now thinks need to changed tone and see if other entities could help with CPW funding shortfall. He asked people to think about and will discuss at future meeting. Shana suggested a tiered rate for walkers and bikers. Add to next month's agenda.

Update on Community Streets Event – Still need a volunteer for the 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the UTC booth.

Other Business/Public Comment –

Edgewater at 5:00pm on Thursday as a Paul's farewell.

Vara brought "Vote on 2A Yes" bumper stickers.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.