

## **Urban Trails Committee Minutes**

**June 10, 2020**

Absent Committee Members:

Present: Orin Zyvan (Chair), Gary Stubler (Vice Chair), Andrew Gingerich, David Lehmann (virtual), Shana Wade, Kristin Heumann, Sarah Johnson, Steve Meyer (virtual), Rob Davis (City Forester)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Orin Zyvan called the meeting to order at 5:34 and thanked the Committee for meeting in person. He also noted that this would be the last meeting for many of the committee members. Lance explained that 5 seats are opening on the committee, and that interviews would be held by City Council members for new UTC members the week of June 21.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sarah Johnson moved to adopt the draft minutes. Kristin Heumann seconded. A vote yielded unanimous approval.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gary announced that new trail section had been completed in Fruita, where the connector on Raptor Road has also been made more “user friendly.”

Lance informed the committee that progress continues on closing the C ½ Rd gap in the Colorado Riverfront Trail.

Lance informed the committee that Public Works and Community Development have some staff shortages that are not currently being filled due to COVID.

Andrew indicated that RTPD was looking to allocate further Multimodal Option Funds, and that these were likely to be disbursed for the trail connection at approximately 24 Rd and G Rd up to Canyon View Park. Lance gave some detail about this proposed trail connection.

Orin informed the committee that Ross Mittelman of Mesa County Public Health was working with County traffic engineers to develop a wayfinding grant application.

Andrew noted that the UTC Priorities List was used to aid in decision-making for MMOF grants.

Orin announced that Joe Brown has joined the Department of Parks and Recreation . Rob Davis provided further background on Mr. Brown.

### **Thank Departing Committee Members**

Orin thanked departing committee members.

Kristen, Gary, and Sarah commented on their departures. The timing of Steve’s appointment cycle was clarified.

## **Elect Interim Vice Chair**

Lance explained the need to have an interim Vice Chair and that the options for vice chair were essentially Andrew and Shana.

Andrew commented on the potential complications of his role at RTPO and UTC.

Gary Stubler nominated Shana Wade for interim Vice Chair. Sarah seconded. Shana was unanimously voted into the role of interim vice chair, to serve until October.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Discuss Community Streets Event 2020**

Orin provided background on the leadup to the 2019 Community Streets Event and the ongoing critique that the event may have strayed from a mission associated with multimodal transportation, and evolved into more of a street fair.

Orin shared pictures and some background on Tactical Urbanism and similar interventions to invigorate public space through physical and artistic interventions. Lance provided some further background on the nature and spread of tactical urbanism.

UTC discussed options for possible events or design interventions, downtown or elsewhere, that could be used to promote multi-modal transportation.

Discussed which departments and other entities could be supportive of a design intervention to promote multi-modal transportation, including DDA, and City of Grand Junction Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Community Development Departments, and School District 51.

2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Streets, and 10<sup>th</sup> Street were identified as possible locations, potentially in combination.

Resource needs, such as paint, plant materials, parklet setups, and other materials were highlighted.

Discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on both the forthcoming Community Streets Event for 2021 and on transportation decisions in general. Sarah indicated a need to maximize flexibility for planning and materials given an anticipated surge in COVID-19 spread. Andrew highlighted the idea that COVID-19 may also create new and interesting opportunities for multi-modal.

Discussion of possible digital platforms and data gathering as means of replacing the gathering aspect of Community Streets Event. The need for a social media point-person (City and/or County) was identified.

Discussion of past Walking and Biking Summit, and the need to diversify that opportunity and potentially reinstate the Summit on a tri-annual basis.

Kristin shifted the discussion to narrow down the purpose of the event. Key themes from this portion of the discussion were that the purpose is to promote active transportation through an intervention; that the scope should be kept narrow; the budget low and/or flexible; several strong partners are needed; the essential mechanism would be to activate a street; that there should be a low-key launch event but it should be tied to a longer-term intervention; and that social media would be a key component.

Rob Davis discussed opportunities for nature play park street interventions, using plant material, but also highlighted potentially high costs and the need for maintenance/volunteers.

Kristen Heumann proposed that the purpose of the event be “to activate a multi-modal street use,” and motioned to formally do so. Shana seconded.

#### **Impromptu Item – CDOT Landscaping impacts**

Rob Davis requested a change to the schedule to allow for discussion of CDOT plans for new configuration at intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> and Grand. Specifically, he asked for UTC to support a change to the plan that would allow an existing Burr Oak and an existing \_\_\_\_\_. UTC membership generally voiced support and will review the situation in order to voice their position to CDOT.

#### **Discuss Format of proposed Policy Priorities and Low-Cost Improvements List documents**

Orin introduced the item.

Gary suggested that a future list be simply an ideas list, without criteria for what should or should not make it on the list. This was generally supported by members.

Kristin indicated that reviews and lists might best be accomplished on bi-annual or tri-annual basis.

Andrew suggested that a variety of distinct lists is useful because of the specificity and accessibility of such lists, relative to an unorganized compilation of ideas.

Kristin endorsed a more focused policy approach, with potential revisions to the existing Complete Streets Policy.

Kristin moved to create three documents: an *actionable items list* and a *policy review schedule* and a *multi-modal idea list*. Gary seconded the motion. A vote unanimously approved the motion.

#### **UPDATES**

None at this time.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of non-staff, non-committee public in attendance.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Orin adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.