

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Urban Trails Committee

Minutes
July 14, 2015

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair, Biz Collins. Those present from the Committee were:

Julie Sabin	Dr. Kristen Heumann	Max Schmidt
Jeff Kuhr, Ph.D	Biz Collins	Dan Fitzgerald
David Lehmann		

Also present Kathy Portner and Trent Prall with City of Grand Junction, Vara Kusal with the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District, Bennett Boeschstein, City GJ Council Member, Terri Wentzlaff, John Hodge, Jeff Fleming, Jeral Premier, Jerry Clark, Lindsay Murdoch, Cindi Clark, Jody Kliska, all public and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Jody Kliska was at the June meeting. Kristen notated that there was an error UCT when it should say UTC. Julie/Jeff. Motion passed.

Announcements – The Innovative Bicycle Facility Treatment Webinar – 7/20 at 9:30am.
CDOT meeting on PEL Study – 7/28 – 6pm to 7:30pm

New Business – Complete Streets Policy (short slide show from Smart Growth America) – Biz gave an overview of what Complete Streets are and stated that the City currently has an informal policy and UTC would like to work towards putting together a formal policy to forward onto the City Council. Kathy said the website has great resources and has a local policy handbook of how to develop a Complete Streets Policy. Jody said it's not one "special" street project. It's incremental and more of how to move people not cars. Group needs to work on performance measures – systematic collection and reporting of data, ensure compliance with policy goals, and enables informed decisions. Discussed what would be exceptions – cost, easements/land acquisition, buildings needing to be purchased, speed of road. Dan asked what the first step would be. Kathy said it would be up to UTC to work on a policy that ~~then can~~ would be put forth as a resolution for City Council consideration. ~~She said ultimately having resolution go before for City Council.~~

Bicycle Friendly City presentation update – Biz ~~talked~~ briefed the UTC about ~~a the~~ League of American Bicyclists ~~presented presentation to City Council of a the~~ Bicycle Friendly ~~certificate~~ and signs that will be placed at the entrances to the City where the Tree USA City signs are City designation. They gave the City a list of feedback of the designation the City was provided feedback on improvements that ~~they feel the City needs to work on~~ could be made to move up in the rating system.

Discussed I-70B improvements – Trent said CDOT is working on section from Rim Rock to American Way and the First Street Intersection. ~~#The reduced scope~~ freed up several millions of dollars ~~since they don't have to build three lanes in each way that will be used to design the section through downtown. They will use the freed up funds to start design work on the next section.~~ Trent said CDOT would not support on-street parking on Ute and Pitkin. Trent talked about a design he saw at the Stapleton redevelopment project. Biz said that UTC will try to work some of the suggestions into the strategic plan.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

User Map – Kathy said Steve gave her a copy of the latest version of the map. Will send an electronic version out to everyone for review. Want to refine over the winter and have a good map next spring in time for Bike to Work Month.

Bike to Work Month & Bike to Work Day wrap up – Biz said there was a full month of events. Want to do another kick-off event next year. ~~Would like to~~ and do something more for a proclamation with Mesa County. Kathy said there ~~was~~ were about over 200 people downtown, Horizon Drive had about 30, and Rocky Mountain Health Plan did one just for their employees, they had about 50. Fruita did a flash ride.

Chelsea said that there was a huge increase in participation in the business and commuter challenge. Mesa County won the trophy for Bike to Work Day employee ride. Vara said the afternoon snow cone event was very successful. Thanked Jeff for Chelsea's participation.

Suggested maybe having a Community Ride from Lincoln Park or CMU. ~~Didn't have any takers from the Health Department.~~

Strategic Plan Revisions – Biz said last time group looked at the plan was April. There is a place to list ongoing project so there is a history of project that has been worked on in the past. Michele reminded the group that she will be gone the month of September so perhaps the planning session would work for the strategic plan. Kathy will email the latest version and Julie would like to list the actions UTC is working on.

Letter of Support to City Council re: I-70B through downtown – Julie reminded everyone of the copy of the letter Biz drafted. Julie and Kristen said to remove the specific business names in paragraph two. Kathy said it would be good to have it out before the next meeting. Get comments into Biz by next week so she can finalize the letter. Bennett said to send a copy to the RTPD and to CDOT. Julie said that Kayla wrote a great letter to the editor

Mayor's Challenge – Biz ~~said want to just keep it on the surface.~~ She gave a brief description of what the challenge is: take a complete street approach, gather and tracking data, street design and uses, improvement safety issues.

Ridges Trail Planning – Julie said is working on a plan and process, just didn't have time for a meeting before tonight. Jeff and Julie to continue to work on it.

Julie mentioned Eric Marchese suggested a Bike Sharing project. Jody did an RFP when she still worked for the City. She had seven locations in mind. Eric suggested Horizon Drive as a place to start. Vara said that Browns Cycle is talking about putting together a beater program with old beaters painted bright colors and place them around town. Jody said there is lots of funding available for non-profits for a program.

There was no further old business.

Public Comment – Jeral asked if UTC has ever considered a huge ride like Tour of the Valley. Biz explained that UTC really doesn't have staff or a budget. She also showed a picture of signage she saw when she ran a 10k in Glenwood Springs. She complained about dogs being off leash and how they cause problems on the riverfront trail. She also showed a picture of a very narrow shoulder that is dangerous and how cars will actually run riders off the road. The three foot clearance rule isn't enforced in Mesa County.

Cindi talked about ~~education in the strategic plan and was there something to education~~ the need to educate motorists?. ~~Talked about~~ Suggested contacting the driving schools and driving education classes and the importance of signage. ~~Talked about signage used in other communities. That was one of the improvements as was~~ recommended in the Bicycle Friendly list. Kathy said she'd like to invite a GJPD officer to a UTC meeting to further discuss ~~what the officer would need to enforce the law~~ enforcement. Tennessee has a program with equipment that can measure how much space a driver gives a cyclist.

Cindi said she's been a commuter for over 40 years and 15 of those here in GJ and that Mesa County drivers are very rude. Jeff said that there isn't a very good advocacy in Mesa

Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:10pm.