

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Urban Trails Committee

Minutes November 10, 2015

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by co-chair, Dr. Kristin Heumann. Those present from the Committee were:

Biz Collins Dr. Kristin Heumann Dave Lehmann Eric Marchese

Also present Kathy Portner, Trent Prall and Paul Jagim with City of Grand Junction, Vara Kusal with the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District (BID), Terri Wenslaff, John Hodge, Steve Carter, Kent Leinbach, Nancy & Dan Ford, Lindsay Murdoch, and Jody Kliska, public and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Quorum not present.

Announcements – RFC closed November 11th, 26th and 27th.

IGA meeting Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm

Colorado Gives Day Firkin Tap – Monday, December 7th at Kannah Creek, 5:30pm to 7:00pm
(Give always during the event)

New Business –

Strategic Plan – Kristin passed around a revised copy for review. Tabled because quorum not present.

2016 Action Items and Work Plan – Kristin passed around a list of 2015 accomplished and 2016 items. She would like to develop a calendar to put each item on to make sure it is addressed. Michele asked about the 3rd Walking and Biking Summit in 2017 and if held, will need to start process in 3rd quarter of next year.

Coordination with Mesa County Bicycling Alliance – David attended their meeting. Their group was interested in learning more about what UTC is doing. David told them that UTC is not an advocacy group but advisory for the City. John Hodge said the group is more into fixes and repairs where as Grand Valley Bikes is more about getting the word out like the “Share the Road” campaign.

Outdoor Recreation Coalition – meeting on Thursday at Spring Hill Suites Hotel. Didn’t have further information since Julie was unable to attend. Will resend Julie’s email.

Currently have two vacancies – Eric turned in his resignation tonight. Group is sad to see him go. Encouraged public in attendance and UTC members to seek out potential members. Officer Keech had indicated that there might be some GJPD staff interested. Kathy suggested having PD be an ad hoc member to attend quarterly. Applications can be found at www.gjcity.org, click on Volunteer Boards.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Safe Routes to School Grant – Mesa County is working on a Safe Routes to School application for education as a larger cultural change, including adaptive PE and including middle schools and charter schools (K-8). The program might include Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays and more parent involvement. David will meet with Biz later to learn more about Safe Routes to School.

LOI Bike Share Program – Lindsay Murdoch had found a grant opportunity for a bike share feasibility study. A letter of intent is due on Friday and Biz is looking for assistance and is hoping that Horizon Drive BID and Colorado Mesa University (CMU) will be partners.

Follow up on the 16 Colorado Beautiful Trails – Still waiting to hear back from the State.

Smart Growth America Technical Assistance – The timing wasn't right for the City to put in an application. Discussed other ways to move forward on own – perhaps holding another work session and reviewing other communities. Board is interested in doing a work session on Complete Streets in February or March.

Urban Trails Master Plan Update Process – Kristin passed out copies of the UTC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Priorities as well as the current Urban Trails Master Plan and the proposed 2013 Plan. The City Council has requested the UTC work on an update to the Urban Trails Master Plan within the Persigo 201 area, emphasizing major connections that are needed. Kathy suggested having work sessions at UTC meetings to start the revision process. Kristin commented on the need for better north/south connections. Eric suggested getting feedback from outside groups as the revision process proceeds.

Kristin proposed doing a work session in December to work on priority list and brainstorming of the UTC Master Plan.

Trent reported that 1st Street improvement from Ouray to North Avenue will be designed in 2016 and constructed in 2016/2017. UTC will be kept in the loop. Sidewalk improvements along West Orchard Avenue near Westlake Park will be constructed in 2016 as a Safe Routes to School project funded by CDBG. The Highway 50 B ½ Road overpass will be improved in 2016 through a grant from CDOT convert one vehicle travel lane to a separated pedestrian/bike lane.

John Hodge asked about the Riverfront Trail extension from 27 ½ Road to 29 Road. Michele stated that two landowners are not interested in working with the RFC at this time. Discussed the safety issue at 29 Road and the need for an underpass at 29 Road. Michele stated this is an issue with State Parks as to why it can't proceed.

Trent stated City is still working with Mesa Land Trust on the Monument Road trail.

There was no further old business.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 6:45pm.