

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Urban Trails Committee (UTC)

Minutes June 14, 2016

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Vice Chair, David Lehmann. Those present from the Committee were:

David Lehmann, Vice Chair	Julie Sabin	Max Schmidt
Shana Wade	Dan Fitzgerald	Orin Zyvan
Biz Collins		

Also present Kathy Portner, Trent Prall, Paul Jagim with City of Grand Junction, Vara Kusal with the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District (BID), Jody Kliska, public Bennett Boeschstein, City of Grand Junction City Council member, Kent Lienbach, public and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Max/Julie. Motion passed.

Announcements – Michele reminded everyone about the March Fourth Marching Band Concert tomorrow night. Welcomed new members and did introductions.

New Business – Walk Friendly Communities Designation (WFCD) – Jody Kliska introduced the Walk Friendly Community Designation and thought it would compliment the City's Bicycle Friendly Community Designation (BFCD). The process is similar to the BFCD application. The first application deadline is tomorrow which is too soon, but the next round is December. Kathy suggested having a subcommittee review the application and make a recommendation to UTC. Shana, Vara, David and Max volunteered. Julie and Orin said they will be happy to fill in too. David asked all those that volunteered to get on the website and start to review the application.

Jody reported that she and Biz will be meeting with Kristin Heumann to see if she has students to work on walk audits for the SRTS grant.

Old Business –

Active Transportation Corridor Master Plan – Kathy showed the latest version of the revised plan. One addition to the plan is the F ½ Road corridor to provide access to the new Community Hospital area. Kent commented that the 24 Road connection from the River to Canyonview Park is critical. That connection is a tier one priority for UTC. Julie was concerned that CDOT refused to allow a crosswalk on North Avenue at the VA Hospital.

Biz commented on the importance of 29 ½ Road since the Health Department is right there and the lack of good north/south connections from Downtown. There is also the need for better wayfinding signage. UTC emphasized the importance of Ranchman's Ditch along Patterson

Road as a safe detached bike/ped option. Shana asked how the various corridors were prioritized and emphasized the importance of Orchard Avenue.

The Active Transportation Corridor Master Plan will be a part of the Grand Valley Circulation Plan. The review process will include stakeholder meetings before taking it to the public in late summer.

Complete Street Policy – Kathy distributed the final draft of the policy and explained the proposed Exceptions section. Biz suggested including specific distances or percentages for exceptions. Trent said that the Regional Transportation Office (RTPO) is also considering a Complete Street Policy.

Dan suggested taking the Complete Street Policy through the process ahead of the Grand Valley Circulation Plan. Max offered to provide a tour of irrigation facilities to look at opportunities.

Bike to Work Month Activities – The kick-off event went well with a good turn-out, especially from the library. Biz lead the ride. Kathy reminded everyone that next Wednesday is Bike to Work Day. Breakfast will be served at City Hall Horizon Drive and Fruita starting at 6:30 a.m.

Vara provided an update on the Horizon Drive events. At the Bike Repair Party 15 bikes were repaired by Chris Brown. He told Vara that he has several folks who brought their bikes in for full blown work. The Hump Day Parties (4pm – 6pm) need some refinement because people think they need to have a bike. The prize wheel has been great.

After Glow at Edgewater – free beer if wearing t-shirt and/or have a helmet.

Shana said that the branches are reporting that more kids are bringing in their punch cards. All libraries have helmets. If a kid gets 10 punches they get free admittance to one of the area pools. The Grand Junction Police officers are giving out free ice cream coupons to kids they see riding with their helmets. Monday, June 20th at 4:30pm bicycle movie at the Palisade Branch. Chris Brown will be giving a talk at the central library on the 20th.

Kathy pulled up the Healthy Mesa County website showing the calendar of events and business challenge.

There was no further old business.

Public Comment – Kent asked about Horizon Drive and stated how dangerous it is for bicyclists and pedestrians. Trent spoke about the current construction on Horizon with the two new roundabouts and with each phase of construction will be making it friendlier and safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Biz reminded the group that tonight was Dan and Julie's last night as UTC members. Julie feels that she's leaving with many accomplishments. Dan hopes to come back later when life and work slow down. The group thanked them both for their time and work.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next agenda – Active Transportation Maps