

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Urban Trails Committee (UTC)

Minutes May 9, 2017

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair, Dr. Kristin Heumann. Those present from the Committee were:

David Lehmann, Vice Chair
Orin Zyvan

Shana Wade
Max Schmidt

Dr. Kristin Heumann, Chair
Biz Collins

Also present were Kathy Portner, Trent Prall, Paul Jagim – City of Grand Junction, Kelsey Fife with Mesa County Health Department, Vera Kursal and Jay Moss, Horizon Drive Business District, John Hodge and Michele Nelson, Mesa County Bicycle Alliance (MCBA), Jody Kliska, Bennett Boeschstein, GJ City Council, Steve Carter, Mathew Lucero and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Approved with correction on last page referencing “accident data”.
Motion: Biz/David; passed (6-0).

Announcements – Michele announced that the first Colorado Riverfront Concert Series is Thursday, May 25th, Tinsley Ellis – Blues is Dead; other concert dates are June 8th – Big Sam’s Funky Nation and June 29th – the Fabulous Thunderbirds.

Tour of the Moon Byway designation was passed.

Max Schmidt is hosting a tour of the Orchard Mesa canal system on May 10th. Biz, Shana, Orin, David and Michele indicated they were planning on attending.

Horizon Drive Trail--Jay Moss, President of the Horizon Drive Business District gave a presentation of what they would like to see along Horizon Drive to get people out and around the area. They are working with DOLA to have students develop concepts for the trail system along the waterways. Jay said that much of the trail is currently being used. Kristin stated that the UTC would like to see the project move forward. Jay said the District has some funds to work with Ciavonne & Associates for plan design. Bennett stated that it has been discussed since 1992. Jody stated that it is included on the Urban Trails Master Plan.

Jay added that they would like to use it as part of an Art Program and have pieces of artwork placed along the trail for tourists and residents. Kristin suggested that the design include emergency access.

Bylaws Amendment—At a previous meeting, UTC had discussed amending the bylaws to include representatives from Mesa County Public Health and Mesa County Regional Transportation Office (RTPO) on an ongoing basis.

Kathy recommended having two of the nine UTC members be representatives of the RTPPO and Mesa County Health Department if possible. David suggested keeping it at nine citizen board members, with the addition of two more members from the organizations. Kristin doesn't think having two additional citizen members are really necessary but having two from the agencies would be beneficial. David asked if they would be voting members or not. Kristin said they would be voting members. David asked if they would represent themselves or the RTPPO and Mesa County Health Department. Biz said she will need to take back to the RTPPO to have it put on their June agenda. Kathy has spoken with Jeff Kuhr about the Mesa County Health Department and he is for having a representative. Kristin asked for a vote to have 2 of the 9 members be representatives from RTPPO and Mesa County Public Health. Both positions would be subject to same terms as written in the Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

Bicycle Month Activities – The kick-off event is Wednesday June 7th at 5:30pm, with Gelu Italian Ice from 5:30pm to 6:00pm, Proclamation at 6:00pm and a family ride to follow. Kathy suggested having a ribbon cutting for the B ½ overpass trail during Bike Month. Shana said the Library is doing events at each of the branch libraries. Orin suggested providing maps of biking routes to the bike shops.

Purpose and Need Statement for data collection – Paul passed out a draft version of a purpose and needs statement. He stated that the City has been gathering data and would like to get input from UTC to expand the scope of data collection. It will be important to establish consistent count locations. Kathy suggested incorporating the data collection efforts with other surveys the Mesa County Health Department will be doing. Kelsey said that past surveys focused on recreational transportation rather than active transportation.

PSAs – Biz asked the group for feedback on the PSAs. The City will work with Mesa County Public Health to release the PSAs during Bike Month.

Open Streets – The group discussed having the Open Streets event in October, but not during Homecoming week. It would tie in with October being Mav Month downtown and, hopefully, have participation by CMU and Downtown. Orin showed a video of Sundays Portland Parkways. Kathy stated that Sunday might be a good day. Paul and Kathy will look into the logistics of having the event on 10th Street between North Avenue and Main Street. Kristin asked that this be added to next month's agenda to further discuss, including ideas for potential grants. Michele suggested approaching the Outdoor Recreation Coalition since it's made up of many local businesses. Kathy said she and Paul will get better numbers and bring back to the group next month.

Grand Valley Circulation Plan (GVCP) –Nothing new to report.

Safe Routes to School – Jody said that the grant is almost completed. They have met with Steve Shultz to update him on the program and discuss the School District staying involved. They were at two events - April 22nd and 27th and gave away 180 helmets. Paul commented that the walk audits provided a great list of recommended improvements.

Kathy reported that the City Council recommended CDBG funding for the top two UTC priorities, Bookcliff and Nisley. The ones funded last year are out to bid now.

Other business – Kathy asked the group to think about 7th Street and how to make it a safe connection from Downtown to Las Colonias. (Add to agenda next month). Orin said stripping and sweeping would go a long way, as well as warning signs for the railroad tracks.

Public Comment – John said the Monument is putting up Dynamic Signals up on the east hill.

Adjournment – 7:00pm