

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

Urban Trails Committee (UTC)

Minutes June 13, 2017

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Vice Chair, David Lehmann. Those present from the Committee were:

David Lehmann, Vice Chair	Shana Wade
Max Schmidt	Biz Collins
Orin Zyvan	

Also present were Kathy Portner, Trent Prall, Paul Jagim – City of Grand Junction, Kelsey Fife with Mesa County Public Health, Vera Kursal, Horizon Drive Business District, John Hodge and Michele Nelson, Mesa County Bicycle Alliance (MCBA)/public, Bennett Boeschstein, Grand Junction City Council member, Mathew Lucero, public and Michele Rohrbach.

Announcements – There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes – Biz/Max, motion passed.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony-- B ½ overpass on Friday, June 15, 2017 at 9:00am, east end of the overpass. Park at Auto Zone.

7th Street to Las Colonias – Improvements are needed for pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Biz suggested that the bike lane needs to be connected all the way to Main Street. David said dashed lines going through the intersections would be helpful for cyclists. Orin commented that the railroad tracks are also an issue and difficult for cyclists and pedestrians due to the gaps in the tracks. Bennett commented that Denver is using rubberized stanchions for protected bike lanes. It was suggested that a good first improvement would be to add signage similar to the 10th Street signage indicating the distance between the Riverfront and downtown and directional signage south of Riverside Parkway to the Riverfront trail. Regular sweeping of the bike lane along 7th is also needed.

Bike Month Activities – Kelsey reported that about 20 attended the City Council proclamation and 14 went on the family ride at the Kick off Event. The Library is doing a number of events during the month. Fruita will be doing two breakfasts – one at Heritage Park (TexMex) and at the Civic Center Park. Forty-four have signed up for the commuter challenge. Half have turned in their mileage for the first week. So far, 10 businesses have signed up for the Business Challenge and she is working on getting more businesses to participate. The After Glow will be on June 28th and Shana reported on several events at the library, including a film in Palisade and at the Central Library, punch cards for pool passes and helmet give away.

Monument Road Trail Project Update– Trent provided an overview of the trail alignment and trailhead improvement options for the Monument Road corridor and Lunch Loops parking lot. The City has been invited to apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Connect Grant for the project. Final application is due early Fall with awards by the end of the year.

Open Streets Events – Kathy suggested coordinating with events happening in October during Mavs month. Downtown will be doing an Arts festival the weekend of October 6th and 7th. After some discussion on whether to do it on Saturday or Sunday, it was decided to plan for Saturday, October 7th to coincide with the downtown events, including the art show and Comic Con hosted by the Library at Two Rivers Convention Center. Biz said she has some funds available for Walking and Wheeling Week and Parent Engagement Events that she might be able to include in the Open Streets Event.

Paul shared a street closure plan for 10th Street, with the exception of Gunnison and Grand, at a cost of approximately \$1,200. There wouldn't be any flaggers on either street so people would have to proceed with caution through the intersection.

Orin suggested posters, signs and maybe door hangers announcing the event. Discussion included having vendors/food trucks and entertainment along the way, with anchors at Washington Park and Downtown. David suggested having a subcommittee to work out the details. Biz, Orin, David, Michele and Shana volunteered for the subcommittee and will meet before the next UTC meeting. Michele will send out a notice to schedule a meeting.

Grand Valley Circulation Plan (GVCP) – Kathy said nothing new to report. Once the City's Strategic Plan is completed, this will move forward with focus group meetings.

Safe Routes to School – Biz said the program is completed and there are still funds left for Walking and Wheeling Week and Parent Engagement and hopes it will dovetail nicely with the Open Streets Event.

Other Business – The group thanked Max for the tour of the Orchard Mesa Irrigation system. It was very informative and Max offered to do additional tours in the future.

Orin asked if UTC could or should get involved in commenting on air quality issues. Kathy indicated that UTC, as an advisory group to the City Council, could send the Council a letter stating their concerns with air quality and how it impacts urban trail users. David suggested Orin do some research and bring something back for UTC's consideration.

Public Comment – John Hodge had suggested moving the public comments to the beginning of the meetings since there are times when there is not enough of time for public comment. He thinks it would be more inviting and welcoming and that it could be kept at a maximum time allowed. Committee members had a general discussion on the main focus of the meeting being for committee members to discuss agenda items and the concern that having public comment at the beginning might not allow for getting through the business agenda in a timely fashion. Direction was given to find other ways to gather public comment through a website.

An Open House for the Palisade Plunge will be held at 5:30pm on June 15th at the Palisade Community Center.

Thanks was given to the City for fixing the bike station at Las Colonias.

David asked if could just drop the “Innovative ideas” and just have public comment. Kathy and Michele said a UTC member asked for it to be posted that way.

Adjournment – 7:00pm.