

GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 16, 2015
4:00 pm

7th Floor City Hall, Room 7096

Old City Hall (Fifth and Marquette NW, Albuquerque, NM)

Members Present: John Thomas, Ian Maddison, William Schimberg, Tyler Ashton, Warren Wild

Members Absent: Valerie Cole

Advisory Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Christina Sandoval (COA - Parks and Recreation), Carol Dumont (COA – Parks and Recreation) Carrie Barkhurst (Planning), Matt Schmader (COA - Open Space Division),

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Jackie Bouker, Julie Luna, Kathleen Rhode, Mark Aasmundstad., Jill Mosher (NMDOT), John Barncastle,

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson John Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m.

Approval of June 16, 2015 Agenda

Motion to approve made and approved.

Approval of May 19, 2015 Minutes

Motion to approve made and approved.

Approval of April 21, 2015 Minutes

Motion to approve made and approved.

General Announcements: Discussion among Committee members regarding proposal to not have the July 21st meeting due to vacation schedules resulted in motion made and approved to not meet in July. Next meeting will be August 18, 2015.

William Schimberg has not resigned from GARTC, nor has his appointment expired. Chairperson Thomas stated that the Committee still has two vacancies, one for Active Elderly and one for Physically Challenged and paperwork is in the Mayor's office.

New Business/Update Items/Presentations (None scheduled for this month)

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

- **Letter to Mayor and Police Chief** – A draft of the proposed GARTC letter regarding trail safety was read and reviewed. Chair Thomas stated that Terri O'Hare had added paragraph #4. Committee discussed and agreed to change paragraph #3 to request for policing *all multi-use trails*. Carrie Barkhurst recommended to the Committee that “people with disabilities” be used as the current standard practice and Committee members agreed to this change as well. Motion was made and approved to send letter out with these changes. Committee will request appointment to meet with Police Chief Eden to request APD bike patrols of multi-use trails.
- **Paseo/I-25 & environs Ped/cyclist tours** – Tyler Ashton informed committee of the most recent two tours of the new facilities and their challenges. Another ride is to be scheduled for August. Brett Frauenglass and Tom Menicucci along with Daniel and Scott from GABAC were the only participants of these two rides although Carrie Barkhurst did walk the multi-use trail across the bridge to experience the pedestrian facilities. No one from NMDOT or Bohannon Huston participated. Chair Thomas suggested it would be beneficial to have engineering participation in the ride to discuss from that perspective. It was agreed by those who have ridden the bridge multi-use trail that drainage issues w/ mulch clogging drains, debris on parts of the San Antonio sidewalk/trail, poor signalization/signage, timing of signals and vehicle prioritization on the bridge, design of some portions, driver inattention and lack of maintenance to date are the most important issues to resolve. Jill Mosher reassured the Committee that the NMDOT is looking at recommendations of ways to solve some of the issues. She intends to participate or have someone from her office participate in the August ride. The Paseo/I-25 Project is not completed yet so maintenance is still the responsibility of the Contractor until project is closed. The El Pueblo/Jefferson stop signs are confusing, clarification of where the trail goes is needed. Future extension from Headline after crossing Jefferson and the NMDOT proposed project for El Pueblo Road are necessary to improve connectivity. Christina Sandoval told Committee members that a meeting in the field with Parks and NMDOT staff to review the El Pueblo Road Project will occur later this week. There is funding through TPTG or TCC to do a study of I-25 from I-40 to Tramway to identify best crossing locations although there is no funding available for bridge construction. The Committee is unsure that basic flaws in the Paseo/I-25 project can be remedied. The Committee requests that NMDOT present the El Pueblo Road project to the Committee when it is ready for review.
- **Bosque Restoration/Long Term Bosque Health** – Chair Thomas introduced this agenda item by first commenting that the new crusher fines trail in the Bosque seemed pretty insignificant when compared to everything else that has happened to the Bosque in the past. He then introduced Dr. Matthew “Matt” Schmader who presented a “Brief Eco-Cultural Discussion” or a “History of Human Use” which included a map of the area. He commented on the idea of “restoration” which implies determining a point in time in which to go back to. He then provided an extensive history of the habitation, human induced changes, significant events and conservation actions that have occurred over time and suggested that we are re-inventing the Bosque using best practices from the past to create the Bosque of the future. He stated that most human activity in the Bosque is benign and that recreation drives the plan for future use. As recreation and restoration influence each other, we are probably envisioning an extension of the crusher fine trail to Campbell Road (Rio Grande State Park Nature Center) where the trail can connect to their internal system of crusher fine trails. This type of trail provides a good firm surface and visual cue to stay on the trails. Chair Thomas opined that an

appropriate target date for restoration of the Albuquerque Bosque would be 1920 because this was just prior to the establishment of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. The MRGCD has made many major alterations to the Bosque such as channelization of the Rio and installation of drains, both of which lower the water table. Dr. Schmader thought it is probably impracticable to restore to 1910 conditions due to the fact that the level of the river is actually dropping and every drop of water in the river is spoken for more than once. Mayor Berry and Open Space Division have created a "Bosque Youth Corps who are working this summer and ongoing to clear debris from the Bosque and remove and/or cut back invasive natives such as Siberian Elm and Russian Olive. Dr. Schmader will send an electronic version to Chair Thomas who will send out to all Committee members the text and map of this talk.

- **RRCA Runner Friendly Community Application – request for GARTC support.** Ian Maddison Ian is a member of the Albuquerque Road Runners Club of America which is a non-profit organization like the League of American Bicyclists but less well known. They have a RRCA Runner Friendly City designation as well. The Albuquerque Board voted to sponsor an application for Albuquerque to be recognized as a runner friendly community which includes criteria of community infrastructure, presence of trails and other bicycle facilities and business community support for runners so a letter from the Mayor is necessary. For example, the City needs to show that one can run 10 miles without crossing intersections. Ian requested support from GARTC. Ian made a motion for GARTC to support the Application and Bill Schimberg seconded with the Committee unanimously voted for approval. Christina volunteered to assist with the Application in providing information about miles of trail etc.
- **Sub-committee Updates/Actions – Trail naming Sub-committee report** - Warren and Ian have been working on naming trails on official map which Carrie Barkhurst provided them along with a pdf. There are trails named that could be better named but that is a more comprehensive project.

Staff Reports and Project Updates

- Christina Sandoval reported that National Trail Day was 2 weeks ago and 15 volunteers met at the west end of Mountain Road and seeded native grasses along the Bosque Trail as a pilot project for goathead reduction. The Open Space Division also had a project at Elena Gallegos Open Space which was limited to 100 participants but had more than that. The Bear Arroyo Trail Bridge is closed for repairs including a sinkhole on the surface. The first phase of the Bollard Removal and Replacement project has started with 13 being removed and replacing 55 with retractable bollards where appropriate. She will email everyone a list of the locations of these actions. The Trails Planner applications closed and interviews will begin next week. Hope to have new Planner on board by GARTC August meeting. The new Planner will be involved in planning projects as well as signage and naming project. Keith Reed, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Department is developing a trail inspection and rating program which the Trails Planner will implement to address ongoing needs. City staff will meet with NMDOT regarding the El Pueblo Road project.
- Carrie Barkhurst stated that the final Bikeways and Trails Facilities Plan should be finished by the end of this week and will be posted online along with the enacting City Council approvals and resolutions. Approximately 5-10 trails do not have names yet. All GIS data has been sent to DMD for better management of updates and for more sophisticated mapping. The Comprehensive Plan update for the City and County began last week. The Planning Department website will be updated as new information is available. Work continues on the 50 Mile Loop and HAWK light is to be installed in August.

Public Comment

- Jill Mosher from NMDOT provided updates on Coors project:
 - Maintenance project to repave Coors from Montano to Irving
 - Issue with SIPI(Tyler Ashton states debris in bike lane)
 - City DMD doing signal timing and NMDOT doing restriping
- Kathleen Rhode brought a new book titled “Walk Albuquerque” to the Committee’s attention.
- John Barncastle spoke about construction vehicles blocking bike lanes, bollards on certain trails and the patching of the Bear Bridge surface.
- Julie Luna (MRCOG) is Partnering with COA Transit, DMD, and Planning regarding pedestrian safety actions, looking first specifically at Central and San Mateo intersection for the BRT Project.
- Thanks to Terri O’Hare for email regarding the LAB rating. Terri and Christina will go over results at the August meeting.

Adjourn: Move to adjourn at 5:45 pm. Seconded, all in favor, (motion passes 5-0)

The foregoing GARTC minutes from the April 21, 2015 and May 19, 2015 GARTC meetings have been approved as written or with noted comments on June 16, 2015.

Chairperson – John Thomas

Date

Prepared by: Christina Sandoval

Date