



Richard J. Berry, Mayor

GABAC



GREATER ALBUQUERQUE BICYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, PO BOX 1293

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103 (505) 768-2680

MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2014

Members Present

Scott Hale, Acting Chair
Douglas Stiebler
Ronald Nelson

Ed Hillsman
Larry Gilbert
Moises Gonzales

Staff Present

Debbie Bauman, COA DMD
Diane Dolan, COA Councilor
Benton's Office

John MacKenzie, COA DMD (Present not
signed in)
Carrie Barkhurst, COA Planning
Julian Butt, COA Parks and Recreation

Members Absent

Bruce Farmer
Diane Albert

Guests

Susan Kelly
Sarah Cobb, Senator Udall's
Office
John Thomas
Diane Scena

Julie Luna, MRCOG
John Barncastle
Dianne Cress

- Mr. Hale called the meeting to order (4:36 pm)
- Mr. Hale established the presences of a Quorum

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Approval of the May 14, 2014 Agenda**

A motion was made to move the visitor presentation towards the beginning of the Agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson. The agenda was approved as modified.

- **Approval of the April 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

There was discussion about the process to approve Meeting Minutes and whether or not GABAC is required to approve or dis-approve the minutes or if the Committee could just accept the minutes as presented. Also discussed was the format of the meeting minutes and it was suggested by Mr. Nelson that the minutes not be provided word for word since there is a tape of the meetings, but rather provided in outline form. Mr. Gallegos and Ms. Bauman will check with legal to resolve the outstanding questions about the minutes. The minutes from the April meeting were deferred until the May meeting.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Hale stated that he has accepted the position of Acting Chair of GABAC. He also requested that in order to have a more efficiently run meeting he would appreciate if public comments could be on current agenda items. He also encouraged members of the public to work with their respective GABAC committee member on any items that they think should be discussed by the Committee.

Mr. Hale stated that 20 minutes would be allowed for the presentation on the agenda by Carrie Barkhurst, COA Planning Department. Ten minutes would be allocated for the Committee comments, and then opened up for public comments.

Ms. Bauman also asked the Chair if speakers, including members of the public, speak loudly and clearly so that accurate minutes could be taken.

- **Visitor Presentations**

Bikeways and Trails Plan.....Carrie Barkhurst, COA

Ms. Barkhurst introduced Susan Kelly to make a brief presentation on the draft recommendations in the Plan for the structure of GABAC/GARTC. She reviewed examples of committee structures in other cities. After her presentation Ms. Kelly asked the Committee for comments.

Mr. Hale suggested that Ms. Kelly continue with her presentation. She explained that while DMD recommendations are not finalized yet regarding the structure of the Committee's and the coordination process between Parks and DMD, Ms. Kelly did present her recommendations.

Mr. Hale expressed concern that Parks Design and Maintenance are in Parks while Engineering is in DMD and it makes the coordination process difficult for the public when trying to get issues resolved.

Mr. Nelson commented that Open Space should be coordinating better with Parks and Recreation. He gave the example of the problems that are experienced on the Bosque Trail regarding goatheads and overgrown vegetation that impacts the use of the facility.

Mr. Hale asked for point of order and requested that the Committee members wait to be recognized prior to asking questions or commenting. He continued that the Nature Center used to spray but that agencies and different jurisdictions had concerns about the lack of coordination in regard to public notification prior to spraying. When using the 311 system, Mr. Hale expressed that the public doesn't get the reaction time that is anticipated. He said it appears that the 311 system is more for the convenience of the agency and not the users.

Mr. Hale was encouraged by the Plan update that was distributed, but felt that the contents warranted more discussion.

Mr. Hillsman stated that it appears that the 311 system is not set up to take calls about trails. He wondered if the trail system and its type of coordinates could be included in the GIS system so that the 311 responders don't ask for nearby streets, but mile points on the trail.

Mr. Hale mentioned that wayfinding signs along the trails would help with maintenance and accurate mapping.

Mr. John Thomas wanted to discuss the requirements of the 2012 AASHTO Standards for trails. Mr. Hale asked that the questions be provided in writing to the Chair so that he could submit to appropriate City staff for a written response.

Mr. Hale had concerns that the Plan does not address the lack of coordination within the City and with other agencies. He would like to see a process documented that would improve the coordination and involvement of other agencies.

Ms. Kelly asked the Committee what recommendation they would have to streamline the process.

Mr. Barncastle commented that staff should be out in the field evaluating facilities instead of driving around in carts. Staff uses vehicles to respond to complaints but they should be traveling the trail on foot or a bike.

Mr. Hale encouraged members of the Committee to review the materials provided by Ms. Barkhurst and give the City specific comments/questions that Ms. Kelly can do something with. He felt that people need to be brought in way earlier than they are to comment on projects.

- **Public Comment**

Mr. Barncastle commented on the lack of trail maintenance and that the wooden bridges are in disrepair. Mr. Hale stated that he would prefer people to send their comments to their respective GABAC representative and that public comment should be limited to the items on the agenda. He feels that it is not productive to hear the same comment at every meeting.

Mr. Thomas said there are safety concerns caused by the lack of trail maintenance. Cyclists and trail users conflict because of inadequate sight distance and cited the accidents on the Bosque Trail.

Mr. Hale asked the Committee to consider whether or not a sub-committee should be created to deal with issues that overlap between GABAC and GARTC.

Ms. Julie Luna provided an update on the COG's work on the 2040 MTP and the Long Range Bikeways and Trail Plan. She said that June through December will be time that she will be focusing on the bike and pedestrian component. She requested that GABAC representation at these meetings would be very helpful.

- **Staff Reports**

Mr. Hale asked Ms. Bauman how the DOT advertised the public meeting they held at District 3 for the Headline Extension. He expressed frustration that he didn't know about the meeting and by the time he found out he went the District where the meeting was in progress but that the driveway gates were locked and he couldn't get in the building.

Mr. Nelson continued that the website had no mention of the public meeting and that it never looks like it is updated with current information.

Mr. Hale requested that Ms. Bauman find out if the comment period is still open and whether or not there was a summary of the meeting, and a copy of whatever was presented. Ms. Bauman to follow-up with DOT.

Mr. Hale asked a question about the news story that said there was a call for comment for the Central and Rio Grande intersection and wanted to know what that was about. Ms. Dolan explained that there are options for the intersection that have been developed and that Council is seeking public input via the website. Ms. Bauman provided the Committee with the website address and said that the public is encouraged to review the options and provide comments.

Concern was expressed about the Woodward Road/Bosque Trail connection. The County has a project and the Committee asked Ms. Bauman to follow-up with Mr. Nolan Bennett at the County and to inquire about the potholes and large orange barrels that are blocking the trail with no advanced notification.

An update on the Mayor's budget was requested. Mr. Wilfred Gallegos stated that the proposal that will be going before Council includes the recommendation to more Trail and Park Design to DMD, which would be an additional 41 positions. Ms. Dolan noted that the Council is likely to have comments on the budget when it is heard at the next meeting. The discussion is on-going with the Committee of the Whole and it will be up to Council to decide what is included or deleted from the budget. Mr. Gallegos said that there would still be issues to work through even if the proposal is accepted by Council. For example, trail maintenance will still be under Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Hale asked why maintenance couldn't be moved under DMD as well.

- **GABAC Reports**

Mr. Hale described the process for working with DMD on the issues associated with Taylor Ranch Road. Mr. Hale acknowledged the good working arrangement that has been developed between he and Mr. Gallegos. They met in the field to identify a short term solution for Taylor Ranch Road from Homestead up the hill. Addressing the concern from Homestead down the hill (west) will warrant more discussion as it is a more complicated section.

Mr. Gonzales asked if sharrows would be better. He also commented that sub-standard facilities should be eliminated from the Bike Map that is distributed by DMD.

Concern was expressed about the Barelás Ped Bridge and why the City is moving forward with projects that don't include accommodations for bikes and only pedestrians. Ms. Dolan responded that the request for the pedestrian access was made by the residents to the Councilor. The neighborhood association asked for those specific improvements and they did not want bicycles to have access.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

Mr. Hale stated that the timeline presented tonight for the Bikeways and Trails Master Plan is too aggressive and puts too much pressure on the Committee to effectively comment. He felt that GABAC was not in a position to meet the deadlines as presented. Mr. Gonzales replied that the Plan does have a deadline. Mr. Nelson thought the timeline was reasonable. Ms. Kelly was asked to prepare a paper describing the organizational options that should be considered in the Plan.

- **Adjourn (6:50)**