

**GREATER ALBUQUERQUE
RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**



June 19, 2018
3:30 pm

**Meeting Place: Parks and Recreation Administration,
1801 4th St NW**



Members Present: Kathleen Rhoad, Valerie Cole, Warren Wild

Members Absent: Ian Maddieson, Likhaya Dayile, Tyler Ashton, Travis Davis

Advisory Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Jason Coffey (Staff), PRD; Wade Patterson (Staff) PRD

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Jackie Bouker, James Lewis, Valerie Hermanson

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 3:35 p.m. A quorum was not present so no action items were voted on. ***This document constitutes a report rather than official minutes since no official business was conducted.***

Approval of June 19, 2018 Agenda

With no quorum present, the agenda was not voted on.

Approval of May 15, 2018 Minutes

With no quorum present, the May 15 minutes were not approved.

General Announcements:

James Lewis from City of Albuquerque Open Space Division attended meeting to get feedback on a maintenance issue. His maintenance staff inadvertently purchased Trex (a recycled plastic product that is a common wood substitute for benches, picnic tables and decks) instead of wood to replace bridge decking at the Nature Center. James sought feedback from the committee about this material's appropriateness for use with horses. None of the committee members had experience with the product, but there was some discussion about possible issues (too slippery? It has surface grooves specifically to improve grip). With no information indicating this was an inappropriate application, James will proceed with this decking on two bridges and then gauge performance based on public feedback. Committee thoughts or feedback (or from the general public) can be directed to James (274-2136) or Wade (768-5359).

Jason Coffey announced that he is leaving his position as Senior Planner. His last day in the office will be July 2. Wade Patterson is the new Trails Planner and introduced himself at the meeting. Prior to starting with the City, Wade worked for the New Mexico Department of Transportation where he supervised the Active Transportation Programs, including federal funding in support of

pedestrian, bicycle and transit infrastructure. He also served as the state's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Coordinator.

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

GARTC Website Update

Jason reported that he had a conversation with Philip Clelland (Parks and Recreation's Marketing and PR contact) about changes to the GARTC webpage discussed in previous meetings. Philip says we can likely add links and images to the existing page, but that there are other City-wide changes happening (including to the City website) and that structural changes will have to be undertaken in concert with those efforts. However, changes to the text on the existing webpage ARE things that the committee can propose now. Additionally, Philip did make changes to the GARTC meeting schedule so that it is now represented as a table, making it much easier to read.

Jason reiterated that the text content can be changed now and suggested the committee consider making the description more concise. All changes will require final approval before being posted, but he stressed this is not an onerous process (it can be handled in-house at Parks and Recreation).

There was some discussion around a strategy for making text revisions. Kathleen suggested moving the third paragraph (which appears to be the most concise description of what the committee does in the existing text) to the beginning of the committee's description. It was recommended that committee members work individually on text improvements/changes (stressing being more concise and to the point) prior to the July meeting with the intention of having a formal discussion in August.

National Trails Day

Jason detailed the National Trails Day event. Some documentation with pictures was sent out to committee members as well. A total of 9 volunteers joined P and R staff to do cleanup along the I-40 trail near the Rio Grande Bike-in Coffee access. The event also coincided with a memorial for Bill Kraemer, including the placement of boulders featuring his name. The event was intimate but very well received by those present.

Trail Project Program

Jason outlined how the results of the recently completed Trails and Bridge Evaluation Report will assist the department in prioritizing trail maintenance and construction moving forward. The report examined conditions along all of the Albuquerque's paved trails and their associated bridges, scoring and ranking them to facilitate an approach to long term maintenance. The scoring identified a few trails in poor shape and a few in very good shape, but the majority fell in the middle. This is making ranking and prioritizing projects difficult and so the program is looking to integrate additional data (ie. User counts, tiering) to help with the ranking. This approach will help guide maintenance work on existing trails so we are being more methodical and proactive and less reactive to problems as they arise.

Committee Member Recruitment

Jason noted that he sent an e-mail to Helen Maestas at Constituent Services inquiring about the nomination of Jack Tweed which has sat without action for some time. The inquiry came not long before the meeting and no reply had yet been received.

Connections to on and off street facilities

Jason noted that there has not been any movement on this item. Part of the issue has been that the Planner with DMD who was to assist with this effort left her position. A new person has finally

been hired but had not yet begun. The new hire is Josef Jansen who previously worked with P and R as a GIS person and was responsible for developing the Bicycle Map. Josef retains a lot of knowledge about the on and off street pedestrian and bicycle network and has been the keeper of GIS-related data.

Bike Map and Pedestrian Resources

Jason reported that there has been no progress on this issue. He reiterated that Josef Jansen has recently been hired by DMD as their bike planner. Josef previously was the GIS person for P and R and worked on the bike map. The assumption is that he is taking the GIS data related to trails with him to DMD and may play a role in future iterations of the map.

Staff Reports and Project Updates:

Jason Coffey, Senior Planner, Parks and Recreation Department

Gail Ryba Bridge Approach- This project is complete.

North Diversion Channel Bridge- The project is complete. The design on-call contract is still with the Capital Implementation Plan (CIP) group to be finalized with the consultant, KSA Engineers, Inc. Once the contract is signed the consultant will be working on the structural evaluation of the next six bridges south from the one we completed (between Osuna and I-25) and will produce a design for the deck replacement of the next two on the NDC Trail. So all six will be structurally evaluated and the next two will be designed for deck replacement. The consultant has already submitted the proposed scope for the structural and design, it is just the contract holding us up.

Alameda Drain Trail- Parametrix was approved by City Council last night as the design consultant. Now the contract has to be generated and signed through the CIP group with the Department of Municipal Development and that could take a couple months. The funding agreement from NMDOT was signed for the federal funding associated with the design phase of the project but the agreement needs to be amended. Funding was moved from construction into the design phase in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) administered by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) but that funding change is not reflected in the funding agreement provided by NMDOT. Therefore, the agreement needs to be amended so that the dollar amounts match. That process could also take a couple months, but once the funding agreement is in place and the contract is executed, the design phase of the project will begin.

Four Hills Trail- Substantial work on this project is complete. However, we were not satisfied with the quality of some of the work items and have asked the contractor to do more work to fix those deficiencies. The work order is being amended to add \$5,400 for the additional work and there is not yet a timeline for the work, but the work order amendment will likely get signed by the director this week.

Ladera Dam Trail- This project is substantially complete and the trail is open again as of today (6/19/18). The trail looks great and Parks is working with Councilor Sanchez's office on addressing the neighborhoods request for the trail the trail corridor to be landscaped. There is no firm plan as of yet, but options are being discussed. The main issue is how much funding will be available.

Val Hermanson, MRCOG

Bike Share – Val noted that the new expansion of Bike Share (Pace) launched on April 19. A second wave of expansion will be rolled out the week of June 18 resulting in a total of 250 bikes and 41 stations. Current data shows that since the expansion, they have seen 2000 riders using the service for a total of 3000 trips.

