

**GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL
TRAILS COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

April 21, 2015
3:30 pm

City Hall, 7th Floor, Room 7096

Members Present: John Thomas, Valerie Cole, Ian Maddison, Warren Wild

Members Absent: Tyler Ashton, William Schimberg

Advisory Members Present: None

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

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Jackie Bouker, Kathleen Rhoad, Thomas Day, Fred Houdek, John Barncastle

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson John Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Approval of April 21, 2015 Agenda

Changes noted. Motion to approve made and approved.

Approval of March 17, 2014 Minutes

Changes noted to reflect that Ian Maddison and William Schimberg were absent. Motion to approve made and approved.

General Announcements: Chairperson Thomas stated that the Committee now has two vacancies, one for active elderly and one for physically challenged.

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

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

- *Honoring Representative Jimmie Hall* – Representative Hall did not attend but Chairman Thomas recognized his contributions to our community including his presence as “the Guardian Angel” of the Tramway Trail. He is still attending NMDOT meetings showing support for the Tramway Trail and its importance to the families in the area both for commuting and recreation uses.
- *City’s plans for Bosque Restoration/long term Bosque health (GARTC & PRD)* - Open Space Division Superintendent Dr. Matt Schmader was unable to attend so will reschedule for future meeting.

- *Paseo/I-25 & environs Ped/cyclist safety issues* – Scott Hale to present. (GABAC) (This will be on agenda for next meeting) John Thomas and Ian Maddison are the GARTC members who have ridden over the new bridge over I-25. They found the ride challenging especially where 7 lanes of traffic are coming off the ramp from Northbound I-25 and thought it would not be used much. It seems that the Journal Center is not designed well for bicycles and the “Osuna Bridge” can get bicyclist across the entire highway more simply. They discussed specific areas that were of concern and identified that the zig zag pedestrian area eliminated the separation of bikes and pedestrians.
- *Planning approaches to trails: a brief comparison of Albuquerque and Raleigh, NC* - Ian Maddison provided a handout comparing Albuquerque with Raleigh, North Carolina where he recently visited and discussed similarities to Albuquerque demographics and trails. A brief discussion of trailheads followed.
- *Montano Bridge* – John Thomas thanked DMD for the Montano Bridge repairs.

Sub-committee Updates/Actions – None

Staff Reports and Project Updates

- *Bikeways and Trails Plan* - Carrie Barkhurst gave an update on the Bikeways and Trails Plan and encouraged members to attend next City Council meeting to speak in favor of the Plan. Christina Sandoval explained that people who wish to speak can sign up and speak on record at the beginning of the Council meeting during General Comments and don't need to wait for the item to come before the Council later in the evening. Carrie and Christina reminded the members of the main reasons for seeking Council adoption of the Plan which include federal funding, opportunities to get trails built through the Development Review Board process and to have a forum to discuss ideas to improve bikeways and trails in the Albuquerque area. Christina handed out copies of floor amendments to the Plan.
- *Piedras Marcadas/Golf Course Midblock crossing update*. - Christina Sandoval informed the Committee that the Mast Arms had not arrived yet.
- *Bollards* - Christina Sandoval reported that Parsons Brinkerhoff and city staff are working on a Study to eliminate bollards and/or replace with retractable bollards. They will be coordinating with AMAFCA and DMD. She asked Committee members to send her lists of priorities for trail renovations as well.
- *Trails Planner* – the position is to be advertised next week. The position is being restructured and will first be working on development of a trails signage program, “wayfinding” and will coordinate with all street signs being replaced on streets.
- *Trails news* – Christina Sandoval stated that the League of American Bicyclists were in town and were evaluating Albuquerque which is currently given bronze status. It was noted that Raleigh, NC is also a bronze status city. Open Space Trails Day is this Saturday at Candaleria Trailhead at Elena Gallegos. National Trails Day is June 6th this year.
- *Goatheads/native plants/non-toxic herbicides* – The Bikeways and Trails Plan includes biologic control of weeds as a maintenance practice. Susan Kelly is working on developing trails maintenance procedures and is including using native plants/grasses to outcompete the goatheads along the edges of the trails. She is doing her own test plots and is using different non-toxic herbicides to evaluate their potential usefulness in trails maintenance. .

Public Comment

- John Barncastle commented on the new Bear Canyon Trail bollards.
- Jackie Bouker stated that signage for horses on Paseo Bridge would be helpful.

Adjourn: Move to adjourn at 5:200 pm. Seconded, all in favor, (motion passes 4-0)

The foregoing GARTC minutes from the March 17, 2015 GARTC meetings have been approved as written or with noted comments on April 21, 2015

Chairperson – John Thomas

John D. Thomas 6/16/2015
Date

Prepared by: Christina Sandoval

CSandoval 6/16/15
Date