

# GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES



May 17, 2016  
3:30 pm

City Hall, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Room 7096



**Members Present:** Valerie Cole, Kathleen Rhoad, Ian Maddieson, Tyler Ashton, Warren Wild

**Members Absent:** None

**Advisory Members Present:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Gabriel Campos-HR, Christina Sandoval-PRD, Jason Coffey-PRD, Howard Cake-BernCo, Brad Catanach-BernCo, Eric Michalski-DMD, Kellie Shaw-DMD, Nolan Bennett-BernCo

**Staff Members Absent:** None

**Visitors Present:** John Barncastle, Terri O'Hare, Dan Majewski, Scott Hale, John Thomas, Eric Froberg, Penny Goldstine, John McGovern, Mary Collard (ASL Interpreter), Rebecca DeSantis (ASL Interpreter)

## **Call to Order and Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 3:36 p.m. Quorum is present.

## **Approval of May 17, 2016 Agenda**

The Chair defers the items not associated with the ADA presentation to the June meeting. There are no objections so the only item to be discussed is the ADA presentation.

## **Approval of April 19, 2016 Minutes**

Valerie Cole motioned to approve the minutes, second by Kathleen Rhoad. Motion passed with a voice vote.

**General Announcements:** None

## **Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:**

- o ADA presentation/training - John N. McGovern, JD, President, Recreation Accessibility Consultants, LLC

John McGovern introduces himself and the topic of ADA guidance for trails. Please see the Power Point associated with these minutes for the details of the presentation. Mr. McGovern explains his involvement with the development of the federal ADA guidelines for recreation facilities and his

expertise as someone with local government parks and recreation experience, as well as his experience as an attorney focusing on accessibility for recreation facilities.

### **Staff Reports and Project Updates:**

Jason Coffey, Parks and Recreation Department

Please note, due to the ADA presentation the staff report was not discussed. But, these items were presented in written form to the committee members.

- Unser Trail, renovation of the Unser Trail from St. Josephs north to Dellyne is done. Final was held 5/16/16 and there is one punch list item, so once that is taken care of the project will be complete.
- The contract for the Bridge and Trail Evaluation Study has been signed by the consultants and returned to the City for signatures so I anticipate the project will be starting in the next few weeks.
- The Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan process will be complete in the end of June.
- Black Arroyo Trail from Hunter's Run Park to near Ellison is a slope stabilization and trail resurfacing project. This is part of our effort to try some different techniques for slope stabilization. The slope project is just a low retaining wall, not a new technique, but the material was donated by the manufacturer so we are testing the donation process and material to see if it is worthwhile to pursue on future projects. The trail will be a test of crack filling and then seal coat overlay to see how the treatment works. If it is successful, we may begin to use this technique for crack filling then seal coat more often to improve trail surfaces.
- The bollards have been ordered for the third phase of bollard project (30 total). 17 of the new retractable bollards will be installed at about two dozen locations. Work will begin soon on the removals and stationary bollards. Once the retractable arrive they will be installed. Project should be completed around the end of August.
- I received the updated contract from NMDOT for the rail crossing upgrade on the North Diversion Channel Trail just south of El Pueblo. Legal has reviewed the contract and I am working on getting it all set up for signature routing. The contract has to go through NMDOT's approval process too so it could be a couple months before we get moving on building the new crossing.
- Singer Bridge widening and trail notch project has begun. To date no trail closures have taken place. DMD Construction Management and the contractor are working on an on-site detour. The detour will take trail users around the work site just to the east of the existing alignment. Once the detour funding and alignment are approved by DMD we will put information on our website.

- National Trails Day, June 4, 2016 is going to take place at I-40 and Paseo del Bosque Trail. There is a meeting on Friday with everyone involved to coordinate the details of the event logistically. The event will take place from 8am to noon on 6/4/16.
- No new information, I-40 West Trail Extension funding agreement is still with the City, and as of 4/6/16, I need to talk to Jerry Lovato to find out from AMAFCA where it is. The agreement might still be at DMD.
- Bike to Work Day (BTWD) is May 19th and 20th, 2016. The May 19 station is for Kirtland Air Force Base and the VA Hospital, and the other 12 stops will happen on Friday, May 20, 2016. There is a new stop at Tingley Beach hosted by the BioPark. The theme of this years' BTWD is "Bring a buddy" so people who arrive at the stops with a buddy will get an extra give away and be entered into a drawing for a private tour for four people of the polar bear exhibit at the BioPark Zoo.
- I am working with the Open Space Division on a resurfacing of Paseo de la Mesa. This will be a crack fill and seal coat project due to the length of the trail and the cost associated with a full repave. This project has not been scheduled yet but will most likely start in the next few weeks. The trail will have to be closed and there is not a viable detour route.

**Public Comment:**

John Barncastle: Mr. Barncastle describes several homeless encampments on the trails and the difficulty removing them. There is a consistent problem on the North Diversion Channel Trail near the I-40 and Carlisle overpasses. Mr. Barncastle has worked with the AMAFCA and APD staff and describes the process required for getting a homeless encampment removed. One encampment was removed but others have returned. Mr. Barncastle has seen other 311 (See Click Fix) submitted regarding encampments and has been in contact with the appropriate APD and AMAFCA staff. What is needed is a permanent fix to keep people from getting under the bridges.

Terri O'Hare: Ms. O'Hare thanks Mr. McGovern, and states that it is nice to know cities are using your company for these audits because you tell it like it is. You were here in 2013 and at that time said you advise your clients that a third of all facilities should be accessible. Response from Mr. McGovern: perhaps I should have said a little more at that time because the Access Board does not provide a ratio and instead relies on cities and counties to do the heavy lifting to determine which facilities can meet the criteria, but does not give a ratio. Ms. O'Hare inquires about the ADA audits and the status of the transition plan? Staff replies that due to staffing turnover the audits have not been completed and the transition plan cannot happen until the audits are completed. Ms. O'Hare shares her disappointment that the ADA audits and transition plan is not yet complete.

John Thomas: Mr. Thomas describes the challenges involved in forcing jurisdictions to make ADA improvements. Mr. Thomas describes litigation as one of main tools related to ADA enforcement and then shares the example of CalTrans versus AARP litigation. Mr. McGovern describes the huge costs associated with litigation and that these legal actions are mostly focused on sidewalks, and that much of the litigation has been brought by cyclists but has mostly not been directed towards trails. Mr. McGovern talks about the jurisdictions that are making progress and avoiding

legal action are the ones that embrace access rather than resist it, and that trails will likely end up as part of the PROWAG and be in the realm of state Departments of Transportation.

**Adjourn:** Meeting is adjourned at 5:37pm.

**The foregoing GARTC minutes from the May 17, 2016 GARTC meeting have been approved as written or with noted comments on June 21, 2016.**

**Chairperson – Ian Maddieson**

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**Date**

**Prepared by: Jason Coffey**

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**Date**