

**GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL
TRAILS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

June 17, 2014
4:00 pm

1801 4th Street NW, Albuquerque, NM
Building A Large Conference Room

Members Present: Ian Maddieson, Valerie Cole, Gary W. Kelly, John Thomas, Bill Schimberg

Members Absent: Guy Miller, Warren Wild

Advisory Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: James Lewis (COA - Parks and Recreation; GARTC Staff Liaison), Carrie Barkhurst (COA - Planning)

Staff Members Absent: Christina Sandoval (COA - Parks and Recreation)

Visitors Present: Carol Dumont (COA - Parks and Recreation), John Barncastle, Julie Luna (MRCOG), Jesse Luehring (COA - DMD), John MacKenzie P.E. (COA - DMD), Diane Sholtis P.E. (COA - DMD), Mikaela Renz-Whitmore (COA – Planning)

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Ian Maddieson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of June 17, 2014 Agenda

Motion: Ian moved to approve agenda: Approved, Motion passes 5-0

Approval of May 20, 2014 Minutes

Motion: Ian moved to approve the minutes with no changes: Approved, Motion passes 5-0

General Announcements: James announced that Tyler Ashton P.E., the appointee for the West at Large GARTC position was approved at City Council last evening.

New Business/Update Items/Presentations

- **Mikaela Renz-Whitmore (COA Planning) and Carol Dumont (COA Parks and Recreation)** – They presented the basis of the Volcano Heights Sector Development Plan Area (VHSDP) and discussed ideas of how to best incorporate a multi-use trail into the Unser Blvd. Right of Way (ROW). A proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will take up the median area of Unser in the Plan Area and currently

the multi-use trail is shown next to the storefront area on the cross section in the VHSDP. After a meaningful discussion regarding the best placement of the multi-use trail rather than next to the storefront area, it was determined that the proposed trail could be built between the east side of the BRT vegetation median and the “slip lane”. A “slip lane” is a slow moving motorized traffic lane that people drive along to find storefront parking. Ingress and egress of the multi-use trail would be at signalized intersections. The idea was well accepted.

- **Carrie Barkhurst (Planner/COA Planning Department)** – Proposed Public Open House meetings to present the draft Bikeways and Trails Facility Plan and maps to the public are tentatively set for July 8th, 9th, and 11th. One open house would be on the west side of the river, one on the east side of the river, and one at the Special Collections Library in east downtown.

It has been recommended that GABAC and GARTC be consolidated into a large pedestrian/bicycle advisory committee and be facilitated in a neutral location such as the Mid Region Council of Governments building. If this were to happen what would GARTC like it to look like? Ian noted that this is item two in the discussion/action items of the agenda and therefore move on from the new business/presentations section and into the discussion section. Discussion took place of the advantages and disadvantages of this approach to consolidation and how would this make the advisory boards more efficient, if at all. Gary spoke about the basis for GARTC and GABAC and discussed some of the reasons he believes these advisory committees exist as a start to the conversation.

Carrie described some of the advantages of a new structured advisory committee such as; projects would be heard at one time in one place rather than at multiple, repetitive meetings. Also, more governmental agencies and members could be present and represented at one regional meeting. There are many different ways to structure these types of groups and other City and regional models from around the Country have been researched. These models have been drafted by Susan Kelly and Diane Scena and will likely be put into the draft Bikeways and Trails Facility Plan.

GARTC members brought up some general concerns such as “would the minority voice or interests be lost with a larger or different advisory group?” Gary stated “the worst thing to do would be streamline the process to where you have no participation”.

Valerie discussed that GARTC is here for the recreational advisory component whereas GABAC is a commuter based on-street advisory group and the two basically need their separation. She noted that the equestrian is purely for recreation and not for commuting in today’s world.

John Thomas would like to see a Planner and a Transportation Engineer work together within a revised advisory committee.

Ian had similar comments that Valerie had. However, he went on to state that he believes keeping two committees is key and making one, such as GARTC, strictly recreational and the other, such as GABAC, strictly transportation/commuter oriented. Ian discussed the East Bay Regional Trails Committee system which is

part of California's East Bay area (east of San Francisco) and believes Albuquerque should take up the same basic structure. James is familiar with this system from when he lived in the North Bay and worked throughout the County of Sonoma and part of Marin County.

All comments will be taken into account by staff Planners when finalizing the Bikeways and Trails Facility Plan. Carrie closed the discussion by adding the possibility for "minority" interests to be integrated or even enhanced by also being members or representatives of the Open Space Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as well as having a seat on the proposed regional pedestrian-bicycle advisory committee.

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

- **Update on DMD's position on paved trail design evaluation of projects prior to construction or DRC approval. (GARTC).** - Discussion between GARTC and Michael Riordan went well and Mr. Riordan will have his staff filter out the bikeways and trails projects that DMD is working on for GARTC to have review of them during several phases of the projects and not just at the end of the design.
- **Discussion on the Future GARTC/GABAC Structure (moved and discussed under Carrie Barkhurst's presentation above).**
- **Letter on Midblock Crossings:** Ian is still in the process of video documenting midblock crossings.
- **Piedras Marcadas/ Golf Course Midblock Crossing:** On-call engineering firm HDR ended up needing a survey of the intersection. Once the survey is complete, design will be completed and presented to DRC for their approval. James will keep GARTC updated.
- **Response to USDOT/FHWA Letter:** Valerie and Gary have edited what John Thomas drafted and there still needs some work on editing a response to USDOT/FHWA. James and Carrie noted that there is still a proposed grade-separated crossing on the map which will be in the Bikeways and Trails Facility Plan. Gary noted that Michael Riordan told him that he is hoping to use 5 million dollars from a pot of 30 million for a grade separated crossing south of Paseo del Norte.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Bollard Sub-Committee** - Gary stated that AMAFCA's Board will take no further action regarding the spacing of bollards. John Thomas is looking into legal advocacy through the AARP to make bollard spacing wider along AMAFCA owned facilities.

Staff Reports and Project Updates

James stated that Mariposa Basin Park Loop Trail is under reconstruction. This is a heavily used trail. James asked GARTC if they would like to have a City Open Space Representative since GARTC has very discussion regarding Open Space trails. GARTC responded that if there is important and relevant news from Open Space, they would like to hear about it.

Public Comment

John Barncastle: Gravel still exists on the north Pino Trail. Gravel was put in at this location by the developer as part of the landscape plan when constructed. The trail is on private property but on a drainage easement. John described a few items in regards to bollards and in particular that Chris Baca with Parks has been replacing missing bollards in a timely fashion. Also, James will talk to Open Space about the retractable bollard being left down almost daily.

Adjourn: Ian moved to adjourn at 6:05 pm. All in favor; (Motion passes 5-0)

The foregoing GARTC minutes from the June 17, 2014 GARTC meeting have been approved as written or with noted comments on July 15, 2014.

Chairperson – Ian Maddieson

Ian Maddieson

06/17/2014
Date

Prepared by: James Lewis

James Lewis

7/15/14
Date