

**GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL
TRAILS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 17, 2013
4:00 pm

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

Members Present: Valerie Cole, Gary W. Kelly, John Thomas, Warren Wild, Ian Maddieson

Members Absent: Guy Miller, William Schimberg

Advisory Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: James Lewis, (COA - Parks and Recreation - GARTC Staff), Susannah Abbey (COA, Open Space), Christina Sandoval – Principal Planner (COA - Parks and Recreation).

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Scott Perkins (Wilson and Co.), Bert Thomas (Bohannon-Huston Inc.), Audra Gallegos (Wilson and Co.), Jim Thomson (Kiewit), Michael Smelker (NMDOT), Shelly Zuniga (Recreation Accessibility Consultants Ilc [RAC]), John McGovern (President of RAC), Mike McEntee (COA-DMD), Coleman Burnett (NMDOT), Scott Hale (GABAC), Richard Barish (Sierra Club), Carrie Barkhurst (COA-Planning), Terry McGovern (RAC), Tanya Scheibe (RAC), Jackie Bouker, John Barncastle, Stephen Verchinski.

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Ian Maddieson called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Approval of September 17, 2013 Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Valerie Cole with a second by Warren Wild, (Motion passes 5-0).

Approval of August 20, 2013 Minutes

Motion: Ian Maddieson moved to approve the minutes with no amendments needed. Second by Valerie Cole. (Motion passes 5-0).

New Business/Update Items/Presentations

Pedestrian Improvements 25/Paseo del Norte (Wilson and Co., NMDOT, Kiewit, Bohannon-Huston): Bert Thomas presented a Power Point showing the revised plans for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure at the interchange. They have taken out the pedestrian bridge that was in the plans a month or two ago. They provided two reasons for removing the pedestrian bridge from the plans. One was because they don't think they

can reach 20 feet vertical distance (required by FHWA for military movement of large tanks etc.) and the other reason given to GARTC was that people on the sidewalks at Paseo del Norte would have trouble getting south to Ashley Furniture where the proposed bridge would be located. The plan now is to make people cross several signalized crosswalks to eventually reach Jefferson where another crossing would be needed. A public meeting will be held on September 25, 2013 at the Courtyard Marriot from 5:30-7:30 pm.

ADA Evaluation Process for Trails/Parks (John McGovern of RAC): ADA specialist John McGovern and his company, Recreation Accessibility Consultants LLC (RAC) provided a lengthy presentation on the current ADA standards that have been approved by the Federal Access Board and the areas regarding enforceable standards for ADA that have not been Federally approved. One of the areas regarding ADA that has not been Federally approved and have no enforceable standards are Shared-Use Paths (Known as Multi-Use Trails here in Albuquerque). Although there are no enforceable standards for Shared-Use Paths, it is recommended that the City design new trails and crossings with best management practices to accommodate as many users as possible. John McGovern discussed that a good practice would be that one of every three of all of the shared-use paths or multi-use trails in Albuquerque should be accessible. Parks and Recreation hired RAC to train Parks and Recreation staff to begin the auditing process for the department's facilities. Over the next year, the department will audit all the facilities and decide on what 1/3 of the trails should become ADA accessible. It could be several years until we know what the final and enforceable ADA standards will be for shared-use paths.

Announcements:

Anita Kelly has resigned from the Committee.

Motion: Ian moved for GARTC to write a letter of appreciation for Anita Kelly's time on the committee. 2nd by John Thomas, all in favor, motion passes 5-0. Ian will compose the letter.

Staff Reports

Susannah Abbey – Open Space Report – Susannah spoke about storms and how OS is working to improve eroded trails and the even the trail network. September 28th is the Geocaching event and Dia del Rio is on October 19th at Durand Bernalillo Co. Open Space. Check the Open Space website for all trail project details.

James Lewis- Strategic Planning and Design- In preparation to Balloon Fiesta, a clean-up is scheduled for September 28th, 2013 at Balloon Fiesta Park. Flyers were handed out. James discussed the meetings he has had in the field with DMD's on-call design engineering firm regarding the crossing at Piedras Marcadas and described the scope of work to be done at the crossing. The items in the scope of work have been discussed over the past two or three months at GARTC meetings. The improvements are intended to create a safer mid-block crossing for people that choose to cross at this location and not at one of the signalized intersections.

Carrie Barkhurst – Planning Department – Discussed she will be the lead on formatting, editing, and collaborating with Parks and Recreation, consultants, and DMD to move the

Bikeways and Trails Facility Plan forward. She will be attending GARTC and GABAC meetings while the Plan is being worked on over the next several months.

Public Comment – John Barncastle commended Ivana Stines and Robert Sanchez for putting back bollards, bridge plank repairs, and fence repairs. Bushes need trimming along the North Diversion Channel Trail.

Richard Barish discussed his opinions of access and improvements to the Mayor’s Plan called the “Rio Grande Vision”. In consult with Hawk’s Aloft, he is concerned that any improvements will be detrimental to bird populations in the *bosque*. He recommends that a biologist or ecologist studies the proposals prior to any “development”.

Stephen Verchinski discussed the MRCOG Long Range Bikeways Plan and does not like the way the 25/Paseo del Norte interchange is planned as heard earlier in the meeting tonight. He does not believe it fulfills the COG’s Long Range Plan.

Scott Hale would like GARTC and GABAC to have better communication. Scott believes that GARTC is becoming a “de-facto pedestrian group” and he is “not comfortable with that”. Scott is worried about user conflicts at the Tingley Beach area and the *bosque* where pedestrians can cross the multi-use trail.

Discussion, Action Items, and New Business:

Rio Grande Vision (bosque improvements): Motion: Gary moved to table the following action items until next meeting. 2nd by Ian Maddieson. All in favor 5-0. Motion passes.

GARTC Letter to the Mayor and City Council on Piedras Marcadas Trail: motion tabled this item

Sub-Committee Reports:

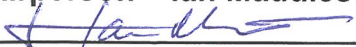
Trail Names: Ian and James met regarding trail names (ongoing).

Bollards: none.

.Adjourn: Ian Maddieson made a Motion to adjourn. Second by Gary Kelly. All in favor; motion passes 5-0

The foregoing GARTC minutes from the ^{Sept 17} ~~August 20~~, 2013 GARTC meeting have been approved as written or with noted comments on October 15, 2013.

Chairperson – Ian Maddieson



Oct 15th 2013
Date

Prepared by: James Lewis



10/15/13
Date

