

GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 19, 2015
3:30 pm

City Hall, 7th Floor, Room 7096

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

Members Absent: William Schimberg

Advisory Members Present: None

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

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Jackie Bouker, Jill Mosher (NMDOT), Jerry Lovato (AMAFCA), Lynn Mazur (AMAFCA), John Barncastle, Terri O'Hare, Savina Garcia (Wilson & Co.), Mark A

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson John Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of the May 19, 2015 Agenda

Motion to approve made and approved.

Approval of April 21, 2014 Minutes

Paper copies of the Minutes were not available so approval was deferred to June meeting.

General Announcements: Chairperson Thomas stated that Ian Maddison had heard from William Shimberg who has not been present for the last 3-4 months. Staff will provide Chair with his phone number to determine his interest in continuing on the Committee.

Chairperson Thomas stated that it is his intention to retire from GARTC at the end of this year.

Chairperson Thomas stated that there are 2 candidates that have submitted their applications for positions on this Committee. Applications go directly to the Mayor's office for review and consideration. Staff will check on status of the applications. The two candidates are Terri O'Hare (for Physically Challenged) and Kathleen Rhode (for Active Elderly). Chairperson Thomas introduced Ms. O'Hare later in the meeting.

Chairperson Thomas reminded the attendees of the many volunteer opportunities with the City of Albuquerque and how each person can contribute to his/her City.

Chairperson Thomas stated that the Bikeways and Trails Plan was heard at City Council last night and City Council voted to approve the Plan. The Trails Committee had several people speak in

favor of approval along with others including Julie Luna from MRCOG and previous Committee members. The Plan has a 15 day appeal period before it becomes final.

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

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

- *Update on 50 Mile Activity Loop* – Savina Garcia, Project Engineer with Wilson & Company and Linda Rumpf from City Planning provided a review of the status of the project and answered questions from attendees. Ms. Garcia reminded everyone that the Loop is for everyone to use, and that the Goal is to promote health and recreation for residents and visitors. The project involves creating and upgrading trails facilities, filling gaps/connecting neighborhoods and improving areas that are older and are due for updating. The Loop includes “mini-loops” that connect to the 50 Mile Activity Loop. The total estimated cost today to complete the Loop is \$20M which is not available at this time. The project has been broken into manageable parts and some that are very challenging. The project is focused on the first part which is filling in gaps in the existing system. Most facilities are within the City, NMDOT or County Right of Way so acquisition is not necessary. Jill Mosher stated that NMDOT is not lead on any of the Bernalillo County or Tribal lands but will work with the City to establish Agreements and to assist with some work such as edges of trails or streets. Additional discussion followed regarding specific locations, studies done, horses on bridges, current law enforcement procedures and 311 protocol.
- *AMAFCA dilemma* – Jerry Lovato (AMAFCA) presented a summary of AMAFCA’s history and purpose. Mr. Lovato explained that AMAFCA is a political subdivision of the State and employs 22 people with a \$4.2 annual budget. At least 30 miles of Albuquerque trails are situated on AMAFCA Right-of-Way by Agreement. The Agreements state certain requirements and reiterate that the primary use of AMAFCA property is flood control and that trails are a secondary use. Discussion followed regarding ADA standards and City policies and how they can conflict in some situations. Tyler Ashton and Val Cole spoke supporting AMAFA and the facilities on their property. Mr. Lovato described how an accommodation was made for Gary Kelly w/respect to getting his trike through gates on AMAFCA sited trails. The AMAFCA policy for bollards and gates is a different standard than the City’s policy with AMAFCA’s primary concerns being problems with 4 wheelers and trucks getting access where they are prohibited.

Sub-committee Updates/Actions – None

Staff Reports and Project Updates

- *2015 Albuquerque Bicycle Maps* – Christina Sandoval informed the Committee that the new Bike and Trail maps are out.
- *McMahon redo* - The City is repaving McMahon from Unser to Milky Way starting June 1st through June 22. This includes redoing the subgrade and repaving.
- *National Trails Day is June 6th*. The Parks & Recreation Department is doing a pilot project on the Bosque Trail to introduce native grasses along the edges of the trail to

- out compete goatheads. The location is at the west end of Mountain Road at the park.
- *Bike Share* was introduced last day on *Bike to Work Day*. This is a joint project with City of Albuquerque and MRCOG.
 - *Bridge Inventory* – The City 's Parks Planning & Design and Park Management Divisions are working on an inventory of all bridges on trails and in parks.
 - *Bollards Project* – The Department of Municipal Development and Parks & Recreation Department is looking at all bollards in the trails system (other than on AMAFCA property) to identify those that can be removed, those that can be replaced with retractable bollards and those that are OK as they are. This will be done in 3 to 4 phases and we can email the priorities to you when we have them identified..

Public Comment

- John Barncastle provided areas of safety concerns on trails.
- Scott Hale is leading a ride next Thursday to see the I-25 San Antonio crossing to Jefferson and El Pueblo.

Adjourn: Move to adjourn at 5:50 pm. Seconded, all in favor, (motion passes 4-0)

The foregoing GARTC minutes from the March 17, 2015 and April 21, 2015 GARTC meeting have been deferred to June 19, 2015 meeting.

Chairperson – John Thomas

John N. Thomas 6/16/2015
Date

Prepared by: Christina Sandoval

Sandoval 6/16/15
Date