

**GREATER ALBUQUERQUE
RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**



October 16, 2018
3:30 pm



**Meeting Place: Parks and Recreation Administration,
1801 4th St NW**

Members Present: Warren Wild, Likhaya Dayile, Kathleen Rhoad, Geoff Tweed, Valerie Cole

Members Absent: Tyler Ashton, Travis Davis

Advisory Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Dave Simon, Wade Patterson

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Jackie Bouker

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. A quorum was present. Committee members and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of October 16, 2018 Agenda

Likhaya moved to approve the agenda as presented. Warren seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of August 18, 2018 Minutes

Geoff moved to approve the agenda with changes, Likhaya seconded. All were in favor.

General Announcements:

Kathleen informed the committee that she is resigning as the Active Elderly representative and Vice-Chair of the board due to an injury. Committee members expressed their sadness at her departure and recognized her contributions over the three years she has served. A copy of her resignation letter is attached.

Wade informed the committee that Travis Davis (Physically Disabled representative) has also resigned his position due to scheduling conflicts. A copy of his resignation letter is attached.

Valerie shared with the committee that Bernalillo County has received the EPA Regional People's Choice Award for it's initial phase of the Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan. A copy of the announcement is attached.

New Business/Presentations:

GARTC Web Page Update: Wade noted that he had compiled the information provided by various members regarding consolidating the language on the GARTC page that describes the charge of the committee as well as proposed links to trail resources in the greater Albuquerque area. There

was some discussion about whether it was appropriate to provide resources that are outside the jurisdiction of the City of Albuquerque given the scope of the committee. It was decided that providing links to existing information was fine and that users often don't make distinctions based on city/county boundaries. Wade spoke with Philip Clelland, Parks and Recreation's Public Information Officer about what is possible. GARTC at this point only has a single page at its disposal so everything has to fit within that confine. Philip had also encouraged the development of concise language and to consolidate links. If the page is too long, users may not get to the bottom or may stop reading the information provided. Wade will provide the committee with proposed language and links for review at the next meeting. Once approved, Philip will update.

GARTC Membership: With Kathleen and Travis resigning from the board, the current vacancies are as follows:

- East At-large Representative
- Active Elderly
- Physically Challenged

Additionally, the following positions have termed out and are in need of new representatives. Note that the committee's bylaws state that a person who has served two terms may remain in their capacity until a replacement has been found:

- Off-Road Bicyclist/Mountain Bike
- Equestrian Representative

The West At-large Representative (Tyler Ashton) is eligible for a second term, but must apply again (see information below)

The remaining positions are not expired nor do they need to reapply.

In order to apply for a second term on the committee, members should go through the GARTC website and submit an application as if they were applying for the first time. The link to the application can be found on the GARTC website: <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/our-department/boards-commissions/greater-albuquerque-recreational-trails-committee>

Potential new members should be directed to the GARTC website as outlined above.

Dave Simon, Parks and Recreation Director, sent an e-mail to Jim Sattler with the Albuquerque Open Space Division to ask for recommendations for the East At-large representative position. Wade will work with Philip Clelland to post requests for committee member applications via the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

Connections from On-street to Off-street Facilities: This is an agenda item that recurs every month. Wade asked for some additional clarity from the committee about what the objective was with respect to this topic. Dave Simon noted that the last time he attended this committee's meeting (May 2018?) there was quite a bit of discussion on the topic. Members provided some specific examples of difficult transitions from off-street multi-use trail facilities to on-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Ladera Trail was mentioned as an example along with Arroyo del Oso (connection to San Mateo), and Academy trail.

The discussion ended with the suggestion that the committee should work to develop design guidance to address this issue more systematically moving forward.

Bike Map and Pedestrian Resources: As with the on-road to off-road connections, there was a general discussion concerning what the committee would like to work toward with respect to maps and bike/ped resources. Ideas floated include:

- Rebranding the existing bike map as a general trails map
- Create a Pedestrian Resource Guide (Portland has one online. Albuquerque's could include irrigation ditches and other resources for equestrians and pedestrians.

Staff Reports and Project Updates:

Wade Patterson presented a staff report on trails activities:

- **North Diversion Channel at Singer** – This project has completed. About a quarter mile section south of Singer Ave. received some rehabilitation work – crack repairs, seal coat and restriping. The trail has been open for public use since 9/21.
- **North Diversion Channel Bridge Re-decking** – We finally have an executed contract for design services with KSA Engineering. Wade is meeting with them on Wednesday, October 17 to review the scope of work so they can get underway. They will be designing the concrete decking replacements at six more bridges along the North Diversion Channel Trail. We will also use their services to design some trail gaps (Ventana Ranch, for example) and other design issues as they emerge.
- **Alameda Drain Trail**- We are in the midst of drafting the agreement with Parametrix who will provide design services and construction management. Fee negotiations are complete and we are just getting the language, milestones, etc. in shape before circulating for signatures.
- **North Diversion Channel Erosion Control at Villa Corrales Road** – The access trail from Villa Corrales NE (north of Osuna) has chronic erosion issues. Parks and Rec is instituting a remediation strategy to control erosion along the escarpment using bark mulch, seeding and wattles. This work was postponed until after Balloon Fiesta. Work began on Monday, October 15.
- **I-40 Trail Connection at Skyline Road** – We were recently made aware of an old easement across a private parcel intended to provide access to the I-40 Trail for this neighborhood. We met with COA Real Property to discuss this project in more detail. There are a few moving parts and special considerations, but all parties were in support of making this trail linkage for the local community that currently has no direct access. Real Property is researching other easements that may provide a better connection and consulting with area property owners.
- **Erosion Control at Black Arroyo** – We have revisited some erosion control/mitigation efforts conducted in the spring along the Black Arroyo Trail near Cibola High School. We will be moving forward on instituting additional erosion control measures in the next few months.

New Business:

Dave Simon was asked for a summary of how things are going at Parks and Recreation generally. Below is the discussion.

Mr. Simon emphasized the importance of federal and state elections and the consequences for trails and parks. Within the current city administration, he feels there is strong support for the value of trails. That being said, the priorities for the administration at present are public safety and homelessness. To adequately support these efforts, a lot of resources are needed and the city's overall budget is significantly limited. The result is that other programs may not get all the funding they would like. A third priority area is economic development which at present focuses on the railyards redevelopment.

Parks and Recreation, along with all other city departments, was asked to submit a proposed budget for a specified amount of funding. In response, P and R requested an additional \$1 million for trails in the next bond cycle. However, at this point in the budget development process, there is no additional money for trails included in the Mayor's budget proposal. P and R will continue to receive the current funding (from the quarter cent tax and other sources) but not likely the additional requested \$1 million.

The next opportunity for members of the public to voice their opinions on the general obligation bond package will be 8:30am on November 8th at the public Environmental Planning Commission meeting in the Plaza del Sol basement.

As a side note, Mr. Simon noted that the quarter cent tax (which is based on GRT) sunsets in 2020 and will need to be renewed to continue this funding for trails beyond that time. This will be an opportunity for trails advocates to be heard. Other interest groups may also have their eye on this funding when it comes up for renewal, so this committee and other vested parties will want to be organized to make sure their interests are considered in the process. Stay tuned...

Mr. Simon mentioned that Parks and Recreation is in the process of hiring a Senior Planner. This position will spend approximately half of their time working with Wade, giving us 1.5 people (roughly) focused on trail related issues. The timeline for hiring was not clear, but the position was advertised.

Warren mentioned that with the National Senior Games coming to Albuquerque, this could be a good time to leverage investments in trail improvements to put our best foot forward.

Mr. Simon also talked about the state legislative session coming up. This will be a 60-day legislative session. We can pursue legislators for additional money in support of trails investments. Each representative gets a set amount of money for capital outlay and senators get up to \$1 million. Mr. Simon encouraged the committee to think about our top priorities in terms of trails and consider a request.

Public Comment:


There were no public comments.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.

The foregoing GARTC meeting summary from the October 16, 2018 GARTC meeting have been reviewed as written or with noted comments on November 20, 2018.

Chairperson – Tyler Ashton

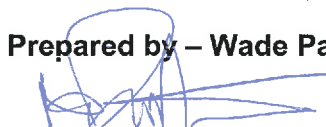


Signature W.W.ICO for TY/EC

12/18/18

Date

Prepared by – Wade Patterson



Signature

12/15/18

Date

October 16, 2018

Wade Patterson, Staff, PRD

Dear Wade,

I am resigning as the Active Elderly member of GARTC. I have injured my left knee and no longer qualify as "active."

I have enjoyed my 3 years on GARTC and getting to know you and GARTC members.

Kathleen Rhoad

Patterson, Wade

From: Travis Davis <tmatthewdavis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2018 11:44 AM
To: Patterson, Wade
Subject: Re: GARTC Agenda
Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi Wade,

Thanks for sending this out. I will not be able to make it next week.

In looking at my schedule and appointments I normally attend to, I feel it's best if I resign. I wish I could commit every month, but at this moment, that is unrealistic for me.

I appreciate everyone having me on the Board, and I am more than happy to stay involved on a volunteer basis to provide my expertise when needed.

Thank you so much for your leadership. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

On Fri, Nov 16, 2018 at 10:30 AM Patterson, Wade <wpatterson@cabq.gov> wrote:

Hello GARTC Members,

Attached, please find a draft agenda for next week's meeting. I apologize for not getting this to you earlier in the week. I have been sick but came in today to try and handle a few items (this included) since I am running a little behind in general.

Before we leave the next meeting, I would like to discuss the agenda. At this point, I send out a version that is the same as the previous month with dates changed. I do not add or remove anything unless I know there is a topic slated for discussion (in which case I draw you attention to this when sending out the draft). This is the committee's opportunity to make any changes to what is included. I wonder if this might be a better/more productive discussion to have at the end of the meeting to set the agenda for the following month. I will try to remember to prompt this discussion, but am throwing it out there now in the hope that the collective brain will help it not fall through the cracks.

The other item of significance is our current membership. If you were not in attendance last meeting, Kathleen resigned from the committee due to health issues. Additionally, a number of you have served two terms (the limit) but are still in your seat in the absence of a replacement. I am very grateful for those continuing their service(!), but also feel we should have a discussion about recruitment, short/medium/long term objectives for the committee, and the kinds of people (ie. desired skill sets, professional expertise, etc.) you all feel can help

Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan

Receives EPA Regional People's Choice Award

Bernalillo County – Bernalillo County received the “People’s Choice” award for its initial phase of the Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan at a recent Environmental Protection Agency regional conference, in the category of Outstanding Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development.

The Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan project is a four-party effort by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority for the purposes of providing amenities along the drain while still honoring the primary function of the drain and its need for maintenance. It provides a framework for trail and other improvements along the nine-mile corridor that runs from Interstate 40 to the northern end of Second Street.

The comprehensive intent of the project is to enhance this historic drainage way by improving water quality through strategic landscaping concepts and creating a shared use path that works in conjunction with the drain, which results in a more cohesive, aesthetic corridor.

BernCo engineer and project manager, Diane Sholtis, led the public outreach for the project's master plan, which included a series of workshops, field tours, general forums, four public meetings and over 10 individual stakeholder meetings. The efforts resulted in a comprehensive evaluation of all elements for an overall project design that will serve not only the stakeholders but also the environment.

“Being environmentally conscious and responsible were guiding principles for this project,” says BernCo Public Works Division Deputy County Manager, Roger Paul. “We are honored to be recognized on a regional level for this project in the green infrastructure category; extensive time, effort and thought were poured into this project by all of the partner agencies.”

Bernalillo County is responsible for the first phase of this multi-phase project. Phase 1 is currently under construction and will develop unique equestrian, pedestrian and cycling opportunities for both recreation and transportation uses from Montañó Road to Osuna Road. Phase 1 will cost approximately \$1.7 million and construction is expected to be completed by spring 2019.

The Alameda Drain was constructed to lower moderate and shallow groundwater tables, and return unused irrigation water back to the Rio Grande for reuse. The drain is part of the larger network of water conveyances that shape development patterns in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The drain runs parallel to Second Street for the majority of its length. The improvements will parallel the drain from I-40 to Sandia Pueblo.

(Alameda North Valley Association Memo, October 9, 2018)