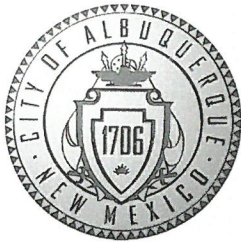


GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES



February 21, 2017
3:30 pm



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

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

Members Absent: Ian Maddieson, Ron Cossey

Advisory Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Jason Coffey (Staff), PRD; Robert Ramirez, PRD; Valerie Hermanson, MRCOG;

Staff Members Absent: None

Visitors Present: Jackie Bouker

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 3:37 p.m. Quorum is present.

Approval of February 21, 2017 Agenda

Valerie Cole moved to approve the agenda, Tyler Ashton seconds. Motion carries with a voice vote.

Approval of January 17, 2017 Minutes

The Chair informs the committee that edits to the January 17, 2017 was submitted to staff. The changes include grammar and typos, plus reworking a sentence from the staff report to reflect that the Aldo Leopold ramp was open at the time of the January meeting.

Valerie Cole moved to approve the minutes as amended, Warren Wild seconds. Motion carries with a voice vote.

General Announcements:

Staff introduces Robert Ramirez, Special Projects Manager, for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Ramirez provides information regarding the Bosque crusher fine trail. The concern from committee members is that the trail has been showing the horse hoof prints and the committee would like to know if the same construction methods and materials were used on the 3rd segment of the trail. Mr. Ramirez explains that the same methods and materials were used for all 3 segments and acknowledges the 3rd segment is popular area for equestrian users. Due to the popularity of this area for equestrian users it is not feasible to restrict equestrian access, but it is preferred that equestrian users avoid the trail in wet conditions do to the increased likelihood of damage from horse hooves. Mr. Ramirez updates the committee regarding the air space agreement with NMDOT to connect the trail under the I-40 Bridge. Additionally, Mr. Ramirez provides an update on the Atrisco Syphon Bridge. The bridge will be installed starting in March and be completed by April 15, 2017, and information is provided regarding soil types and construction

methods for the syphon bridge. The construction methods will include a crane to place the 90' bridge. There is a general conversation about the wants and needs for a bridge in that area as expressed by the public during public meeting regarding the project. The bridge will be 10' wide and rated for equestrian use as well as pedestrian use.

Valerie Cole updates the committee regarding Jeff Speck's recommendations for downtown; there has been some email communication to Mr. Speck about ongoing questions from Mrs. Cole and in one of Jeff Speck's replies he recommends watching a TED talk he presented. A link to talk is below.

http://www.ted.com/talks/jeff_speck_4_ways_to_make_a_city_more_walkable

Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:

Committee Elections Review

The Chair spoke with Tyler Ashton and he is willing to serve as the Vice-Chair for the GARTC.

North Diversion Channel Trail Pilot Project and Trail Signage Review

The committee reviews three copies of the 30% plans provided by AECOM as part of the Bridge and Trail Evaluation Study. Staff explains that the plans are not ready for an intensive review by the committee because many elements are still missing and the consultant is working to add all the necessary elements for the 60% review. The 60% plans will provide an opportunity to review the substance of the project versus just noting all the items still missing from the 30% plans. However, staff outlines a few of the major issues to be addressed in the pilot project. Stop signs versus yield signs for trail users at intersections and what type of signage would be best at the southern terminus of the North Diversion Channel Trail are issue the committee will be asked to advise on once the plans are to 60%. Mr. Ashton brings up the need to refine the typical intersection signage for all trail projects and staff informs the committee that that will be one of the results of the pilot project. There is a general conversation about the various signs needed and the dynamics of trail crossings of roads and how to handle safety concerns for both trail users and vehicle drives. The conversation includes discussion of the State Statutes versus trail user and driver behavior and how best to integrate these dynamics into decisions made regarding signage types to deploy on the trail network.

Bike Map Review

Staff shares news regarding the timing of the next Bike Map update. As of this morning, 2/21, staff was informed as new 2017 addition of the Bike Map will be published to coincide with Bike to Work Day on May 19, 2017. Originally, staff was under the impression that new addition of the Bike Map would not be published for Bike to Work Day and therefore there would be more time for a lengthy review of the map. But, as it turns out any comments or requested changes must be submitted to DMD before the end of March 2017, and because the committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2017 there will not be time to review the map and bring comment and changes up at the next meeting and get those reflected in the next addition of the map. There is a general conversation regarding the Bike Map and what changes could be made. The conversation also includes the idea of an Urban Pedestrian Guide for ABQ that could include more specific information for pedestrians. The current Bike Map is the only publication provided by the City showing the multi-use trail network and we know that bicyclist are not the only users of the trail network. There is a general conversation about the effectiveness of the current Bike Map in providing information to non-bicycle users of the multi-use trail network. Valerie Hermanson brings up the Pedestrian Composite Index published by the Mid-Region Council of Governments and that PCI could be incorporated into a pedestrian guide. The idea of an Urban Pedestrian Guide for ABQ

is well received and could become a future project integrating GARTC and other City departments, and other agency stakeholders.

Sub-Committee Review

The Chair requests this item remain on the March agenda but be re-named, Agenda Sub-Committee Review.

Staff Reports and Project Updates:

Jason Coffey, Trails Planner, Parks and Recreation Department

The Bridge and Trail Evaluation Study, we can discuss the 30% plans for the pilot project. There are still quite a number of missing items on the plans but we can discuss the direction they are heading and what to expect. I did meet with the dispatch center for APD and AFD and got some good news regarding the mile marker system. Adding the miles markers in GIS and geo-coding the locations will improve first responder time even if there is not a physical sign installed on the trail. This is significant because there are still a number of challenges to the mile marker signs, mostly relating to cost and maintenance, but what we are designing will achieve the main goal of improving public safety even if we can't get every trail signed with mile markers, or keep the mile marker from being vandalized.

North Diversion Channel Rail Crossing Agreement, Christina and I met with the attorney for Real Property and this agreement is back in the que and will be reviewed in the next few weeks. Once the agreement's text is agreed upon it will go for routing, so this is progress.

The Singer Bridge widening and trail notch project continues. The notch under Singer Blvd. will be open within a few days of writing this report. I walked the notch this afternoon, 2/17/17, and it looks great. The contractor was working on the striping and the railing needs more paint but otherwise it is ready to go. The contractor wants to get it open ASAP because they still have one trail bridge to remove north of Singer Blvd and they need to use the notch to divert trail traffic under and around the location.

I-40 West Channel Extension construction has begun. Once work begins on the trail portion of the project I will provide progress updates. The first focus of the construction activity will be on earth work related to channel with trail work coming later in the project.

Bear Canyon Arroyo bridge over I25, the Parks Management crews removed some of the worst sections of the surface material and patched with asphalt. These patches are temporary and a long term solution will need to be identified. DMD and Parks are still negotiating regarding who has what responsibilities and who will pay for what. I am expecting this to move more quickly over the next month and hopefully arrangements can be made between the Departments. The recent weather, very warm, then rain and freezing had made the conditions significantly worse, so action needed to be taken before the long term solution is identified.

Unser Trail Erosion Control is a project to stabilize the slopes on the new trail segment from Unser Blvd NW to Santo Domingo Ct NW. The trail maintenance crew has taken this project on and began work filling in the erosion scars. The slopes will be seeded and Parks will work with DMD Parks Construction to get the slopes watered so we can get the seeds to germinate. There was a

pause in the project because the crew was pulled off to address the Bear Bridge, but the week of the 2/17 they will be back working on it.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn: Meeting is adjourned at 5:21pm.

The foregoing GARTC minutes from the February 21, 2017 GARTC meeting have been approved as written or with noted comments on March 21, 2017.

Chairperson – Kathleen Rhoad

Kathleen Rhoad
Signature

March 21, '17
Date

Prepared by: Jason Coffey

Jason Coffey
Signature

3/23/17
Date