

# GREATER ALBUQUERQUE RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 15, 2015

3:30 pm

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Room 7096

(Fifth and Marquette NW, Albuquerque, NM)

Note: Anything in [brackets to be updated or removed based on meeting]

**Members Present:** John Thomas, Valerie Cole, Kathleen Rhoads, Ian Maddieson (Quorum is present)

**Members Absent:** William Schimberg, Warren Wild, Tyler Ashton (excused)

**Advisory Members Present:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Gabe Boyle-DMD, Christina Sandoval-PRD, Jason Coffey-PRD, Nolan Bennett-BernCo, Diane Sholtis-BernCo, Carrie Barkhurst-Planning Dept.

**Staff Members Absent:** None

**Visitors Present:** Jackie Bouker, John Barncastle

## **Call to Order and Introductions**

Meeting called to order at 3:43 p.m. Quorum is present

## **Approval of December 15, 2015 Agenda**

John, I move we approve the agenda, second by Val, passes by voice vote.

## **Approval of September 15, 2015 Minutes**

The Committee members review the September minutes. John, thank you to Christina for preparing the minutes; Christina, you're welcome. Kathleen, there is one typo in the general comments, I think it should say, still trying to get Board vacancies filled not filed.

John, I move to accept the minutes from September with the typo noted, second by Val, passes with a voice vote.

## **General Announcements:**

Everyone present at the meeting introduces themselves and there is a brief discussion regarding members who are absent. Jason, Tyler Ashton sent an email just around 3pm stating he was under the weather and would not be able to attend. No communication from Warren Wild or William Schimberg and there is a brief general discussion about William Schimberg's lack of attendance. Ian Maddieson, I believe the statute states if a member does not show up three meetings in a row without good reason then they are out. This would make meeting quorum easier if nothing else.

- GARTC Annual Report

John, as Chair I drafted the annual report and Val provided several good comments. I was encouraged to take the edge off of some of my remarks. The items listed in the annual report are reviewed by the Committee. League of American Bicyclists (LAB) rating is discussed and NM is the second highest per capita pedestrian and bicyclist fatality rate in the nation. Implementation of the Bikeways and Trails Facilities Plan is discussed, as well as the bollard remediation program. John, both the Chair of GABAC and I feel like there are deficiencies in the implementation of the bollard remediation. Public safety is another topic in the annual report and I want to thank everyone who participated in talking with the police about the issue. APD is under staffed and it is hard to ask for more bicycle patrols when they are lacking 200 + officers. GARTC and GABAC were involved in reviewing the Paseo del Norte pedestrian crossing, and no one who has used the crossings feels they are safe. The crusher fines trail, we may need to restrict cyclist use for the safety of other user groups. There is a question regarding equestrian users on the Bosque crusher fine trail. Jackie, the trail is not the problem, the bikers who want to use the trail to ride fast are the problem, trail etiquette is a major issue. John, I agree it is a nature trail more than a transportation trail. Ian, I would like to see a small amendment to the first paragraph, I would like to see walk and run added to the list of trail users in the first paragraph. There is a brief discussion regarding the need for more pedestrian and persons with disabilities advocacy groups. Val, I am amazed by the amount of work you put into this annual report and I wonder about the issue of professional engineers as key steps to a Silver rating by the LAB. There is a discussion amongst the guests, staff and committee members regarding the use of engineers to design trail projects. Val, I wanted to add a comment about the difficulties with getting new members, people come and visit and express interest but then there is a difficulty getting members approved. Gabe, the state is studying the signal timing for the crossing at Paseo del Norte. John, I would like to have a separate crossing for cyclists, but that is encouraging. Val, I want to have the paragraph added about the issues getting new members. Carrie, I would just point out the recommendation to change the disabled to persons with disabilities; there are two instances where this is referenced. Jackie, I object to the tone of the paragraph of the crusher fine trail, asking for trained engineer is a bit much. Ian, it may be a bit much to say "designed by untrained and unlicensed personnel". The committee asks who was involved in designing the Bosque crusher fine trail. Christina, the trail was designed by internal staff and landscape architects from Dekker Parish Sabatini. John, I will work on the paragraph. Val, I like the Sedona crusher fines, John I think it is decomposed granite, but it is nice and might be nicer than crusher fines.

- GARTC Yearly Election

John, I think we need Jason to weigh in on this. Jason, four members are not eligible for reappointment, two are and Kathleen is newly appointed. Members can serve until a new member is appointed to their position so the committee can continue to operate even with members who are not eligible for reappointment. I am working to get a meeting with Constituent Services to confirm when member's terms started and to find out if there any potential new members in the pipeline. As mentioned, getting new members to apply for appointment is something the committee will need to work on. John, I think several of us on the committee have been encouraging people to apply. As you all well know, I will be resigning at the end of this year and we need to see if anyone is interested in being Chair or Vice-Chair. Ian, Kathleen would be an obvious choice as a new member. Kathleen, I would not be comfortable as a new member becoming the Chair. Ian, I would be willing to be the chair until someone is appointed to my position. John, Jason can you tell William Schimberg that he is off the committee? There is a discussion about the best way to communicate with William Schimberg about his lack of participation on the committee. There is also discussion of the fact that by statute if a member misses three meetings then they can be

removed from the committee. John, will send an email to William Schimberg thanking him for his contribution and telling him he is non-participatory and he needs to resign or he is being removed from the committee. The committee will postpone the election until next month's meeting. John Thomas will be resigning at the end of December and Ian Maddieson as Vice-Chair will lead the January meeting.

### **Discussion, Action Items, and On-Going Business:**

- **Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan –**

Nolan Bennett presents on the Alameda Drain and Trail Master Plan. The committee asks about which agencies are participating in the Master Plan effort. The Master Plan is a joint effort between MRGCD, AMAFCA, BernCo, and CABQ. Nolan continues to describe the project. John, this sounds a bit like a linear park. Nolan, you stole one of our slides! Yes, that is one of proposals, along with the trail alignment itself. Many property owners have primary or secondary access from the drain ROW, so the various widths of the sections and conflicts with crossings are issues we are working with. Nolan describes the slides with examples of the multitude of issues, one of the major one is MRGCD access to the drain for maintenance. Improved Water quality is one of the goals of the Aster Plan so planting and other features are being considered in the project. Improving Water quality, and improving the visual quality of the corridor or considerations for the Master Plan. There are a couple of projects with the potential for collaboration with the implementation of the Master Plan, and we are actively working on those partnerships. Christina, maintenance of the trail will be an issue we need to resolve so that we can get agreement for maintenance between the County and the City, the City will maintain. So the portion in the City we need to get all the Master Plan stakeholders to agree on the amenities and features. The county has funding for their portion of the trail but the City does not yet have funding identified. Ian, Runners and walkers prefer to use soft surfaces, is there room to fit that into the plan. Nolan, yes we are looking at that and there might be room for that. Christina, it will also depend on the varying width of the ROW. Jackie, is this a draft, I don't see any contact information on this presentation. Diane, Jackie this is a working document. Nolan, we have received a ton of feedback and we are incorporating that feedback into the Master Plan. John, I applaud you all for including meanders in the design it is more natural, artists and nature abhor straight lines. The Paseo del Nordeste trail is an example where there is a nice pocket park installed but the landscaping was not maintained well. Christina, we have a maintenance agreement with AMAFCA and they turned the maintenance over to the City. Nolan, coordination between entities on maintenance is an ongoing issue and we hope to use this project as an example of how to generate the needed coordination. Nolan, history and nature have come up many times in this project and it is something we are going to look towards for adding some beautification to the drain. Christina, we are looking where there may be nodes for historical uses like fishing and catching crawdads, so we are looking for opportunities for active uses of the drain. Nolan, we are hoping increased use will help improve the safety and beauty of the drain. John, I want to reiterate the need for safety at the crossings some of you are engineers so I know you understand the issues for safety. Nolan, we are focusing on the safety of trail users and looking into crossing tables to highlight the potential for trails users at the crossing, so we are weighing many, many, variables we are working with as we develop this Master Plan, but we

understand this will be a phased project involving several jurisdictions. Kathleen, when is design going to begin. Nolan, fall of 2017 for construction of the County portion of the trail, design will begin in the next few months. (Review recording) Ian, Second Street is not a very pleasant roadway, so trees and other landscaping will be a great improvement. Nolan describes the County and City boundaries for the project, we are having a public meeting/discovery work shop on January on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will also have the opportunity for a field visit in January. The next public meeting will be at the Griegos Multi-use Facility on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Nolan, we will provide updates through Jason and give him our email addresses to distribute to the Committee.

- **Parks and Recreation ADA Transition Plan**

Christina, we are continuing to do audits of all our play areas, and we about half way done with parks, and about halfway done evaluating all the 150 miles of trails. We want to have the audits done by spring and have the plan done about four months later. We will be setting standards for all facilities, playgrounds for example, the number of ADA compliant playgrounds, the federal standards do not specify which facilities but a percentage of the facilities. Not all facilities can be ADA based on topography and natural features, the old existing facilities will need a certain number brought up to current standards and all new projects will be ADA compliant. The plan will include phasing of all the improvements for implementation of the plan and we will begin to get funding identified in the next GO bond cycle in 2017. John, so the plan will be done in about a year. Christina, the audits will be done by spring and then 8 months to a year for the completion of the plan. For example with the play areas, it is the surfacing that is not compliant not the equipment, for trails it is likely to curb cuts and ramps. John, it is a huge effort how many parks do you have? Christina, there are 288 parks. John, I am a little curious, is this organic or are you under a federal mandate? Christina, federal mandate said a plan was due in the 90's, but almost no jurisdictions have them completed to date. But, these issues are becoming more visible due to ageing populations and we had a presentation at the MRCOG regarding the requirement for a transition plan in place to access Federal Highway Administration funds. So, there is renewed focus for the ADA transition plans for federal funding. All City departments will need to address ADA to be able to access Federal Funds. The ADA Board will be looking at the ADA transition Plan for the City, but we are just working on the plan for Parks and Rec. Parks is also redoing assessment and registrations forms to include people with mental disabilities.

- **Proposed Trail Names**

John, we will be ending at 5:30pm, will this take long? Carrie, it does not have to. We need to review all the unnamed bikeways and trails in the City, all of the existing Bikeways and Trails have names, but the proposed trails and bikeways do not. The intention is to have all the data managed by DMD, all the proposed data is housed at planning and the existing with DMD, but we are going to migrate the data to avoid gaps in the data for future efforts. We need GARTC's input over the Christmas Break to get ideas about how to name the proposed trails. Kathleen, are you asking the general public for ideas? Carrie, no we haven't considered that. There was a request form GARTC member to review the existing trail names to ensure the names align with general usage. Carrie, isn't Parks working on this too? Christina, yes we will be starting

a study to look at all the trails and bridges and develop a wayfinding signage and naming effort. Carrie, back to your idea Kathleen, AGIS does not have the staff capacity to embark on a major public effort regarding the naming, but maybe Planning can utilize other public meeting to elicit input. Carrie, I will send some information to Jason regarding this item.

o **Strava Data**

Julie, I will distribute some handouts regarding Strava data. I can come back next meeting to review the data and provide more information.

**Sub-committee Updates/Actions – Trail naming Sub-committee report** - None

**Staff Reports and Project Updates –**

**Public Comment-**

John Barncastle provides public comment regarding his hit and run in September and the lack of follow up from APD. He reads a letter that will be presented to the City regarding the incident.

**Adjourn:** Move to adjourn at 5:34pm.

**The foregoing GARTC minutes from the December 15, 2015 GARTC meeting have been approved as written or with noted comments on January 19, 2015.**

**Chairperson – Ian Maddieson (\*)**



**Date**

**Prepared by: Jason Coffey**



**Date**



(\*) John Thomas was the Chairperson when the meeting was conducted. Ian Maddieson was elected chairperson at the January meeting when the minutes were reviewed.