

January 20, 2021
Trails and Open Space Advisory Committee
Online Meeting Record

Members Present Online

Bob Schiowitz, Vice-Chair
Jay Hemphill, Member
Martyn Pearson, Member
Laura Larisch, Member
Jim Wightman, Member
Marsha Sue Lustig, Member

Others Present Online

Leigh Jenkins, Silver Watershed
Keepers
Dan Carter, Continental Divide
Coalition
Richard Johnson
Jaime Embick, Staff

Members Absent

Jody Norman, Member

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Approval of Minutes: Marsha moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting as submitted. Laura seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote of 6/0.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Public Input

Leigh Jenkins stated that the Watershed Keepers will be starting an “Adopt a Reach” program. They want to enlist neighborhood leaders to alert the Town when they see illegal dumping, etc. She will start attending the Trails Advisory Committee Meetings. Martyn stated that Melissa Green is working on an “Adopt a Trail” group for the Gila as well. Dan Carter stated the information is available on the Gila Information website.

Dan Carter stated that there is a “Trail Adoption” program for the Continental Divide Trail. They are doing a lot of work in the Burro Mountains and Black Range. A Mangas Valley connector is being worked on as well. The road walk will be reduced from 13 miles to hopefully less than 6 miles. Freeport McMoRan and the State of New Mexico are working with them. Discussion was held regarding the upgrades to the CDT in the Black Range regarding trail work and water source improvement.

Committee Discussion: Jim asked what the road work near Mobile Drive on the sewer easement is for. Jaime stated that she will ask Robert Esqueda and report back to the group. Bob stated that the fence there is in need of repair as well. Bob would like the group to meet in the field. Jaime reminded the group that all Town sanctioned meetings must be online until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Martyn gave an update on Doug's work on Boston Hill. It will tentatively be done in March and will include work on the flow trail. He also stated that the Town will be working with the Youth Conservation Corps for the 30 Something Grant. It will complete the \$10,000 grant. The work will likely be a summer project and last one to two weeks. The work will continue the Spring Street Trail to the benches and help with traffic while giving options to return to the trailhead.

Bob stated that Lee Gruber and Bridgette Johns will have their Americorp group work in February on the trails near Boston Hill within the Boston Hill Open Space. He said he has been marking the locations for the kiosks which are as follows:

1. Cooper Street
2. Humane Society
3. By-Pass Road
4. F Street
5. Scott Park
6. Mobile Drive
7. Corbin Street

Martyn said he will report this to the 30 Something group and that they will be happy that San Vicente Creek is included.

Bob stated the signs from the first VIVA Connects grant are in place. He stated that the map isn't complete for the 2nd VIVA Connects grant. These will go on the kiosks and trail junctions. He has marked 2.5 miles of main San Vicente Trail from Highway 90 to Scott Park.

Martyn stated that a large piece of property which includes the rail bed is for sale now and asked if the Town could look into the property and possibly work on a trail easement.

Martyn stated that Alicia Cramm is still working to create a disc golf course in the area. Jaime stated she will bring it up at the Recreation Center Steering Committee meeting on 1/21/21.

Dan asked if there was an update on the Little Walnut Road project. Jaime stated that it is on the Capital Outlay request for this session.

Martyn stated that Little Walnut Road is the best connector for the CDT. Bob and Laura stated that they saw the work at the Waterworks Building is starting and the connector would work there.

Staff Report

Jaime reminded the group that 2021 Volunteer sheets are due for anyone who wants to work on the trails. The fencing on the Spring Street parking lot will be up soon. The purchase order was approved this week.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm. The next meeting will be February 24, 2021 at 5pm.

Approved:

Chair _____ Date: _____