

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2019**

The October 24, 2019 Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted in the Gunnison County Blackstock Government Center, 2nd floor meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin #D, Gunnison, CO 81230.

Committee Members Present:

Voting Members:

Kevin Alexander, Professor of Biology WSU, Hunter & Anglers
Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Dave Ochs, Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association
Matt Feier, Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Matt McCombs, USFS
Christie Hicks, Crested Butte Nordic
John Norton, Gunnison Crested Butte Tourism Association
Scott Borden, WCU
Tim Kugler, Gunnison Trails
Mallory Logan, City of Gunnison
Ben Breslauer, GOATS
Steve Guerrieri, Stockgrowers' Association

Others in Audience:

Ashley Hom

Staff:

Cathie Pagano, Community Development Director
Rachel Sabbato, Community Development Planner

CALL TO ORDER: Alexander called the October 24, 2019 meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Moved: by Ochs and seconded by Norton to accept the September 26, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously; Breslauer, Logan and Guerrieri abstained.

DISCUSSION OF ADOPTION OF COLORADO OUTDOOR PRINCIPLES

The committee went over the Colorado Outdoor Principles:

1. Outdoor recreation and conservation require that a diversity of lands and waters be publicly owned, available for public access, and cared for properly. The uniquely American public-land heritage is a privilege and a birthright, and the availability of open space and outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado is a major part of what has made this one of the most desirable states in which to live. We should seek to increase the quality of these public lands and waterways, and do so under the guidance of these seven principles.
2. Within Colorado's diversity of land and waters, private land plays a critical role in preserving the ecological integrity of a functional landscape that is necessary for robust and meaningful outdoor recreational experiences. Private lands in Colorado are vital for conservation of the natural resources and western heritage that has long defined the state. Private landowners increase the

viability of our lands, waters and natural assets by keeping habitat connected and in a natural state. Private landowners and vested parties should be involved in collaborative dialogues whenever possible, and turned to for solutions and deeper partnerships.

3. Both recreation and conservation are needed to sustain Colorado's quality of life. Both are beneficial to local economic well-being, for personal health, and for sustaining Colorado's natural resources. This mutual need exists because outdoor recreation helps people understand the importance of maintaining healthy, intact ecosystems. In turn, that understanding builds support for natural resource protection and stewardship, and conservation protects the land, water and wild places upon which outdoor recreation depends.
4. All recreation has impact. Coloradans have an obligation to minimize these impacts across the places they recreate and the larger landscape through ethical outdoor behavior. Ethical outdoor behavior demonstrates respect for land, water, and wildlife. This outdoor ethic is critical and must be developed in all users and taught to future generations.
5. Proactive management solutions, combined with public education, are necessary to care for land, water and wildlife, and to provide the protections needed to maintain quality recreation opportunities. Active public engagement in crafting solutions is necessary to ensure land management decisions reflect a consensus and can be effectively implemented. A broad, landscape approach is necessary in order to meet both conservation and recreation needs. Collaborative decision-making is needed to decide which activities are best suited for various landscapes.
6. Physical, biological and social science must inform the management of outdoor recreation. Management decisions should be grounded in the best available scientific information to ensure the protection of natural areas and the sustainability of resources. That information is also necessary to maintain and enhance the quality of outdoor recreation experiences.
7. Stable, long-term, and diverse funding sources are essential to protect the environment and support outdoor recreation. Land management agencies need adequate funding from federal, state, and local government sources, supplemented by new and non-traditional funding from private and nonprofit sources.

Ochs wanted to know if the Colorado Parks and Wildlife could put the STOR logo on their website. Pagano will look into it.

Moved; by Norton and seconded by Borden that they adopt the Colorado Outdoor Principles. Motion passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT BOOTCAMP OPPORTUNITY

Alexander reported that the National Forest did a visioning process identifying stakeholders, goals, opposition and was put on by Forest Service. It was a big training exercise on how you pull things together to put together a good vision and work on long term planning. There is an opportunity to see if STOR wants to do it. McCombs stated that it is designed to help organizations, entities and individuals build skill sets as well as facilitate a process to look outwardly into the future, working to find outcomes with shared values and then determine what process you want to take to achieve them. Discussion followed on the benefits. They would like to have it focused towards the STOR Committee.

Pagano reported that GOCO is giving them the funds up front, \$350,000. They originally partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado but that didn't work out. They wanted too much for reimbursement fees. The National Forest Foundation is going to now work with them. Pagano believes they are in a good

place right now. They are hoping to have the job advertised in the next couple of weeks.

COMMUNICATION SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Logan reported that they have ordered the kiosks. Sign Guys is working on completing the panels. They are hoping to have them in this fall. At least one at the Whitewater Park. Sabato reported that they are modeled off the ones at Hartman Rocks and hoping to have them done in the next week. Discussion followed on what would be good for the subcommittee to work on in the future.

PEANUT LAKE ROAD SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Hicks reported that they are hoping to get signs in the ground before it is frozen. Levi reported that they are working on finding design firms that would be interested in helping develop a process for working on the Slate River Trail redesign process. They are hoping to have vehicles signs on the sides of the road to let them know where they can park. They will not be able to expand parking this fall but are hoping to by spring.

Discussion followed on what would be good for the subcommittee to work on.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Future meetings will occur on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Planning Commission meeting room, located at 221 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, Co. 81230, unless changed for a specific reason.

The committee decided to combine the November and December meetings and meet on December 12, 2019.

The committee went over possible agenda items for the next meeting.

Discussion followed on having a trail fund and a trail subcommittee. They decided to add the item to the next agenda to figure out if they want to start out as a group or as a subcommittee. Houck believes it should be the group first and then a subcommittee. Pagano reported that there is a group out of Frisco that does trail master planning and ski master planning and she will send information to the group to review and see an example of what a master plan might look like. Discussion followed on the possibility and opportunities of having a master plan.

Moved; by Ochs, seconded by Kugler to move forward on working on a master plan. Ochs suggested that the starting point should be to use the existing master plans they have and work on getting together data, bring them together and start looking at data and research and then decide if they want to grow the plan or use what they have. There would be two separate plans, over the snow and under the snow. They will determine later if a subcommittee was needed. Motion passed unanimously; McCombs abstained.

Norton wanted to add E-Bikes to the next agenda, thoughts on E-Bikes on trails. They will add it to the January meeting.

Borden reported that the Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit (COILS) is looking at having Western hold their summit next year.

ADJOURN: The October 24, 2019 meeting of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Prepared by Rebecca Ricord, Community Development Administrative Assistant III