

**GUNNISON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OUTDOOR TOURISM COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2023**

The October 26, 2023 Gunnison Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Tourism Committee (STORC) meeting was conducted in person and by Zoom virtual online meeting, Gunnison, CO, 81230.

Committee Members Present:

Jake Jones, Chair, Crested Butte Land Trust
Kimberly Shappert, Vice Chair, At-Large
Celeste Helminski, At-Large Member
Derrick Nierenberg, MetRec
Chris Parmeter, At-Large Member
Roman Kolodziej, Town of Mount Crested Butte
Laura Puckett-Daniels, BOCC
LB Mullin Jr., At-Large Member
Jeremy Johndrow, At-Large Member
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD (zoom)
Gabi Prochaska, Town of CB Council Member

Steve Guerrieri, Stockgrowers'
David Ochs, At-Large
Dayle Funka USFS
Jennifer DeBoer, WCU

Ian Billick, Town of Crested Butte
Mark Voegeli, CBMR

Others in Audience:

Hedda Peterson, CB Nordic
Lauren Ahonen, Met Rec

Staff:

Cathie Pagano, Community and Economic Development Director
Jena Greene, Community and Economic Development Planning Technician

CALL TO ORDER: Jake Jones called the October 26, 2023, meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

MINUTE APPROVAL: Minutes from September 28th, 2023. Moved to approve with changes by Derrek N. and seconded by Mark Voegeli. Passed unanimously.

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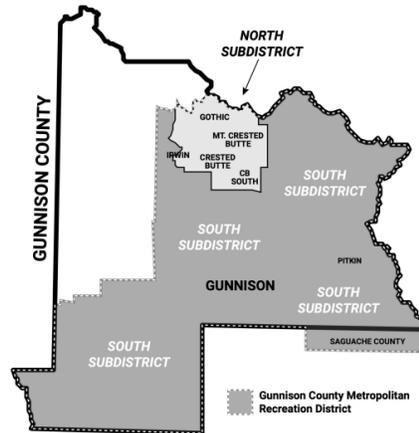
Jake Jones passed the floor to Derrick Nirenberg to discuss item **Gunnison Met Rec recreation master plan proposal**.

- Met Rec was pursuing a regional recreation master plan and wanted to know what the STOR committee's biggest desired outcomes would be.
- Presentation: There's evidence that recreation improves human health, gave examples of how exercise improves human health and mental health from British journal of sports medicine. Examples were given of benefits beyond health including mental health, physical health, youth

development, social interaction, community engagement, economic benefits, inclusive communities, environmental awareness, and community identity.

- The MetRec Districts were determined by where TV services were available, since Colorado law counts watching TV as recreation. This area included a large portion of Gunnison County, and a small portion of Saguache County (see map below). The entire district was subject to a mill of 1.0, and the north subdistrict was subject to a mill of 2.0.

Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District Boundary Map



- Gave an overview of the Met Rec Budget from 2007 to 2024, noting that recreation spending began in 2018, and then then increased with after a budget increase after the levy passed in 2022
- For 2024, anticipated about \$2.4 million in revenues.
- Revamped recreation grant program in 2023 impact in 2023, and sent out a survey to help decide what to spend the funds on. The survey asked about outdoor and indoor recreation needs separately.
- MetRec planned to start on the recreation master plan in January 2024 and hoped to publish and complete the plan in April 2025. Their process would include forming an advisory committee made of community partners. They were also contemplating including members to represent arts and culture, which wasn't a consideration in the past. They asked if there were any other areas or groups that the committee thought should be considered for the advisory committee.
- MetRec's current role as a government partner was to award rec grants. Other potential partnership opportunities could be supporting governmental rec program operations, supporting governmental recreation capital development, and/or acting as recreation owner and operator (Gave an example of Vail, whose MetRec operates a lot of their rec programs)

Questions:

- Norton – Asked about more information about the study of benefits of outdoor vs. indoor exercise. It was clarified that the study only looked at different types.
- Chavez – asked if funds could be used to repair for the drops in the white-water park.

- Daniels – asked if water recreation was included on the survey. It was not
- Shappert – asked how and if the MetRec could give money to the governments. Ahonen replied that MetRec was allowed/required to give money to governments with but with limitations
- Helminski – Supported including the arts and suggested involving members from the Gunnison and CB creative districts on the advisory committee.

Ideas from STOR:

- Education on etiquette that wasn't signage. Boots on the ground approach. Signage is not a program.
- Indoor recreation opportunities, especially in the north. Nierenberg noted that a North valley rec center wasn't on the survey.
- Gunnison river Improvements: improve put-in in Almont; expand shady island, create infrastructure at brush creek for SUPs. (include a representative of the water sports community on the advisory committee)
- Recreation opportunities for kids in the in the north end of the valley that wasn't skiing.
- Place for substance free socializing for kids and adults; suggested that MetRec connect with Kari Commerford.
- Joey Carpenter (Town of CB recreation) – Limited indoor space for afterschool programming. CB rec had to move programs into Jerry's gym because of lack of programming slots at the CB Community School. This reduced the number of slots available and all programs fill up within 3-4 minutes of opening.
- Pagano asked about the scope of work. Was this plan was redundant to STOR plans, CBMBAs plan, and other plans? It didn't appear to be stepping on toes and aligned with interest to serve the citizens and the needs of the community. It was ideal to have MetRec as a partner. This recreation master plan was intended to be more of a high level plan.
- Daniels noted that the MetRec and their plan could act as the glue between the municipalities and the non-profits.
- Jones asked if the fields feature prominently in the survey? Could funds be used to help improve the school fields. *public use of school fields has been tricky to coordinate in the past, especially in Crested Butte.
- Reminder to be culturally inclusive in plan.
- More responsible interaction with wildlife. Recommendation from Chavez to look at a study from Chaffee County; and to get input from the wildlife representatives on STOR

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Jake Jones passed the floor to Cathie Pagano to discuss item **CB to CB South Trail plan update.**

- After last month's meeting, Pagano looked into safety, winter maintenance, and HWY speeds.
- The survey closed. There were over 500 responses, over 71 pages of comments. Working with Design workshop. Working to go through and compile the survey results. Looking at trends, and

concern about if the whole community was represented. Most of the respondents were people who really care about the project.

- Examples from other trails along highways:
 - Carbondale (6.5 miles towards Redstone from Carbondale)
 - Same HWY speeds, some winter maintenance; No crash data available for this section. For the nearby HWY 133, there were 11 crashes off the road in 2022.
 - Telluride (3 miles long)
 - 45 mpg vehicle speed, not groomed for skiing and used for fat bikes, one crash in 2022 *Jeremy: asked for data on how many driveways/crossings of path. Unclear if trail can be maintained in the winter.*
 - Aspen: 1.38 miles, 55 mph vehicle speed 12 -20-foot buffer from the road.
 - Jackson, WY: 27 miles long. Sill working on gathering more information about this trail. Dayle Funka had lived in the area recently and added that this area was comparable, but with more snow, no livestock interactions.
- Winter Use/Access/maintenance: In comparison to the amount of work the Town of CB does to clear the sidewalks in Town, maintaining this path in the winter would be huge undertaking. Who would plow/groom (CDOT would not plow this path) What's the desire? Is it a smart ROI?
 - Pagano would work with Public Works and CB Nordic to get more information.
- Trail width: current design was for a 10-foot-wide trail, some members thought that a 12-foot-wide trail would be ideal.
- Process Update: Working on a "10%" design/ high-level design and cost estimate. Using alignment, A, entirely on the east side of 135, (least number of crossings). Revamping the CB – CBS subcommittee to review the design.
- Timeline: Without consensus that STOR still wanted to build the trail, there was no timeline estimate. Daniels estimated that if the committee got consensus from stakeholders, the path could be constructed in 3-5 years. Without consensus, it would take longer.
- Consensus: The community still wanted the trail because it was still being discussed. Could be a tool to mitigate conflict, a way for people to not drive from CB to CBS. Cost consideration was an important factor in the discussion and mattered to the community. How badly did the community really want the path? Example of compromises to build the path in Moab, all projects cost money, sometimes you just must make it happen.
- Discussion of moving forward vs. not moving forward. Current working to finish out the consultant work to help evaluate next steps.
- Trail Usage: Paying to park in CB would help incentivize people not to drive. Prochaska added that the Town of CB was working on their transportation and mobility plan. More to come.
- Next steps: high level cost analysis, firm numbers come into play at a 100% design. Looking to get the subcommittee together after info is back from the consultant. Get recommendation from subcommittee, and potentially make a decision in January.

ADJOURN: The October 26, 2023 of the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee adjourned at 3:44 PM.