

RICO TRAILS ALLIANCE
MINUTES
July 25, 2017 – 6:30 - RICO TOWN HALL

1. Meeting call to order and roll call

- Nicole Pieterse was asked to moderate the meeting
- the meeting commenced at 6:33
- all board members were present except for Luke Brown
- Sara Davis, Secretary was present as well

2. Approval of agenda

- Added discussion regarding ARC and Boggy Draw Comment
- Agenda approved unanimously

3. Treasurer's report

- Fourth of July event brought in \$1,076
- More grant funds are coming in from County and Telluride Foundation

3. Review and approval June 20, 2017 meeting minutes

- Taken by Cristal Hibbard, one correction under item 7, should read \$325 in filing fees
- Motion to approve by Alex Wing, second by Rob Cummings, passed unanimously

4. Fundraising

- Ruth Heffron submitted a proposal for grant writing → \$35/hr for research and \$45/hr for grant writing time, it was noted she is very efficient.
- Mike Guskea moved to approve proposal, Alex Wing seconded, passed unanimously. Ruth will bill by the project, projects and scope of work will be approved by RTA ahead of time.
- ARC discussion → They need direction on locating dog head placements and Frame placements. Mike will provide input on locations. ARC will promote and solicit volunteers for installations

5. Update from Dave Bulson, Surveyor

Ownership situation along the Hermosa Trail (aka **Circle Trail to Section Point**): 160 acres right at the bottom of the valley floor is now public / San Juan National Forest (resulting from Rico Renaissance/USFS trade). The road up from the Mill to the Circle Trail trailhead does cross private land but it has been used by the public for many years, so it is most likely a public road. If the board wants to secure a connection between Circle Trail and Section Point on the Colorado Trail, Dave can be a part of that process.

Regarding ownership status of the **RGS ROW**, The first segment of the railroad grade through town is owned by the Town of Rico via a grant from the Rico Renaissance. At the south end of town there is a small sliver of forest before we get to the cemetery, in this area there is a remnant of the Dolores Placer. Sundial is on a portion of the Dolores Placer. The remnant is around 50 acres stretching from graveyard to just south of the coke ovens. This area is privately owned, but the legal status of the railroad right away is unclear and at least a portion of the parcel is for sale. Dave recommended to avoid the Dolores Placer then we are only dealing with the USFS by staying on the West side of the river all the way down. Dave is going to spend a day down in Dove Creek, before

we approach the brokers, to further understand that private parcel on the railroad right of way. Then the next steps can be determined.

A meeting will be set up with RTA board representatives, Dave, and the USFS about trail projects.

6. Trails Committee update and discussion

- RTA comment letter regarding USFS Travel Management Plan → a draft letter was presented to the Board. The board gave Nicole input on prioritizing and revising comments. Nicole will revise and circulate again to the board for approval via email before submitting to USFS.

- Boggie Draw comment → SWCCA wants to expand Boggie Draw with 25 miles of additional mountain bike trails. This is supported by RTA and hopefully we can exchange support and help. Alex will write a letter to them on behalf of RTA.

- Trail projects discussion → RTA completed and submitted volunteer agreement to USFS, end of summer is looking more open for all parties involved. Need to identify things we would like to fix and plan a work day.

7. Review/approval of tools purchase → We have received \$1,300 from Dolores County for tools. The estimate for tools that Mike got was \$2,340. Tools paid for with County money must be stored with the Town. Mike was directed to determine which tools to purchase with County grant funds and which to purchase with other RTA funds and to make the purchases accordingly.

-Mike moved to approve this spending, Rob second, unanimous.

8. Other business

→ Nicole asked for someone to volunteer to do PR for RTA. We need to get thank you letters out, communicate with the press, etc. not just before but also after events.

→ Sara would like to organize a potential Mule Ride Fundraiser in Fall or Early Summer '18.

9. Schedule next meeting

→ Tuesday August 29th 6:30 next RTA Board meeting

→ Wednesday August 9th 7:00 pm at the Prospector next Trail Committee Meeting

12. Adjourn → Meeting Adjourned 8:16 motioned by Rob

APPROVED THE 29th DAY OF August, 2017

ATTEST: _____
Sara Davis, Secretary