

Flagstaff Trails Initiative Core Team February 11, 2020

Fort Tuthill Mess Hall & Teleconference



Core Team Participants: Brian G (County) Debbie (R2R); Brian P (USFS), Stacey, Leila, Martin, Keith (City), Joe H (FBO), Anthony (FBO), Justin I, Adam (NPS-RTCA by phone), Andi, Lisa (SDR), Mark (ACE)

Action items in blue

Updates

Lisa Clark has been with Southwest Decision Resources since last March. She is going to be supporting Justin using the remainder of National Park Service funds. Lisa grew up in Flagstaff and has done a lot of planning work with the City. Background is in restoration ecology. Welcome Lisa!

Southwest Decision Resources will have a bit of additional funds for FTI into the end of March. SDR are busy in the next couple months but has some additional funds to the end of March.

Financial Sustainability and Education and Outreach meetings are set. Justin drafted an invitation letter for prospective FTI board members. Justin is meeting with United Way and has prepared. City has paid \$5,000 in funds. County and USFS funds will be going to United Way in March.

Any other feedback on Draft Strategy?

- County Board of Sups on February 4th -Brian G, Brian P and Justin presented. Very positive and excited. Matt Ryan is main trails guru. There were some questions on process. There were also questions about easements and how they would be tackled.(County Public Works Department usually holds or secures the easement. Elks Lodge Trail was also asked about)
- Heard general positive comments and ideas contained in the strategy, especially mountain bikers. Side note: we need "Build the Stoke" bumper stickers.

- FLYRS (Chris E & Tyler) was excited about getting more involved with trail maintenance, etc. [Andi will contact about interest in FTI](#). There is also the opportunity for United Way to fund them. [Stacey will send grant info to Andi](#).

Responding to Comments

General feedback from core team members?

- Need for more education!
 - Justin: There was an obvious need for more education especially on some topics like unauthorized trail, enforcement, etc
 - Debbie, Andi: more explanation on the process of adopting trails or how NEPA fits in; potential NEPA presentation from Mike Dechter via FTI? Good topic for education/outreach group. [Brian P will reach out to Mike](#).
 - Anthony: 90% of the comments I read were NEPA comments
 - [Education & Outreach Team to consider at next meeting - A variety of venues including the newsletter, blog post on website, etc?](#)
- Joe: a majority of the comments were positive. Many of them didn't read through the whole document before responding.
- Brian P: a lot of youth support; good need for clarity on restoration and conservation and what we believe it means

Comment Analysis of 550+ comments received online

- Could boil the comments we've received into key themes based on area or topic to help identify where a strategy might be missing. Agreement that this a step people would like to see.
- We can use the USFS framework for response to comments.
- Use a divide and conquer approach – Justin and Lisa, Brian P, Joe H, Anthony, Kevin Lehto (if available) – [Justin will reach out to the team to convene](#).
- We could use the categories from the last survey as a starting point.
- A summary report will be published on the FTI website. Should have a general "thank you" to anyone who commented, along with posting a summary of the themes we heard.
- The core team will then consider what revisions are necessary

Sierra Club Response to the Draft Strategy

The Sierra Club Executive Committee worked on the letter. It is addressed from the Chair of the Northern Arizona Group. Adam identified a set of 6 to 8 tangible modifications to the Strategy, some of which need clarifications. Many of the items are outside the scope of FTI. Key questions for Sierra Club.

- Is Mike Popejoy still serving as a representative of Sierra Club to FTI? If not, is there going to be a Sierra Club representative?
- What is the desired response of the FTI collaborative to the comments? Is Sierra Club participation on the core team or support for the Trail Strategy contingent or revisions contained in the letter?

Brian G suggestion: respond in a general sense from the Initiative as a whole. The group had differing opinions on how nuanced we would be in analyzing and adjusting to these recommendations and whether there is support for some of them. A couple recommendations (e.g. no motorized trail expansion)

Group decision to reach out and ask the questions above, then consider specific SC recommendations after the comment analysis team has done their work. [Adam to email Sierra Club and copy core team.](#)

Mechanics for Adopting the Trail Strategy

Does this need to be formally adopted?

- Would carry more to the next Council
- One of the advantages is that the group can point to formal adoption
- Show strength among the partners
- Agreement to pursue

Approach: the Final Strategy document would include formal letters from federal agencies and nonprofit partners, along with resolutions from City/County

Details:

- Questions on whether it creates policy, obligates funds, etc can be clarified in the creation of the resolution.
- City would adopt by resolution after the Final Strategy is prepared. 10 minute presentation on the Final and a vote. Could get it on the working calendar – April at the earliest, likely May.
- County packaging would need to be considered. It could be a companion to the Master Plan?
- Forest Service, NPS support would likely be documented by letters of support.
- Brian G, Sara, Stacey and Martin will work to discuss possible resolutions. Target is for April/May to present. Will work to get item on the appropriate agendas
- Nonprofits:
 - ACE would like to get support from Board of Directors. Mark would present to them, open invitation to others.
 - R2R can draft a letter of support. March 9th meeting.
 - Anthony will reach out to Coconino Trail Riders for a letter of support and offer a presentation.

Schedule to Adoption of Final Strategy

1. Synthesis and key themes of comments: by February 29th
2. Nonprofits and Federal Agencies secure letters of support: February/March
3. Target Completion Date of Final Strategy: by April 20th
4. Presentation to City and County for final adoption: May, dates TBD

Financial Sustainability Updates

- Justin drafted a letter of interest for potential board members. Need to choose an initial board of 5 members for inclusion on the initial board. Core team needs to review it.
 - All core team members to review the letter and response with comments.
- Still a handful of comments on the articles of incorporation and bylaws that need to be resolved
- The Recreation Advisory Councils could be a good starting point.

- What's the vision for the board? Roll your sleeves up vs high level? Could create a matrix of possible board members – e.g. someone in the financial world, fundraising, etc. Brainstorm of board member attributes or sources:
 - Agency rep (city/county/local govt)
 - Bank or financial institution
 - Local governments
 - Nonprofits
 - Corporations
 - University
 - Conservation groups
 - Public health
 - Diversity
 - Passion
 - Consider RAC criteria
- Justin would like to start generating names
 - Brainstorm of potential candidates: Jeff Goulden, Artec Durham, Todd Lewis, Bryan Burton, Estephany Campos, Matt Roberts, Neil Weintraub, Matt Ryan, Dana Ernst
 - Brainstorm of other groups to be represented (Core Team can provide contacts if needed): ITAP trail runner (follow up with Susie Garretson on who this might be), Chamber of Commerce young professionals, R2R, NICA, Flagstaff Medical Center, NAU/CCC, Community Vitality Bureau, ECoNA/business representative

Scheduling Trail Coordination and FTI meetings.

Group agreed to combine FTI discussions with regular quarterly coordination meeting. Each agency will rotate as the host. [Martin will determine the dates for these quarterly meetings and send out.](#)

NEXT CORE TEAM MEETING: Thursday March 26, 1 to 3 pm