Dear Board of County Commissioners, January 14, 2016

I have been fortunate to have served on the Gunnison County Trails Commission for almost 2 decades (wow! Are we all getting mature)

For the last couple months I have had to think seriously about re-applying for the commission and would like to be re-appointed with a mission in mind. Please see the below insertion of portion of GCTC minutes on 11.9.15. which discusses the creation of a Trails/Parks/Open Space position or department for Gunnison County.

There are many ways to approach the funding for this position and to be determined after considerable collaboration and detection is completed.

If you support this mission then consider me for re-appointment.

Thank you

Joellen Fonken

"GUNNISON COUNTY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE: Joellen had a packet regarding the Pitkin County Open Space and Trails creation. Pitkin County went to their voters and asked for a percentage of the mil levy to fund their operations. They have a volunteer board where the member are appointments to 5 year terms. Joellen would like everyone to think about Gunnison County doing something similar. Debbi will scan in and send the packet to Commission members. Marlene stated that the grant writing portion of having full time staff would be very beneficial. Kay asked if Nordic is included in Pitkin County. Joellen said yes and further stated that several different components could be funded. Marlene asked if Pitkin County charged any user fees. Joellen answered no. Marlene stated that funding is the issue. Phil stated that they would have to go to the voters for a mil levy as the County does not have any funds to transfer or contribute to such an undertaking. Phil commented that the City of Gunnison and Town of Crested Butte receives half of the 1% sales tax taken in by the County if it is collected with their boundaries and there may be a possibility that those funds could be used. Matt S. commented that loosing those funds would be a hard hit to the City of Gunnison. Danielle asked why it would be better to begin a new program rather than just funding what is currently in place. Joellen stated that if things were done similar to Pitkin County Open Space there would be a dedicated staff that would have positions that would give more continuous focus to the trails, etc. in Gunnison County. Marlene also stated that with the current budget there is no funding to put towards grant match money. Michael suggested that Special Events application fees could also go towards Open Space funding. Marlene commented that they could start charging for road maintenance done for Special Events. Joellen would like this new collective to be a County department. Michael stated that they would need to explain the need for this new position (s) to Town of Crested Butte Council. Phil suggested that if this idea is to move forward, all information should be gathered in July and start going to entities in August, which is typically start of budget talks. Matt S. suggested that they idea be put into use and then go get a permanent funding source so there is proof of how it is working."