

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
October 15, 2019

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair, Karen Jefferson. Those present from Commission were:

Karen Jefferson, co-chair
David Varner
Lou Patterson

Laurie Tyre
Laney Heath
Rondo Bueschler

Also present: Rick Taggert, Mayor City of Grand Junction, Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Manager and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: Dr. Fred Barbero, Catherine Ventling, Dave Bastian, Tom Moore, JoAnna Woodward

Approval of Minutes – Quorum not present. Tabled until the December meeting.

Did introductions around the round. Dave was unable to attend. Laney and Catherine were reappointed. Orilee was not reappointed.

Announcements –

UTC Community Streets Event – Saturday, October 19th from 10am-3pm

David isn't able to make the afternoon shift. Laurie said she could do it.

Partner Updates:

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – RiversEdge West (REW) received grant to clean up the Russian Olive along the pinch point. Land trade looks like it is going to happen – even exchange 1.6 for 1.6. Boat ramp design in Fruita is done. No date for construction yet. Two new rangers start in December.

Palisade – Greg Mikolai was unable to attend. He did not email Michele an update before the start of the meeting.

Mesa County – County was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Ture said the City is also talking impact fees but its around transportation.

Leftover funds from the Kokopelli will go to the spur and start in December. Hope of the Grand Valley will be doing a 5k and 10k on the trail. Year was terrible for weeds and now have a line item for them in the coming year.

Working on comprehensive plan and looking to hire consultant to help with the process that will take all 2020.

Tour of the Moon – race organizers were pleased. Rick said his experience wasn't great. He felt it was very dangerous because people were riding two/three abreast and too fast. ORF received \$10,000 donation from the group.

City of Grand Junction – Rick said City Council will be discussing impact fees tomorrow night. Fees haven't been raised since 2004 and were at 50% of what was advised by the consultant at the time.

Infrastructure at Las Colonias is complete. Structures are being constructed and grass is going in. Hope to have construction done by spring (with exception of the business park).

Dos Rios is moving forward and construction has been hard on the trail. Repairs will be made soon.

RFF – Approved investing \$50,000 with Western Colorado Community Foundation. Chris added that the money is held in perpetuity and will grow at 4.5%, which can be issued back to the RFF or reinvested in fund. Started out with \$1 million and is now at \$80 million.

American White Water – David, Rondo and Pete attended the legislative training at The Factory a few weeks ago. The group is trying to engage on the Colorado Water Plan and looking for input on the local level. The group was struck by the lack of enthusiasm of celebrating the river. If anyone interested contact the Grand Valley Paddling Club. Great opportunities with the new boat ramps. Pete thought it was more about advocacy and Rondo added potential lobbying partner.

Two Rivers Wildfire Coalition – group got started with the fires from last year and the one at Connected Lakes this year. All the groups are working to reduce the fire risk in the Grand Valley. Protecting the cottonwood galleries along the river because they usually don't survive when there is a fire along the river. Tamarisk comes in and replaces the cottonwood. Tamarisk is an invasive species and groups are working to eradicate it from along the river. Group working together to find resources to stop wildfires in the valley.

Colorado Gives Day (COGD) – Michele explained what COGD is and how there is a \$1 million incentive fund from 1st Bank that is split amongst all the non-profits participating in COGD. The % received by each nonprofit is based on the \$ amount they raise. She stated the goal this year is \$5,500. She will be emailing out a thank you call list of 2018 donors to the board and include a script that the members can use. She would like all calls made by Thanksgiving.

New Business – There was no new business.

Old Business – Tour of the Moon – update above.

Round Up – Karen explained who Ellen Miller is for new member Lou and what she does for the Round Up program.

Ann at the Hot Tomato informed Ellen that October and November have been committed and they don't fundraise December to March. Ann said that they find customers like it when the funds are raised for a specific project. Karen asked the group to think about projects. Laney suggested funding for signage.

Places she has contacted:

Sudsbrothers

Rock Slide

Octopus Coffee

Asset Engineering

Camilas Kitchen

Cooper Club

Handlebar

Still working on Fisher Liquor Barn

Loki did really well on the 1st Monday. Will pay quarterly.

As always, looking for leads for warm introductions.

Website – Continue to plug along. Will be using Ryan Sawyer Marketing. Developed site map, updated copy and will be getting new images. Have design meeting next week. Goal is to have proof at December meeting and ready to launch in February.

Wayfinding Signs – UTC is still looking for funding. Michele told Rondo that Paul Jagim left the City last Friday. She will have Orin keep him informed when know who will be replacing Paul. Will continue to use the signs that Fruita is using.

Rondo said he has been in contact with Scott regarding the standing wave at 29 Road. Rondo asked if he needs to contact Elam. Michele told him to contact John Gormley.

Next IGA meeting is December 5th at 7:00am.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.