

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
March 19, 2013

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair Katie Steele. Those present from the Commission were:

Katie Steele	Ken Henry	Stacy Beaugh
Brad Taylor	Frank Watt	Karen Jefferson
Jason Bailey	Claudette Konola	

Also present were Bob Noble, candidate for City of Council, Bennett Boeschstein, Grand Junction City Council, Phyllis Norris candidate for City Council, Biz Collins, Urban Trails Committee (UTC), Bob Fuller, City of Fruita City Council, Bennett Price, Town of Palisade Board, Donna Ross with Mesa County, Peter Booth with the Museum of Western Colorado, Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Claudette/Karen. Motion passed.

Announcements – Passed around volunteer signup sheet for Outdoor Heritage Days, April 27th.
Math and Science bike ride in May – need volunteer.
Workshop on Saturday, April 6th at the Palisade Fire Station.
Social that evening at Bookcliff County Club at 6:30pm.
Old Spanish Trail – March 28th at 6:30pm Whitman Education Center.

New Business –

Peter Booth – new Executive Director of the Museum of Western Colorado. He gave an update on what is happening at the museum, the health of the museum (lean but strong compared to other museums in the Western United States) and what the plans are for the future. Will be brining in super crocs this summer – precursor to modern croc idles. In the process of doing analysis of strengths and challenges. Move towards strategic planning next year. October will be doing an exhibit on the Spanish exploration of this area (northwest passage). (Will email date and info to Ken).

City Council Candidate Forum – Frank updated on what he heard at the forum. Everyone made a point of supporting the riverfront trail.

There was further new business.

Old Business –

Maps – Katie stated that John Hodge’s temporary maps have been loaded onto the website. John is working on maps that will be riverfront maps. Wants to make each section more interactive.

Bennett B. suggested to make sure to get signed release from John regarding copyright of maps.

Frank and Jason have agreed to be part of this committee. Brad suggested that the group keep Pete with Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the loop when working on the State Parks maps. All committee members will email schedule to Michele.

Las Colonias – Katie met with Rob Schoeber with the City of Grand Junction Parks & Rec. Traci and Rob will be attending the May RFC meeting to give a presentation. Katie would like to ask UTC and Foundation to be invited to this presentation.

Brady Trucking – Ken said City and County need to set down and come up with appropriate master planning so there isn't confusion on both sides of the street depending on whether City or County.

Strategic Planning – Workshop will stimulate more conversation for planning. Tim Sarmo is currently out of town but still working on agenda and once he gets it back will send out before the workshop.

Safety and Signage – Nothing new to report. At a point where need to execute new signage. Need to do another ride to check out Corn Lake and Riverbend. Katie reminded him that the RFF has agreed to give the Tour of the Moon funds to RFC for signage.

Government Relations – Nothing new to report. Reminded everyone that if you haven't sent bios in, please get them to Jason or Michele. Michele reminded everyone to keep them to 150 or 200 words.

History – Ken said working on oral history. Brian Mahoney has been proponed until October. Discussed doing three or four past members having a conversation rather than one on one.

Media Relations/Outreach – Karen stated the group met with Cobb & Associates last week and Cobb will be getting back with estimate of work that Cobb will need to work on to make improvements. Will be having a Facebook brand camp on April 1st.

Updates:

Mesa County – Donna said still working on Monument View section of the Riverfront trail. Phase I is 2.8 miles. Phase II is 1.2 miles from the Fruita Welcome Center to 18 Road. Prebid meeting last Tuesday with bids due the 22nd of March with construction to start in June and completion in October. Phase III is 4.2 miles - has some challenges and planning process to being next week. Think planning process will go smoothly and projected completion in 2014. When three phases are complete it will be 8.2 miles.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett said trying to get more trail connections to the riverfront trail along the washes similar to what Fruita did. Mesa Land Trust is currently working on the Monument Road Vision that will connect in the Lower No Thoroughfare Wash. Will be repairing the washed out section of Blue Heron Trail.

City of Fruita – Bob said Donna updated on most of what’s happening in Fruita. Railroad still uncooperative on the bore issue. Moving ahead but frustrated.

Town of Palisade – Bennett talked about tying in trails with the shooting range that is being considered at the Cameo Plant. Palisade has ownership heading east to the roller dam. A more refined business plan has been put together to present to Xcel. Property owner on the east side is talking with Mesa Land Trust about putting on trail easement on part of their property that they are looking into putting a conservation easement. Hoping to get the trees replanted soon. CMU will be holding a bike race with road race section in Palisade on April 21st. County will be redoing 38 Road in 2014.

KAFM – needs someone for the last Tuesday in March.

Committee Reports:

UTC – Biz updated on the Walking and Biking Trail Summits on March 8th. Had great participation – 150 people. Working on sending out survey and planning for future summit. Will be bringing ideas to RFC workshop.

Partners – Al was unable to attend.

State Park – Pete said working on armature around the lake. Been in training lately and working with the Tamarisk Coalition.

Public Comment – Stacy recognized Donna Ross and Katie Steele for the great presentation they did at the River Crossing Conference last week.

Bennett has received a revised list of schools for Get Kids Outdoors.

Rural Philanthropy Days will be in June. Happens once every four years. Stacy said everyone would be getting more information later.

Ken said Ute Water said that their report said snow pack is at 74%. If don’t get more snow or rain will need probably go to Level 2 – which would enact drought restrictions.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.