

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
February 14, 2022

Called to Order:

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

Catherine Ventling
Laney Heath
Joel Sholtes
Jennifer Reyes
Rondo Buecheler

Lou Patterson
Jamie Porta
Fred Barbero via phone
David Varner

Also present: Marc Mancuso with the City of Fruita, Travis Haldeman with Mesa County, Thea Chase with the Town of Palisade town board and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: Dave Bastian

Approval of Minutes – Catherine had two corrections to the minutes under New Business: “1.5 to 1.6 of paved concrete should read 1.5 to 1.6 miles of paved concrete” and “the crossing would look like should read the Monument Road crossing would look like”. Joel/Catherine. Motion approved.

Announcements – Michele told everyone she is in need of more river rocks for departing board members. She asked everyone to gather one or two flat river rocks 8” to 9” in diameter (if not sure what she’s looking for, stop by her office to see a sample).

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Rick was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Marc said the BLM is under comment for the North Fruita Desert. Hope to get approval to build trails in March. Money budgeted for Hwy 340 will be getting to it after he finishes a couple of other grant. Catherine asked Marc if he was planning to do anything with the Old Fruita Bridge. Marc wasn’t familiar and will research it. Michele suggested reaching out to Bennett Boeschstein.

Mesa County – Travis said the sheriff’s office has received a grant to help relocate homeless people and they received a grant to remove tamarisk. Will be regrading the park lot. Catherine asked if the parking lot would be closed. Travis said it will be short period of time but will be reopened later in the morning.

Catherine has had several conversations with Ross Mittleman and made a post to ORF Facebook page. Jamie said she has been participating in one of the Mesa County Master Plan focus group and she shared some of the information she had.

Town of Palisade – Thea said working on restoration in Riverbend Park. Excited about the Save-A-Live kiosk. Tickets are on sale for the Bluegrass Festival. Redoing Hwy 6 – from park to bridge to Iowa. Demoing the old high school and architect is working on the new medical clinic plans. Permanent restrooms done at the Plunge, put a lane in and the bridge and parking as part of the initial Plunge grant. Laney asked about the boat launch at the Plunge. Thea and Rondo explained who did the work and hope to get future grants.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete was unable to attend.

RFF – No one from RFF was able to attend.

New Business –

December IGA update – Fruita is working on the North Fruita Desert. Making sure way finding signs are consistent. CPW is working on property acquisition going east. Next IGA meeting is on Thursday, March 3rd at 8:00am in Training Room A.

Catherine has met with the County Commissioners and she isn't sure that ORF will get the monetary support as they had in the past but Mesa County is interested in the riverfront project. She told Commissioners that they need to get involved in the American Discoverability bill.

Catherine has spoken with Ellis Thomas-Ellis with the Grand Junction Fire Department. Catherine has invited her to a future ORF meeting and Ellis hopes to be on the April meeting.

Final Roles & Responsibilities – Catherine said the committee did its job and now it's done. The document is editable and on Google Docs. Will be helpful in recruiting new members. Joel brought up ask how to handle board members who aren't attending meetings. Currently co-chairs handle with coaching. Michele will send a copy of the document to Kerry Graves over at the City Clerk's office to share with new applicants.

Recruit potential new board for upcoming vacancies. There are four openings coming up:

Laney – term limited

Catherine

Lou

Dave Bastian

Laney said there was interest from several Urban Trails members.

Fred encouraged everyone to try to attend one RFF meeting.

ORF volunteer opportunities – Michele passed around a signup sheet for the following events:

RiversEdge West Conference – Joel and David are planning to be there in case ORF members can't attend.

IGA Meeting
RFF Meetings
Southwest Arbor Fest/Earth Day
Outdoor Heritage Days
Colorado Riverfront Concert Series
Tour of the Moon

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Social Media Committee – Catherine and Jennifer met. Jennifer will be meeting with Lou to get his input. Would like to get more members involved in social media.

Catherine said today's post still needs to be posted in Spanish.

Jamie asked about the Friends of the Riverfront Facebook page. Catherine explained how this page came about. Catherine encourages everyone to like Facebook page. Laney asked if can post pictures, answer is yes. Catherine asked everyone to cross post.

Goals Committee – Joel said the group has met and took the priority goals worked on last year and worked into what they are proposing. There are new committees and old ones that moved into new committee. Jennifer motioned to add the new committees and form the new committees:

Trails Completion Committee
Marketing/Public Relations/Fundraising
Education and Partnerships

Priorities committee does it still need to keep meeting or move onto to subcommittee. Catherine thinks the group should stay active until the subcommittees are formed and ready to move forward.

Rondo second Jennifer's motion. Motion passed.

Round Up/Fundraising – Catherine said Kush Garden does an annual donation but will be planning to do another this year. Happy Trails has not given any update. Jamie has Trailhead Coffee, the owner has moved, and his daughter is now running the company. Unfortunately, Jamie works during the open hours. She drafted a welcome letter and will put on Google Docs. David has met with Alexis at Octopus Coffee and needs to check in with her. Joel reached out to Bonsai and will reach out to them again. Laney said Pablo's Pizza in Fruita is having financial difficulties and is no longer able to participate. Laney also contacted to No Coast Sushi might be interested in being a concert series sponsor.

Catherine met with Visit Grand Junction and they went through a rebranding and thinks that need to ask Elizabeth to be part of the marketing committee.

River Corridor Initiative (RCI) – Joel said forming a quarterly advisory committee and moving forward, would like to get another ORF person on the board to review the progress and goals. Will be having a

webinar in March is tentatively March 17th. If anyone is interested from ORF, please reach out to Joel. Did get funding through CWCB.

Urban Trails Committee – Laney went to the meeting last week, very organized meeting. Working on replacing sidewalk. Diane, chairperson from UTC had wanted to attend but was unable. They have a matrix that helped them determine priorities. Catherine said she went to the January meeting and every January they revise the strategic plan.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.