COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION 683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes April 11, 2022

Called to Order:

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

Catherine Ventling David Varner Fred Barbero Laney Heath Rondo Buechler Joel Sholtes

Also present: Marc Mancuso with the City of Fruita, Travis Haldeman, Thea Chase with the Town of Palisade Town Board, Sandra Orin Zyvan, Urban Trails Committee, Ellis Thompson-Ellis, Ross Mittleman, Mesa County and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: Dave Bastian, Lou Patterson, Jennifer Reyes, Jamie Porta

Did introductions around the room.

Approval of Minutes – Joel/Catherine. Motion passed.

Announcements – Social gathering at Ramblebine at 5th and Colorado after the meeting. ORF will be closed next week. Southwest Fest – April 23rd – ORF is participating Outdoor Heritage Days – April 30th - ORF is participating

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Rick was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Marc said Fruita is in negotiation with Single Track for a new bike park that hope to have done in September. Received \$20,000 grant to move forward in North Fruita Desert.

Mesa County – Travis stated Mesa County finished grading the parking lot at Clifton Nature Park. Sheriff has relocated homeless camps on the south side and now working on the north side.

Ross updated what his trail crew does and that they work with Mesa County, City of Fruita, CPW, BLM, and Forest Service. Catherine asked how the new reporting system is working. Ross said they haven't received one report yet. Working with COPMOBA too on something similar. Need to get engaged citizens to start reporting.

Talked about getting all the funding in place for the project. Mesa County received a planning grant for the Clifton area. He stated working on planning grant with the possibility of riverfront trail connection east bound from Clifton to Town of Palisade.

Town of Palisade – Thea said working on clearing out invasive species and festival season has started so get your tickets early. Control burn up on the Mesa which the Town has received several phone calls on it. She had asked for a four-sided kiosk that needs literature to update. She hopes ORF will help with it. Want to address the stretch of road between 6 & 50 and G Road (1/4 mile with no shoulders) and would really like to get an initiative to do something there and help reduce potential disasters.

Laney said the Save-A-Lifejacket program would like to put info on it for the Save-A-Lifejacket program on one side and their committee has some funds available to help. Rondo said he and his business partner were the ones to put the kiosk in with their info. Others would be vendors, etc. Orin suggested making it easily replaceable to other areas of the river.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said working with a SWIFT crew just up from the Eddy property, looks different and has done a great job. Will continue working on CPW properties and City property. Will have to shut down by May 15th because of the habitat for the Yellow Billed Cuckoo. Looking to develop a Friends Group, which will make it easier to get things done without having to jump through hoops. Have a sign project for the kiosks – all are dilapidated and want to message on how to stop burning down the parks. CPW has certain verbiage that usually is required but they aren't funding so not sure, if that will be required. Pete will reach out to Arkansas River to see if they have anything for being on river. Received \$2,500 grant and still learning what kind of hoops will need to jump through. Working on a land trade purchased as a buffer and looking at finding a better use for it. Traffic bollards are being stolen. Participating in ODH and celebrating 125th anniversary, April 30th an event at Cooper Club.

Riverfront Foundation – No one from the Foundation was able to attend.

New Business -

City of Grand Junction Community Engagement Coordinator – Sandra talked about being new (started in late November). She currently is in the Community Development Department but will probably be moving to the Communication Department. She is tasked with getting community engagement, meeting with groups.

City of Grand Junction Fire Department – Ellis, during the day is Community Outreach, she is involved with ORF as part of the Two Rivers Wildfire Coalition (Pete Firmin is part of the group) and working on fuel reduction grants and wanting to working with neighborhoods, and looking at reducing fuels along the river. There are concerns about hazardous materials along the river because most of the grants do not cover hazardous materials so if anyone knows of sources available, please let her know. Catherine said ORF would be interested in hearing updates.

Mesa County Health Department Bike Month – Joel updated on the upcoming bike to work day on May 4th. There is some ideas to get employees involved. Everyone needs to look at the attached pdf.

March IGA update – Joel said most of the people at the IGA meeting have already given update. Bill Findlay mentioned that there is an old CDOT truss bridge that needs a new home. Palisade is very interested. Colorado West Land Trust is still waiting to hear on grant for Phase II.

Possible float trip on the first Friday of June. Michele will get back with group at a later day.

There was no further new business.

Old Business -

Trails Completion Committee – Fred said the ORF trails completion committee combined with the RFF Adhoc committee. Libby Collins with Colorado West Land Trust is also participating. Will be meeting again in May.

Discussing the missing link of the two properties between 27 ½ to 29 Road. Also, want to get trails to Palisade. Rondo stated that the river connection won't happen for many years due to unwilling landowners so looking at alternatives such as Safe Routes to Schools and Plunge missing link. Thea asked about the Highline Canal. Rondo said that is a priority, looking at the east end of the valley and could move along to Loma.

Looking for resources to come up with a Master Plan with long-term goals while working on short term goals.

Fred talked about the Clifton campus that will connect to the Clifton Nature Park.

Marketing Committee – Catherine said that ORF has reworked some of the old committees into three new committee. She talked about the Round Up for the Riverfront, fundraising and social media. Will be asking Visit Grand Junction to participate and looking for others that can participating. Will be meeting every two weeks and have a meeting this Thursday.

Education/Partnerships Committee – first meeting still TBD. Need a chair.

River Corridor Initiative (RCI) – Joel said would be applying for some planning grants and recreational grants. Application is due in a month. Will be do mapping of the river for the entire valley and municipalities. Have funding for the project. Catherine asked where the data would be stored. Joel isn't sure yet.

Urban Trails Committee – Asked if ORF member could attend the UTC meeting. No one could attend. Michele with send out list of who signed up for UTC meetings.

Public Comment – Orin asked if could post agenda and past minutes to the ORF website. They are currently posted on the City of Grand Junction's website.

He also asked about if ORF has considered adding identifying markers (branding) on the trail. UTC has talked about cohesive signage. Fruita has great signage but doesn't mention Riverfront trail.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.