

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
February 13, 2023

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair, Fred Barbero. Those present from ORF were:

Fred Barbero	Stefanie Harville	Nicole Grider
George Manning	Jamie Porta	Kate Ramsay
David Varner via phone	Jennifer Reyes	Rondo Buecheler
Joel Sholtes		

Also present: Travis Haldeman with Mesa County, Pete Firmin with CPW, Marc Mancuso with City of Fruita, Thea Chase Board Member with Town of Palisade, David Combs with Clifton Community Commons and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: Lou Patterson

Did introductions around the room.

Approval of Minutes – Jamie/George. Motion passed.

Announcements – Michele reminded board she needs river rocks. She passed out a template for the size rocks she needs to those board members who missed the December meeting.

ORF office will be closed February 20th for MLK Day.

David reminded the group about ORF openings and the deadline is March 30th. He said he has invited David Combs to apply and someone else that was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – City was unable to attend. Don't believe anyone will be appointed until after the April elections.

Mesa County – Travis said not a lot to update. Monitoring banks along the Redlands Tail Waterway. County finished fencing off the Clifton Nature area on the south to help combat homelessness camps.

ORF has been asked to give an update to the Board of Commissioners on February 28th. They have asked for presentation on what ORF is currently working. Pete asked Michele to email Rene's contact info.

City of Fruita – Marc said it has been made official, confident they will be getting the grant to funds for the underpass. Will start construction as soon as they have the word on the grant. Work being done on I-70 should be done by end of March. Grant is Multi-Modal Options Fund Grant through CDOT.

Town of Palisade – Thea said its winter and still doing clearing down along the river at Riverbend Park. The Comprehensive Plan is out and looks to be adopted in March. Community was really wanting connections to biking trails and the riverfront trail. Alberta project will be started soon and will have bike lanes. Mayor said that there was a \$100,000 grant (Multi-Modal Options Fund Grant) for work that the Trail Completion Committee is working with Mesa County on.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said the Marketing Committee reached out to him about signing issue and he is up to helping. CPW is looking into getting trail counters for a better idea of number of people using the trails. They are having difficulty getting one vendor but are working on it. Trail user numbers are important when applying for grants to discuss economy impact. He does have a counter at 29 Road (1,000 in the winter, 3,000 before too hot and then dip down to 1,500) and Connected Lakes (5,000 visitors in the winter and about 15,000 other times of the year).

Colorado Riverfront Foundation – Joel discussed their allocation of the Trust Fund at Alpine Bank and the returns. Had five members move to the Emeritus Program – Brian Mahoney, Paul Nelson, Paul Jones, Dennis DeVore and Will Hutchins. They will still be invited to the meetings and give input just no longer voting members. ORF update and touched on the Concert Series.

New Business –

David gave presentation on the Clifton Community Commons (CCC) project and the efforts to provide more park space, sidewalks and amenities to the Clifton Community. Clifton community is larger than Fruita and Town of Palisade and there still aren't sidewalks in many areas. The CCC reached out and invited ORF to get involved. The project is to redevelop an old gravel pit and connect to schools and David is hoping with ORF's involvement will help get connections to the riverfront trail. He said they did a site visit and see what the plans. He was surprised that the CCC wants input for ORF Completion Committee. He said there is some overlap between the two groups and would like to get ORF's blessing to submit ORF comments. He talked about the zones and one being considered is one for the riverfront, park district and metro district.

David Combs filled in gaps – next to Rocky Mountain Elementary School. Will also have a Health Clinic and a Community Center. CO Trust came to Clifton three years ago and wanted to know what was going on in Clifton and what came out of the survey was there was “no Community” or sense of Community in Clifton by respondents. CCC is envisioning partnerships with organizations - like ORF, Marillac Clinic. They want connectivity to schools, parks, Marillac Clinic and businesses. They want people to enjoy the outdoor spaces but they need to connect that are safe places for families, kids and grandparents. Looking at creating a Recreational District which would be for upkeep. Will be applying for a ten-year grant to help provide funds for the project. The vision would include a farmer's market, a health clinic, a park with restrooms, a connection to the Riverfront Trail, and other community assets. Sarah Shrader came out and spoke to the group and her group is interested in being a partner. Mesa County Sheriff has been contacted so that they can help with the safety concern and have been told that

with what group is looking at, the safety issues will start to subside. Mesa County Sheriff is moving into the Clifton Hall.

Thea suggested a person from CCC could be an ex-officio member. Would be great if a Clifton resident applied to be on the board. Rondo stated he believes the Trails Committee would like to keep working with the CCC. Kate would like to work with the group on educational signs whether ecological, etc. Trust for Public Lands would like to see the school adjacent parks open to the public when school is out. Travis gave history on the school parks and the upgrades that being done. Mesa County does maintain three parks because they were designed to be neighborhood parks. Restrooms were not installed because of vandalism.

Pete talked about the programs available to help the community with best practices and is happy to sit down with David to further discuss.

Arbor Fest Booth – Stefanie and Nicole, and Jennifer (Jennifer has tent) have volunteered for ORF to have a booth. David said he'd be available too if needed. Would be nice to have one to two more volunteers.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Round Up – Michele reminded everyone that she isn't seeing any activity on the Google docs so if member has talked to a business, please get info on the docs. There still are a couple of businesses needing adopting.

City has approved two dispensaries and the money will go to parks and recreation. If the rec center passes in the April the funds will go to that project and it will put an increased interested on canal banks.

Rec Center will be going on Matchett Park. Tax increase will be 0.14% - low because of the marijuana tax. GVT will have a transition hub.

Committee Updates – included in meeting packet. Lou suggested that the chairs from each committee and co-chairs meet to discuss how to transmit info between committees.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.