

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
October 16 2023

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by chair, David Varner. Those present from ORF were:

David Varner	Nicole Grider	Tom Barry
Jane Quimby	Stefanie Harville	Ken Scissors
Jamie Porta	Sarah Brooks	Joel Sholtes

Also present: Travis Haldeman, Mesa County, Marc Mancuso with City of Fruita, Thea Chase, Town of Palisade, Pete Firmin, Colorado Park Wildlife and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: George Manning

Did introductions around the room.

Approval of Minutes. Tom/Stefanie. Motion passed.

Announcements – Town of Palisade has asked for a presentation update. David and Brad Taylor from the RFF will be giving the update. David invited interest board members to the meeting at the Fire Station at 5:30pm.

IGA meeting on December 7th, need ORF member to chair the meeting. Stefanie volunteered. City of Grand Junction Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is December 9th at Two Rivers. Please be sure to RSVP.

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Jason was unable to attend. Michele did not receive an update from him. Suggestion made to see if Henry Brown could attend since schedule conflicts for Jason.

Mesa County – Travis said frisbee golf course is continuing out at Clifton Nature Park. Audubon section is seeing erosion in area so have detoured between Safeway and Connected Lakes (across from Robert Cross' property). Corps of Engineers have been contacted and detour will be in place for some time. If solution not in place by spring, Mesa County will lay down some new asphalt. Jamie asked how to stop from happening in the future. Travis said it's more of Code Enforcement.

David added that the City has closed some of the Blue Heron trail for trail replacement.

City of Fruita – Marc said working on MOU where the trail was built in 2010. Fruita purchased Mesa County's share, calling Beach Property. City Council did tour in Eagle, Glenwood, Basalt and Carbondale to see what they have done on their riverfront area. Will enter into a new MOU with the RFF so the City can enter into agreement with developer of how to incorporate ideas they saw into the project. Hwy 340 project working on getting all the pieces in place before moving forward. Mark said the City has a Master Plan but this area will be more outdoor rec.

Town of Palisade – Thea unable to attend.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said Conservation Corps worked on west side of 29 Road and moving right along. He's impressed with their work. He thinks a trail will be built from 27 ½ Road to 29 Road and have entered into a contract with Tetra Tech. Will need to walk a trail line so Tamarisk needs to be removed. Skinner family property needed to be resurveyed and then can figure out value of conservation easement and CPW would come up with 1/3. Pete explained that the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County and CPW will be buying the property. \$1.1 million purchase price. Four properties (11 acres) and believe the property not going under conservation easement, the remainder will become housing development. City will maintain trail easement and Conservation Easement. Pete hopes that there will be a way to figure out irrigation to upkeep all the work the family has done on the property. Currently they are hauling hoses to water. He thinks trail construction is still a few years out.

Colorado Riverfront Foundation – Board meets next Thursday morning.

New Business –

Colorado Gives Day – Michele explained what COGD is and how it is the RFF's second largest fundraiser. Raised over \$13,000 last year. Goal this year is \$14,500. She passed out notecards for last year's donors who she didn't have phone numbers for. ORF members are to call and thank donors for donating last year and let them know when COGD is this year along with a few changes. Donors without phone numbers will need a thank you note sent. Michele gave everyone note cards with preaddressed, stamped envelopes for those donors. She will be emailing out the list to everyone in the morning along with a script for phone calls and notecards.

Revised R&R rules – David talked about transparency and start a conversation for greater transparency and established guidelines. Developed the Roles & Responsibilities document and he wants everyone to review it and submit any suggestions on the ORF section (only to) Michele. David asked if members could have document reviewed by December meeting. David and Michele will review and then see if a small committee is needed down the road.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Round Up – Michele asked people to please look at the list and reach out to any business that is on the list. Program is failing and other nonprofits are doing something similar and having great success. Discussed elevator speech, storytelling and QR code for donations and signage. Trailsforks, Onyx are the two big mountain bikes.

Joel said did a bike ride this past summer and was successful consider the rainy weather. Could do more of those in the future.

Sarah talked about ORF members being on the trail with an ambassador type program. Tom talked about the Friday bike night. Sarah said she works with the group wanting to start a nonprofit bicycle advocacy. It would be nice to have someone from ORF be a participant on the new group. Sarah said their last organized ride will be end of October then move to Popup events.

Committee Updates – included in meeting packet. Marketing, Education & Partnership have merged. David suggested to merge the two missions of Marketing and Education & Partnership. Next meeting is November 13th at 5:30pm.

Trail Completion meeting is next Thursday at 4:00pm at the Colorado West Land Trust conference room.

Public Comment – Nicole asked about shirts. Michele said she will resend out the order info.

Sarah is looking for someone to be on her radio show to talk about One Riverfront. November 8th and December 12th at 12:45pm – 15 minutes. Jamie and George were suggested. George is going to be out of commission for the next few months.

She also spoke about the Clifton project and that they hoped to apply to GOCO for the Centennial Grant. They weren't selected but maybe applying again in a couple of years would be a better fit. She said they have spoken with GOCO and there was a lot of interest in the connection from Clifton to Palisade connection. Joel thinks they will be ready in six months – David said talking to Katie Smith and Trust for Public Lands. Marc said he was a reviewer on latest round of GOCO grants and it's very competitive and they are expecting even more applications next year.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.