

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**683-4333**  
**One Riverfront (ORF)**

**Minutes**  
**February 12, 2024**

**Called to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by chair, David Varner. Those present from ORF were:

David Varner	Ken Scissors	Joel Sholtes	George Manning
Jane Quimby			

Also present: Travis Haldeman, Mesa County, Pete Firmin, Colorado Park Wildlife, Hayden Janson public (new to the area), Patrick Kennedy, Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Jason Nguyen and Michele Rohrbach, ORF staff.

Absent: Sarah Brooks, David Combs, Nicole Grider, Stefanie Harville and Tom Barry

**Approval of Minutes.** Quorum not present.

**Announcements** – ORF office closed February 20<sup>th</sup> for President’s Day

IGA meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am – need ORF member to run meeting – Sarah volunteered

**(remaining IGA meeting dates: June 7<sup>th</sup> (float/bike ride), September 5<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Bike Month – Sarah emailed Michele to see if ORF wants to host a program or host a ride as part of Bike Month line-up in May? If so, Sarah needs details by March 15<sup>th</sup>. David asked if ORF would consider doing one of their monthly rides. Jane thinks it would be a good idea.

Outdoor Heritage Days at Palisade Riverbend Park– Michele received an email before the meeting that this event would be back this year on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. This is the same day as Southwest Arbor Fest/Earth Day which ORF has already signed up to have a booth. ORF members at the meeting felt being at both events would stretch ORF members too much and thought the group should pass on participating.

Introductions around the room, mostly for the sake of Jason Nguyen since this is first meeting.

**Partner Updates:**

**City of Grand Junction** – Jason talked about the upgrades at Dos Rios. They are working on irrigation and a splash pad to be available when Las Colonias is open. There is work going on the property east of Las Colonias and will be going for a GOCO grant later this year. Working on asphalt replacement South side of the foot bridge and Redlands Parkway to round about.

**Mesa County** – Travis said Mesa County has still has issue with Audubon Trail with trail sloughing off. Went to Corps of Engineers but it’s considered historical so the County is working with Redlands Canal on RFP for work on restoration. If the trail can’t be restored, the

detour will become permanent and County will pave it like the rest of the trail. County does have permission from Robert Small (owner on north side) to use his property for detour.

Disc golf out at Nature Park, first stage is completed – nine holes and getting a lot of use. Starting work with Clifton Sanitation for property they own to build another nine holes.

**City of Fruita** – Marc was unable attend but emailed Michele the following:

The RFQ/RFP for consulting engineering services for the Riverfront Trail System Connection under Highway 340 is currently out to bid and will be closing on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We have eliminated the boat ramp location and will make the trail design much easier. We hope to have a selection of the consultant picked by March 4<sup>th</sup> and the contract negotiations/award by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Our timeline has the initial design back by mid-June and the final design completed by the end of August. We have reached out to Mesa County and they have provided us with plans from the Corn Lake section to keep the design consistent but work for our section of the trail.

City of Fruita provided a letter of support to Pete Firmin that endorses Colorado Parks and Wildlife proposal to armor and expand the eroding bank along the Colorado Riverfront Trail at Fruita-James M Robb State Park. We feel like as we continue to provide more access with the new trail this will minimize the opportunity for user conflicts on the trail.

**Town of Palisade** – Thea unable to attend but emailed Michele the following update after the meeting:

Riverbend Park:

Small swim beach/SUP & kayak launch – upriver from Harky's

Working with Army Core for plan approval

Hopefully complete this spring before runoff begins or will postpone to fall / winter if plan approval is delayed

Involves cleanup of area and adding boulders on bank to decrease effects of erosion

Harky's Boat launch and expanded swim beach - Hired architect to begin design option renderings

Spring will have public meetings for public and partner input on final design and function

Engineering and hydraulic modeling

RFP for contractor in late summer / fall

Work to be done winter of 2024-25

Will connect east and west sides of riverfront trail with concrete pathway in new boat launch design

Researching additional funding options

WCCC will be working 2 weeks in April for invasive removals and fire risk mitigation on west end of park

In preliminary discussions about possibilities for Sewer Lagoon reclamation after sewer consolidation project completed

Endangered fish brooding ponds for Palisade High School program?

Return to riparian habitat and wildlife refuge?

Recreational fishing ponds with islands for waterfowl sanctuary?

Researching funding sources for restoration projects?

**Colorado Parks & Wildlife** – Pete was unable to attend, no report emailed to Michele.

**Colorado Riverfront Foundation** – Pat updated that there is now an emeritus board of some of the older members. They continue to what they do best watch the money. DavidV added that the Alpine Bank Trust team was there to review the 2023 RFF trust account performance. Pat described the evolution of the Riverfront Concert Series, noting that is a major fundraising event.

#### **New Business –**

Letter of Support submitted to Clifton Water District – DavidV talked about Clifton Water District’s reaching out and asking ORF to provide a letter of support for their BOR WaterSMART grant. David V said they are amenable to having the trail go through their property.

Urban Trails Committee re-engagement – George attended the last UTC meeting and will be attending their meetings on a regular basis as a regular citizen and as a liaison for ORF. There was a UTC member planning to attend the ORF meeting but apparently unable to attend. George will be following up with sign questions. Jason said Henry is interested in working on way-finding signs.

There was no further new business.

#### **Old Business –**

Revised draft of Roles and Responsibilities – David V presented the draft revisions (handout). Discussed the different highlighted colors and what they mean for the revisions. Blue is for proposed and green is how it’s been done in the past. David explained the pros and cons of each and how it would affect the board. Discussed when comments are due, decided February 29, 2024. Hayden asked if need co-chair or just a chair. Michele explained how some co-chairs didn’t get along making it difficult to get things done. Talked about a vice chair rather than a co-chair. Hayden said vice-chair should not automatically move into the chair position. Joel feels that the old way lacks transparency. A new digital draft will be forthcoming so don’t make comments on the hard draft – **comments due by Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**

Committee Updates – Trails Completion – Joel said there is a stakeholder meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to noon at the Mesa County Workforce Center. Pat said he can’t stress how important these events are to be involved. Michele will send invite out to both boards. She also will send it to Travis and all other Partners. Discussion continued on mileage marking on trail and pinch points and need for aerial maps. Michele had reached out to City of Grand Junction GIS but hasn’t heard back from him. She will double check to see if Chris is still with the City. David V said needs to make sure all the different groups coordinate with each other before starting work.

MEP Committee – Jane is leading a bike ride on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> starting at Redlands Boat Launch to Fruita (either Heritage Park, Munchies or the Loma Exit).

Inclusivity Discussion – Joel feels it’s important to adopt a statement for Inclusivity, Equality, etc. David V asked how it would be used. Joel thinks it would be important for it to address internal and external audiences. Joel proposed an ad hoc committee, David V suggested existing committee. He feels it makes more sense to go under the MEP Committee at their next meeting in March. Joel would lead the discussion.

**Public Comment** – Pat said he will attend another meeting where he can spend about 15 minutes giving an update on his experience being on ORF and UTC, which he says is the second most important thing he's done in his life!

There was no further public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.