

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333
One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
April 8, 2024

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:36pm by chair, David Varner. Those present from ORF were:

David Varner, chair	Nicole Grider	Jamie Porta
Ken Scissors	David Combs	Sarah Brooks
Stefanie Harville		

Also present: Jimmy Hollar with the City of Grand Junction Mobility Division, Madeline Nowak, CMU Student, Henry Brown, City of Grand Junction Mobility Planner, Hayden Janson-public, and Michele Rohrbach, ORF staff.

Absent: Joel Sholtes, Jane Quimby, and Tom Barry (George Manning has resigned due to health and family issues)

Introductions made around the room.

Approval of Minutes. February minutes - David C./Ken second. Motion passed.
December minutes - Sarah/Ken second. Motion passed.

Announcements – ORF office closed April 10th and 12th

Concert Series – Saturday, June 15th – Tab Benoit and Saturday, September 7th – Firefall at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park-Fruita. David gave history of the event and that board members will get tickets but will also be asked to volunteer.

Southwest Arbor Fest – April 27th – so far Stefanie is the only volunteer.

Grand Valley River Fest – May 18th – again, so far Stefanie is the only volunteer.

Passed around signup sheets for the all three events

Henry talked about Oak Star Bank coming into Las Colonias and waiting to hear from City Council to change lease to allow subleasing for more than just the bank in the building and to relocate the trail to allow for the larger lot. (4/9/24 - Michele emailed Trent for a picture of the proposed trail move but hasn't heard back). Concerned about the trail flooding if drainage isn't done correctly.

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Jason said Henry updated on the Las Colonias trail. BLM signed off on the Monument Connect Trail – GOCO extending funding and have until January 2025 to complete construction. Dos Rios, the beach will be open in a month or so and the splash park will be open in the fall. Asphalt happening at Jr. Service League.

Mesa County – Travis was unable to attend but he emailed Michele the following:

As far as updates go we are having a surveyor look at the easement on the Audubon trail to make sure we can relocate the trail. It has been determined that Mesa County cannot fix the erosion on the tail race of Redlands Power and Water's canal since we are not property owners there. At this point in time all we can do is relocate the trail further North and hope the erosion stops. We will be doing that this spring, more info to come as we get things figured out. In the meantime, the trail remains open and anything dangerous has been fenced off with a temporary detour in place.

Michele will double check with Travis to see if any recourse against the owner whose property is slumping. Corps of Engineers said that there is nothing they can do.

April 9th email response from Travis:

From what I understand is that it is going to be a legal matter between Redlands Power and Water and the property owner that our trail has an easement through his property. They will have to file it as a civil matter against the property owner who dumped the concrete. The county wants no part in it other than trail repair. Mesa County apparently has no right to repair the water way. Ultimately, I do not know where it will end up.

Sarah said the Regional Transportation office is doing a Mesa County Safety Action Plan – have until April 28th to do survey. She suggested everyone put a pin on the map along the section of the trail in Connected Lakes where the damage is at, at section of trail and say it's dangerous. Feel free to share input about other roadway safety concerns in the survey, and make multiple comments on the map where you feel there are safety issues that need to be addressed. Will need to refresh after every comment. Link: www.mesacountysafetyactionplan.com

City of Fruita – Marc was unable attend. Sarah said she spoke with Marc at the Grand Valley Outdoor Recreation Coalition kick-off event and she thought he said the contract has been awarded on the trail under Hwy 340 connecting east side to west side at State Park. Ken said signage is really important so people know where to go.

April 9th email response from Marc:

There is a lot going on right now! We are working with SGM on details of the contract and will start design of the trail as soon as that is completed. There are lots of exciting projects taking place in Fruita but nothing involving the trails.

Town of Palisade – Thea unable to attend. This would be her last meeting. Not sure who would be appointed to the board. Perhaps ORF could ask to have a staff member appointed. David to talk to Joel to see if he can make that connection.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete was unable to attend, no report emailed to Michele. Sarah stated that the counters he talked about have been installed. Michele will reach out to him to see if he has numbers to share with the group.

April 12th email response from Pete:

I currently have traffic counters at the Connected lakes, Corn Lake, Fruita, Island Acres and Wildlife Area entrances. These are the five sections that comprise the park. All five count motor vehicles and I would assume that a portion of these visitors use the trail.

Pedestrian counters are installed at 29.75 Rd, 30 Rd, 31 Rd., Fruita entrance, Fruita boat ramp, this is recent enough that I do not have numbers yet.

We are also installing counters at both Connected bridges, Corn Lake and 29 Rd., but these are not in place yet.

For Connected, the average daily total for vehicles in 2023 was 175.5

Corn Lake...235.1

Fruita...125.4

Island Acres...203.9

Wildlife Area....58.4

For each area, there are multipliers for how many people per vehicle. This was derived from the Coronna visitation study that was completed in 2009 but generally found that during the summer...more people per vehicle on average than in the winter. A ballpark estimate is 2.4 people per vehicle.

So, as an example...Connected Lakes $175.5 \times 365 \times 2.4 = 153,738$ and 70% using trails (manager's best guess). 107,616 trail users per year?

New Business –

Arnett replacement sign – Had a celebration for the replacement of this sign. Done in both English and Spanish which is a first for the riverfront project. The easement runs through agricultural property and there is a conservation easement on the property so it will remain agriculture for the future of Clifton's youth. Riverfront trail ends right there at 33 ½ Rd. Michele added that it was great that there were families that walked and pushed strollers as well as others who walked from the Clifton Nature Park.

Sarah thinks ORF should consider participating with GVORC, they would be a good partner in helping with the RME to RFT connection in Clifton and Clifton to Palisade. Chandler Smith has been hired as the Executive Director. David C. said he's on the board and said they would like to tap into the local lodging tax.

IGA Bike ride – Friday, June 7th – this was cancelled last year due to flooding of the trail. David asked if could be incorporate it in as one of the monthly bike rides. Discussed moving it to a weeknight to bring more participants. Sarah will let us know if she has time to take the ride on.

She added she is leading a ride on April 27th. She has swag to handout day of the event.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Final version of Roles and Responsibilities – David was going to email out before the meeting but didn't get it done since he was on spring break. Will email it out before next meeting. Will have new members coming on board at the August meeting.

Committee Updates – Trails Completion – emailed out with the meeting packet. The main thing was the Design Charet at the Work Force Center. David said there was about 40 people there. There was a follow up meeting with KLJ. David said they group would like to meet with some of the key property owners before public meetings.

MEP Committee – Stefanie stated that signage has already been talked about and Jane is taking that on. She also wants to work on PSAs for a Slow the Roll and One Your Left Campaign.

Public Comment – Hayden believes he applied for ORF board back in February. Henry noted that Central High School, Mesa County will be taking comments from 4pm-6pm, Phase 1 of Orchard Avenue.

Sarah said for Bike Month working with InterMountain Health and Every Pedal Bike on May 15th from 6pm-8pm at Rocky Mountain Elementary, Riverside Education Center will be providing bikes for those who don't have one. IMH will be bringing helmets for kids. Will also be doing helmet education for adults. Jimmy will be doing a ride for kids on May 18th with a 20-minute education component. Registration opens on May 6th, cost is \$6 through the City of Grand Junction.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.