

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333
One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
June 10, 2024

Called to Order:

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

David Varner, chair	Nicole Grider	Jane Quimby
Ken Scissors	Sarah Brooks	Meg Thornton - new
Stefanie Harville	Jason Andrews - new	Joel Sholtes
Hayden Jensen - new	David Combs	

Also present: Henry Brown, City of Grand Junction Mobility Manger, Randall Reitz, City Council member, Marc Mancuso, Parks and Rec for the City of Fruita, Matthew, CMU student and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent: Tom Barry, Jamie Porta

Introductions made around the room.

Approval of Minutes – April minutes Joel/Stefanie - second. Motion passed.

Announcements – Welcomed new members.

Said farewell to Tom, Jamie and George.

Tab Benoit concert is Saturday, June 15th – Michele still needs bucket passers. Sarah volunteered to do preshow speech. Michele to get her info

Western Slope Whiskey Club event – July 23rd (Riverfront project is their non-profit for the year).

Michele to get location, dates and time to all board members.

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – David welcomed Randall as the new City Council ex-officio and gave him an update of the riverfront project. Randall said Council voted to the purchase of the last two lots for the missing link on C ½ Road. 5 ½ acres will be for trail and deeded to CPW. Construction of the trail will begin towards of the end of next year. Pete said all entities on working on getting funding dollars for acquisition in place for the closing.

Henry gave an update on 7th Street and how it's used as a corridor to connect to the Riverfront trail. City is looking to improve for safe active transportation corridor. He explained why it's being looked at for the improvements and enhancements. KLJ Engineering has been contracted by the City to evaluate the options for 7th Street. Henry is looking for members for the steering committee, will be inform

public about possible alternatives at Pop Up event in July. He would like to see ORF on the committee. Ken Scissor volunteered.

Mesa County – Travis unable to attend. Sarah stated that June 22nd is the grand opening of the Clifton Community Center at 10:00am.

City of Fruita – Marc talked about the trail spur under Hwy 340. The Riverfront Foundation let the City keep money from previous project not used. 4/10 of mile bid came in at \$4.5 million to build (\$480,000 was just design). Decided to return the CDOT grant funding and will use the Foundation's funds for Raptor Road project. Hayden asked if the Wayfinding signs work, Marc said if people know how wayfinding works they like it but those that don't, they aren't as comfortable with them.

Town of Palisade – No ex-officio was able to attend. Joel gave an update on meeting with Troy and said they have a design to improve Harkeys Boat launch – he thinks improvements will happen within the next year. The Town is reaching out to landowners regarding extending the sewer pipeline.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete talked about the trail alignment on the C ½ Road going through the Skinner property. Looking to maintain irrigation on the property because the family has done a good job of keeping the property with oats, etc., rather than weeds. He showed what the trail will look like and that there is a parking lot and vault toilet in the design but he doesn't think it will be built. There will be some tight turns due to the trail easement and to keep out of areas that are fairly wet. Will be doing land trade with Heineckes and moving the trail away from a nesting pair of bald eagles and limiting construction within a Cottonwood gallery. Sarah said there is a need for better signage on C ½ Road and 29 Road and on both sides of the parking lot. Would need to have conversation with Mesa County about improved signage. Pete can do something on westbound but eastbound would be County. Design will be done soon with construction in late 2026/2027. Counter numbers are higher than Pete thought and each counter is triggering about 5,000 people per month all at access points.

New Business – River Corridor Initiative – Joel explained what the initiative is and whose involved. Nearing the point of how RCI acts once it's more formalized. Working on a joint resolution with all entities involved with a masterplan of how develop occurs in the river and recreation. Will need to adopt at the local level and hope to be before all the local groups this month. ORF has a strategic planning meeting scheduled for the fall and would like to RCI is part of the discussion. Sarah asked if irrigation companies were involved, they aren't at the table but will be asked when pursuing the master plan.

ORF/Foundation received \$20,000 grant from Xcel. Funds will be used for the interactive lobby of the new Confluence Center. Thank you, Jamie for nominating the riverfront project!

Confluence Center – Michele stated fundraising is moving along, have reached 51% of \$7.5 million needed. Hoping to break ground in October/November with move in by mid-August of 2025.

There was no further new business.

Old Business – Final version of Roles and Responsibilities – David explained the Roles and Responsibilities and revisions to the document has been made. He would like to finalize it to vote at the

August meeting. Michele will email out to the board sometime this week. Everyone will be asked to review for finalization.

David explained what the subcommittees are:

Committee Updates – Trails Completion – emailed out with the meeting packet. David said this committee is working on getting the trail to Palisade. Have developed some alternative routes and in phase reaching out to landowners along those routes. Planning on another public meeting in late July. Hoping to have the alternative down to one by the end of the year.

MEP Committee – Stefanie is the chair and their mission is to connect the community to the river. History project is nearing completion with on recording on Thursday. Jane talked about the work on mileage marking on trail. Need to get better direction for choke points. Working on social media. Ride on Saturday at 8:30am starting at Handlebar and will end at Handlebar.

Public Comment –

There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.