

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
August 20, 2013

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair Brad Taylor. Those present from the Commission were:

Brad Taylor	Bob Fuller	Dr. Larry Copeland
Jason Bailey	Claudette Konola	Karen Jefferson
Stacy Beaugh	Cliff Sprinkle	Eric James

Also present were Bennett Boeschstein, Grand Junction City Council, Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bob Fuller, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Donna Ross with Mesa County, Biz Collins with Urban Trails Committee, Bennett Price, Town Board member with the Town of Palisade and Michele Rohrbach.

Did introductions around room for new members. Brad would like to do an orientation for all new members and wants all RFC members to be out on the trail before Thanksgiving.

Approval – Claudette/Jason. Motion passed.

Announcements – IGA meeting is Thursday, September 5th at 7:00am at the BLM office.

New Business – Stacy spoke about the collaborative conference the Tamarisk Coalition put on in March. The Verde River project in Arizona wants to come learn more about our “String of Pearls” project in October. Stacy will work on the logistics. Brad, Cliff and Bennett B. said they would be happy to help with the project.

Memorandum of Understanding – Stacy talked about what the Tamarisk Coalition efforts and the restoration efforts around the valley. A group has been put together called the Desert Rivers Collective with the goal to remove tamarisk and Russian Olive and other non-native species and replace with native plants. 20+ partners on board and an MOU has been drafted, it doesn't mean partners have to have money but it will make it easier to go for grants. Stacy offered to come and do a more thorough report at the September meeting.

Grand Valley Trails Master Plan(GVTMP)/Urban Trails Master Plan (UTMP) – Biz updated the group that the plan is still currently called the GVTMP but considering bringing the boundaries back to the 2001 UTMP of 19 Road to 32 Road. Went before the City Planning Commission and the plan was denied because it didn't benefit all members of the public. Canal bank trails being the issue for the naysayers at the meeting. UTC will regroup and determine what they want to do next. Bennett B. was asked about the process of having items on a master plan and what happens

if nothing is on a plan when development happens. Bennett P. said he will talk to Frank and get back with UTC about the enclosed Price Ditch starting in Palisade.

Claudette said she received a forwarded email stating the same questions being asked of UTC are brewing for the riverfront project. The Riverfront Commission has had property donated and land acquisition with payment to owners. Stacy thinks it could be part of the strategic plan or something be put on the website explaining how the RFC only works with willing landowners.

Discussed the recent articles in the paper about the Bruce Hornsby concert move and riding the riverfront trail. Stacy said she really thinks the RFC needs to have a strategic plan or guiding principles that all members are speaking the same language when talking to or with the public/media.

Phase III appeal of the Minor Site Plan – Donna gave a brief history of the Monument View Trail, all three phases and the appeal that took place yesterday. Two gentlemen appealed the plan before the Flood Plan Board. The Minor Site Plan was approved and the two gentlemen's next step would be to go to District Court. They chose not to do that but rather go before the County Commissioners to appeal that there was a flaw in the approval process. The County Commissioners upheld the approval. The two gentleman can still appeal to District Court but not sure if they plan to move forward or not. Brad thanked the County for all their work on this issue.

Las Colonias – the City approved the GOCO application for the first phase for \$400,000. Bennett B. said he hopes that the large Legacy grants come back. Donna said they are currently planned for 2014 and 2015.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Maps – Karen updated the group on the newly revised maps on the riverfront website (www.riverfrontproject.org). Still working on whether or not will be developing printed maps or rack cards to give to the Visitor and Convention Bureau, area Chambers and the public.

Strategic Planning – Brad has contacted Colorado Mesa University to continue the process next spring. Georgeann Joufflas is no longer teaching that class but she will contact the new instructor and get back with Brad.

Grand Junction Visitor and Conference Bureau has applied for a grant with Google Earth.

Safety and Signage – Michele is working on an El Pomar grant for the Trail Head Signs. She hopes to have it ready to submit in two weeks.

Government Relations – Jason said nothing new to report. Jason stated to Biz that Robert Traylor has a wealth of info on the canal bank issues.

History – Ken Henry was the point purpose and need to get his notes.

Media Relations/Outreach – Karen said RFC has over 100 fans on our Facebook page. Website has had good traffic over the summer, mainly because of summer concert series. She tried to do a ticket give away on Facebook page – the project got zero responses. Working on getting Liked on other Facebook pages. She is working formulating a plan.

Claudette asked about the river clean up and could the RFC send a thank you to the group? Bennett B. will get the address to Michele and she will draft a thank you.

Updates:

Mesa County –lots of calls about what’s going on at Phase II. People are excited.

City of Grand Junction – Mike was unable.

City of Fruita – Bob said Phase II is underway. Fruita is managing the project but Mesa County is doing the work. Donna added that the project is on schedule and on budget. Look to have completed sometime this fall. Donna will check with Greg to see exactly when. Still working with the PUC regarding the railroad crossing for trail from State Park under Highway 6 & 50 that will get to the Community Center. Donna said that 100% of the cost of Phase II trail construction with partner funding and in-kind donations, there is zero taxpayer funds being used on Phase II.

Town of Palisade – Peach Fest was very busy.

KAFM – Bennett talked to the new members about his monthly program. Next program is the last Tuesday of the month at noon. Donna and Greg will check their schedule to see if they are available to talk about what the County is doing.

Committee Reports:

UTC – Biz stated UTC has six new members and will be bringing them up to speed.

State Park – Pete thanked the group for the concert series. He wants to be included in the beginning of the process for next year. Discussed comments heard at the concert series while passing the bucket.

Public Comment – No public present.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.