

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
683-4333

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**September 17, 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	Karen Jefferson	Frank Watt
Stacy Beaugh	Cliff Sprinkle	Dr. Bill Findlay

Also present were Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bob Fuller, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Clint Kinney, Fruita City Manager, Lori Buck, Fruita Mayor, Bruce Bonar, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Shannon Hatch with the Tamarisk Coalition and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval** – Jason/Bob. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Bicycle Dreams showing at the Mesa Theater on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm – fundraiser for the Riverfront Foundation (RFF).

**New Business** – Shannon talked about the about the Desert River Collaborative and its mission to protect and restore habitat. Inclusive, voluntary, landowner goals supported and info sharing. Many partners have or will be signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Talked about plant species being developed that required little water. Several ongoing projects going on around the valley. Working with the City of Grand Junction to plant a native plant garden. Tamarisk Coalition is looking for the Riverfront to sign the MOU. Shannon then answered questions. Frank answered questions about his project in Riverbend Park. Pete talked about the tamarisk removal at Island Acres a few years back by Volunteer Colorado. Brad motioned to support the MOU. Jason/Cliff – motion approved.

Question asked about water at Island Acre – Pete said they are looking into storage for the next year – Park has fairly senior water rights. He said revegetation is dependent on water and storage.

Karen said from the user prospective - the cottonwood plantings along the north side of Snooks are doing very well, south side is struggling.

Brad explained why the RFC came out to Fruita. Bob stated that there was concern at one point in time most of the activity was east of Fruita. Fruita would like to get the trail connected to Kokopelli. Lori stated that the biggest hurdle to Fruita residents is getting out to the riverfront trail. She talked about the railroad issue and how they think they may have found away around

it. Bruce talked about the wetlands delineation to the Kokopelli trail. CMU working on it with the Corps of Engineers. All land acquired except 10'x10' section – this is property that the RFF, Mesa County and Fruita purchased a few years ago but when survey was done, this piece of property wasn't included in the deal. Clint stated court action being taken because the railroad unwilling to cooperate. Kokopelli trail will take lots of money to get built. Pete talked about his section of trail that will run on the river side on the dike that will link to Little Salt Wash. Phase II of the Monument View of the trail will be completed next month. Phase III goes out to bid next week. Clint said it helped that the City did a City Parks, Open Space & Trails Plan. Once that was adopted, it made it easier to get grants once the big picture/vision for grant monies. Clint said that CDOT has about \$800,000 into the project at Little Salt Wash and \$200,000 from ?.

Frank talked about Mesa County being instrumental in trail development of the Monument View. Concern about less support moving forward with the section from 27 ½ to 29 Road and 33 ½ to Riverbend. Past Commissioners, Meis and Rowland were not supportive of recreational trails but when the vision showed as a transportation corridor – they became supportive. For Fruita, it has helped that they have the plans in place and ready to go so when funding is available, they have been successful in securing and spending the funds. Frank wants to make sure that all partners still work together moving forward. Brad stated need support from partners financially. Donna Ross with Mesa County stated that the County Commissioners will no longer be supporting land acquisition from 27 ½ Road to 29 Road. Bob said it's important to stress the economic benefit and how it applies to the multi-modal plan. Brad would like to see the RFC become a more grass roots and get the public involved. Skinner property is now of concern.

RFC budget – Frank would like to see the RFC board work on the budget.

There was no further new business.

#### **Old Business –**

Maps – nothing to report.

Strategic Planning – will be moving forward with this at November meeting.

Safety and Signage – Michele is waiting on documentation from IRS and needs to add one more paragraph to application before submitting to El Pomar. Brad is looking for volunteers to ride the trail to inventory of signs needing to be replaced. Brad wants all members to get out onto the trail. He talked about Palisade activities.

Government Relations – Jason tabled next month.

History – nothing to report.

Media Relations/Outreach – Facebook – 108 followers. Karen talked about how it's difficult to get interest in the Facebook page. She sent Brad a list about trying to get partners to like us on Facebook. Clint brought up Mike the Headless Chicken and that he has 14,000+ followers.

Group said to talk with Mike, past concert sponsors, other events and partners. Talked about difference between sponsors, partners and donors. Brad said to “like” all the partners.

**Updates:**

Mesa County - Greg Linza has submitted another grant for more funds for Phase III.

City of Grand Junction – Mike was unable.

Town of Palisade – Winefest this weekend. Frank will be the coordinator for the 2014 Bluegrass Festival. Palisade Parks & Rec Department is leading organized bike rides of the Riverfront Trail at various locations and RFC should encourage this activity.

KAFM – Bennett unable to attend.

**Committee Reports:**

UTC – Regrouping on the UTC Master Trail Plan.

State Park – Nothing to report.

**Public Comment** – No public present.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.