

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Urban Trails Committee

Minutes
July 9, 2013

Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair, Biz Collins. Those present from the Committee were:

Julie Sabin Biz Collins Dave Grossman

Also present were Jody Kliska with the City of Grand Junction, Terri Wenzlaff, new member applicant, Vara Kusal with Horizon Drive District - guest, Traci Wieland with the City of GJ Parks and Rec, Bennett Boeschstein, City Council member and Michele Rohrbach.

Julie thanked Vara for all the support of the Horizon Drive District for Bike to Work Days. Vara said lots of pictures on their website.

Approval of Minutes – Dave/Julie. Motion passed.

Announcements – No RFC meeting on July 16th.
Need volunteers for Striders Run on July 27th and to pass the bucket at concerts.

Old Business – UTC Master Trail Plan - Julie discussed the highlights of her, Biz's and Dave's meeting with County Commissioners last week. Stressed three points, health, safety and a healthy community. At end of meeting, she said that the map UTC would be using to continue through the public process is the map with canal bank trails. Bennett said there is a joint City/County meeting at the end of July. He then talked about how planners work and what can be done in planning. Discussed other areas/cities with canal trails now showing these canal trails on the Water Districts or Irrigation Companies websites. Dave said they expressed to the County Commissioners that canal bank trails are just another tool in the planning box. Julie told Vara that UTC is looking for letters of support for the Staff presentation. St. Mary's residency program did a letter and so are many of the doctors at the hospital. Letters should be delivered to Jody before July 25th.

Julie said suggestion made to do a presentation before Chamber of Commerce. Discussed going out to the business community. Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Business Incubator, Downtown Development Association would be other places to go speak with.

Continuing with the process and let members know how it's working through the process. Tentatively set August 19th as a date for the UTC plan for the City Council workshop. August 13th is before the planning commission. Need to contact Ken Simms to confirm process for County. Julie and Biz will be on KAFM tomorrow at noon.

Share the Road – Nothing new to report. Dave said that Dean Bessler said the signs should be ready soon and stored at CDOT.

Grand Valley Bikes – Wrapping up Safe Routes to School grant for last year. Working on new components for next grant. Bike to Work Month activities were fabulous. Have about \$100 left after paying for all the prizes and food. Bennett said City has approved a grant for sidewalk to Nisley. Dave asked if doing a debrief for Bike to Work Month, Biz said they had meeting the next day and wrote things down and if Dave has suggestions, get them to Biz.

Jody talked about work on Elm and Cannell and that there should be enough room for a bike lane. Talked about intersection at 10th and North and problem.

Riverfront Update – Just gearing up for the Bruce Hornsby concert next Tuesday. The regular Concert Series starts on August 1st. New member applicants are being interviewed on Thursday so should have five new members next month.

Discuss the Health Department's Built Environment group and that it's working its way through process. Jody's name was given to the group so she should be contacted in the future.

There was no further old business.

New Business – Traci gave presentation on Las Colonias and discussed the phases, the funding options and letters of support. She talked about the restroom and shelter going for funding in first phase. Going for a GOCO fall grant which is due in August and then would hear on grant in December. Question asked about whitewater park – Traci said they explored it off of Watson Island but too expensive. Working with other partners at the trail race by Connected Lakes. She's requesting letters of support from users. Traci said Biz wrote a wonderful letter for Matchett Park which helped the City get a \$75,000 GOCO grant. Dave volunteered to write a letter of support. Biz said she'd be happy to write a letter and she and Julie will ask Grand Valley Bikes to write a letter of support. Julie suggested considering a pump track along the trail for the kids.

Did new member interviews and liked all six applicants. Waiting for City Council to do interview with new process. So hopefully will have new members appointed by next meeting.

Bennett talked about the District Court, Case No. 03 CV 588 that local governments can show canal bank trails on maps. Been upheld in court after appeals.

Public Comment – Jody passed around her print out of CDOT's Eco traffic counter (June 19th to July 8th) that has a breakdown of bikes, pedestrian. UTC members were very impressed with the number of riders/walkers on the trails. One day had 130 riders on the loop – average is around 90. Asked if the info will be advertised, Jody isn't sure. Would like to get it out to the media.

Terri and Dave said it would be good idea to get Jody's info out to the media before the meetings.

Julie said she has a couple extra copies of the Grand Valley Master Trails Plan map if Terri would like a copy to review.

Adjournment – 7:00pm.