

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes

February 10, 2025

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by vice-chair, Hayden Janssen. Those present from ORF were:

David Varner, chair
Hayden Jensen, vice-chair
Alyssa Jones

Sarah Brooks
Scott Andrews
Nicole Grider

Jane Quimby
Joel Sholtes

Also present: Marc Mancuso, Parks and Rec for the City of Fruita, Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Troy Ward - Parks Director with the Town of Palisade, Randall Reitz, Grand Junction City Council member, Henry Brown, City of Grand Junction Mobility Planner and Michele Rohrbach, ORF staff.

Absent: Stefanie Harville, David Coombs

Approval of Minutes – October minutes – Joel/Scott second. Motion passed.

Announcements – February ride – Saturday, February 14th

Confluence Center groundbreaking – February 26th -11:30am-1:00pm –

Hayden touched on the Child Credit and how it works.

ORF office closed – March 3rd through March 29th

IGA meeting – March 6th – need someone to attend meeting (Update on new Host) –

Hayden and David talked about what the meeting was in the past and was wondering if now is the time to move to a different host – have spoken with Chandler Smith of GVORC and think what they are doing would be a better fit.

Nicole asked what would ORF lose if let the meeting go and what ORF would gain? Might lose the focus on the riverfront. Pete and Henry asked if it might be time to reevaluate the scope- especially regarding the fact that the RFT is not only a recreational resource, but a transportation resource. Feel the scope should be discussed at the meeting on the 6th.

Need at least one more volunteer for Southwest Fest – April 26th – 9am-5pm

(setup time may be earlier) Hayden is unable to participate even though he previously volunteered, Joel and Alyssa tentatively volunteered and will join David Combs and David Varner.

Expiring ORF terms in June: Scott, David C., Nicole, Stefanie
(Michele will send out application link)

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Randall deferred to Henry. Friday is a Happy Hour ride from City Hall to Base Camp as part of winter bike to work day. City and County have combined their efforts for the May Bike to Work Day.

Received the silver Bicycle Friendly rating, Henry asked for suggestions of where to post the sign. Thinking Colonias or somewhere else on the riverfront trail. Monument Connect trail to be completed in June.

Henry said if there is anyone term limited on ORF there are opening on the Urban Trails Committee board (UTC), applications are due at the end of March.

Mesa County – Travis unable to attend. He emailed Michele the following:

The county has no real news at this time. We are starting our spring cleaning and cutting back vegetation along the trail. That's all we have going on at the moment.

City of Fruita – Marc said they will be filling in the shoulders of the trail out to Kokopelli. Completed their Sweetheart Run, had 412 registrations for 5k/10k race and had 280 5k runners that utilized a portion of the trail in the state park. Fruita received the Bronze Bicycle Friendly rating. Marc has Zoom meeting with Pedals for Kids - Ditch the Training Wheels. Looking to bring this program for youth to Fruita for Bike to Work month. He's working with Mesa County to coordinate dates and activities of events in Fruita. Also looking at purchasing a bike library and having bikes available at the library for anyone to check out. This program would include having the Bike Tech program at Fruita Monument High School getting experience servicing the bikes throughout the year.

Town of Palisade – Boat launch at Riverbend Park is stuck in Corps of Engineers paperwork. Looking at postponing until next year. Conservation Corps will be doing work at Riverbend Park and the trail. \$3 million to create wetlands in the old sewer lagoons. Submitted another grant to Colorado Parks and Wildlife to figure out the design of the area, trying to keep riparian.

CPW –Laurel Teal is the new ranger assigned to the park and she will be attending the IGA meeting in March. There is a property at 34 Rd. adjacent to Clifton Water that is owned by CPW but is difficult to provide desired public access. It was acquired for inclusion in the Riverfront Trail System but it appears that it will not be needed for that purpose and CPW is exploring disposal of the property either through the sale or donation to a different managing entity. A separate property adjacent to Adobe Creek Golf Course was also acquired for the purpose of the Riverfront Trail and it does not appear that this is needed for that purpose either. CPW is exploring the sale of that property or converting it to a State Wildlife Area. CPW cannot sell either property without an appraisal and is working internally to complete that process. Joel said they have a “pie in the sky” idea to include the property adjacent to Clifton Water to their presentation to Clifton Water and asked about the timeline for these decisions. Henry asked if the property adjacent to Adobe Creek is considered as part of the riverfront vision. Pete thought it would be better to offload the property now and use proceeds to support CPW's mission elsewhere or convert it to a State Wildlife Area to better serve constituents and more effectively manage the property. David suggested these property-offload issues be addressed by Trails Committee at next meeting- invite Pete.

New Business –

Public Comments – Discussed letter of support. David V. and Hayden to review and Michele will get to Joel.

David said did onboarding last week with some of the new board members.

Results of board survey – Hayden thanked everyone for participating.

1. Slide Presentation assignment – would like to re-engage with partners once a year and give a five minutes presentation. Looking to modify the historical slide presentation down to four or five slides. Would like to pair a senior board member with a junior board member to do presentation to Partners/groups. Need someone who can put together slide presentation. Joel suggested maybe a new committee to put together. David said two slides from each committee and two fundraising slides from Michele. Since no one stepped up, Hayden said he will create the slide deck.
2. ORF Agendas posted to GJ website – will work on getting the minutes and agenda 10 days out before each meeting. Pete said he can post at Corn Lake and Fruita. Troy said can post at Harley's in Palisade.
3. Partner contact list – Michele will develop Google doc
4. Trail Completion and Connection subcommittee – Joel is happy to have new leadership. Looking for new faces to get involved.
5. Grant outreach update Q1 & Q2 – Nicole has been doing the Christi Reece outreach and David Combs said he would submit for first two quarters. Michele discussed the difference between grants and donations. Grants are written for a particular project, must have with a budget, cash match, track expenses, follow reporting requirement and submit a final report is due at the end of the grant cycle. Donations are things like the City Market Loyalty program, Tour of the Moon, and Round Up for the Riverfront program.
6. Monthly Ride Host Sharing assignment Q1 & Q2 and Social Media Content process assignment – Need assistance to help Sarah for this and the social media. Jane will help with the rides and Alyssa will help work on social media. Sarah needs filler content for social media even if it's just photos with a couple sentences. She reminded folks to double check any links they submit to make sure they are appropriate.

Joel said he knows it was not a top 2025 priority but he still is interested in coming up with a DEI statement and was wondering if there is anyone interested in working on a proposal. Nicole said she was interested. Hayden reminded them that the project and time spent should not overshadow the priority list items discussed above.

Mesa County feasibility study – Sarah explained the routes that are being proposed and the technical and preferred routes. They also took the prioritized corridor. She explained whether there were 10' shoulders and the need to get right of way from landowners. She said CDOT has identified from 34 Road to downtown Palisade. Section from 33 Road to Palisade High School hasn't been scoped yet Sarah thinks CDOT may come to the table if Mesa County and One Riverfront all come to the tables. Look for a final draft in two weeks. Alyssa talked about her brother being one of the persons killed in the CDOT accident. There are a lot of kids walking in that area to school along a very busy road. With Clifton Elementary school closing kids will be dispersed to Taylor, Chatfield and Rocky Mountain. Sarah said she believes CDOT will complete the Safe Route to School improvements in front of Clifton Elementary.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Committee Updates – Trails Completion – January minutes emailed out with meeting packet.

MEP Committee – January minutes emailed out with meeting packet. Jane stated they need help for people to go out and map the trail with where signage is needed and where to put signs. Sarah said there is a master plan with wayfinding signage and was wondering if Fruita, Palisade and Grand Junction could provide input.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

DRAFT