

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333
One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
April 14, 2025

Called to Order:

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

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|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| David Varner, chair | Sarah Brooks | Jane Quimby |
| Hayden Jensen, vice-chair | Scott Andrews | Joel Sholtes |
| Alyssa Jones | Nicole Grider | David Varner |
| David Coombs | | |

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, City Council, and Michele Rohrbach, ORF staff.

Absent: Nicole, Stefanie

Approval of Minutes – February minutes. Hayden/Sarah second. Motion passed.

Announcements –

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Randall said there wasn't really an update but that it's his last meeting.

Mesa County – Travis unable to attend. Sarah stated that KLJ signed off on the project on the 2nd of March and Mesa County has it. Michele

City of Fruita – Marc said Ditch Training Wheels program June 16-20th. Asked for concert dates, Michele said still working on it. Have one date, July 18th and hope to have the second date later this week. Clean up happening on Arbor, will be planting trees as well as planting trees. Received a grant for \$6,000 to help with water bags and purchase the trees. Reminded everyone he talked about the Bike Library at last meeting, moving forward. Youth golf tournament will be what they will use to buy the bikes. Mike the Headless Chicken is May 30th and 31st.

Town of Palisade – Troy said started two weeks of work on the west end of the park removing invasive plants. The crew has worked for them for several years and have done a great job. Caps and Blast (formerly Outdoor Heritage Days) on April 26th. Preparing for the Bluegrass Festival June 6th and 7th.

Honey Bee Festival was very busy and had great turnout. Event will be moving to Cross Orchard next year.

CPW – REW were out at Island Acres planting trees and he is cautiously optimistic that they take. Running the pump to get water to the new plantings. In the future will be at Corn Lake. He touched on the artwork. Armory a bank in Fruita for the trail that was going to under HWY 340, river cleanup on April 19th. Memorial bench program – asked if others are still the program. Marc said Fruita is. Pete has a senior ranger opening with the application process closing tonight. Reached out to Mesa County River Rangers and will be reaching out to the BLM Rangers.

Budget is in holding pattern.

April Ride discussion – Hayden will be meeting with Marc on bike ride this weekend and hoping for a good turnout. Sarah did a great job on promoting on social media. Jane and Sarah commented on the Wayfinding signs on the Fruita section and they're great. Marc said they've been in place for a couple years.

David wants all board members to take a lead on one monthly ride or walk and then take a secondary support role. He thanked Hayden for taking it on and Sarah for doing it for so long.

IGA handoff – letter was sent out to the IGA group informing everyone that we are handing it off to Chandler with REC. David only had one comment but the person was in support of handing it off. Thanked Hayden for helping compose the letter and for other comments. Joel said it's still important that ORF has someone attend. Sarah asked if Chandler can do a Fireside on the Riverfront trail. He is working on finalizing an annual float trip. "Outdoor Recreation Clubs" on April 30th. Joel/Alyssa are interested in doing a booth.

Southwest Arbor Day – April 26th – David V., David C., Stefanie, Joel and Alyssa will be Joel – am/David V. - am/ David C - pm, Alyssa - pm. Will need to check with Stefanie on her availability.

Status of Opening Board positions – Michele talked about four openings on the board and have had four people apply. David C, Scott and Nicole have reapplied. David V. mentioned that he knows people are busy and that sometimes they don't have time. David V. wants everyone that's on the board engaged and participating. He suggested dropping the board down to 9. Does anyone have any issues with it? Hayden said he'd like to see younger blood on the board. Need people willing to help do things, need someone to step up and chair the MEP committee. Also need someone who is willing to help with social media. Jane said it doesn't matter if it's not 9 or 11 it's more important that it's the right people. Sarah is burnt out - she's at the point of doing 20 hours of social media on top her 40-hour job. Alyssa suggested reaching out CMU outdoor programs. Joel suggested taking a break from social media. Hayden said the applicants need to have skills that help and give Sarah a break. David V really wants everyone to participate.

Old Business –

Status of February Assigned Tasks from poll – this what we want to give out to our partners. What would be helpful for Hayden would be content of photos, comments would be greatly appreciated.

Posting agendas at Corn Lake, Palisade, and City of Grand Junction posted in City Hall.

Michele and David will work on website.

Remove Sarah from MEP committee

Social Media – have content in plug and play.

Walk/ride/paddle –

Sarah committed to the City to participate in May Bike to Work during the week, May 12th, 13th or 22nd. Showcase the Redlands Loop. Jane said she can help support. May 12th sounds good.

June – David (Father's Day ride June 14th). Jane will support David. Sarah needs time, location of meet up and route. Would prefer 30 days posting and do an early meet up time.

July – Alyssa's work would be doing a river float and BBQ if ORF would want to tag team that.

Committee Updates – Trails Completion – Joel said the committee met and discuss funding opportunities. Funding landscape doesn't sound great but will be meeting again to push the first phase. Sarah asked if CDOT was open to ? funding.

MEP Committee – September 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.

Stefanie will not be reupping and has stepped down from the MEP. David said trying to do all the outside into the committees. He would like to find someone to chair/lead the committee. Nicole still needs original photos, videos from George. Stefanie did a great job on decals. Adhesive ones not the best but other will be cheaper but labor intensive. Jane said need to stay with one logo (put on MEP agenda). David C. reached out to Greg Mikali – on pause until fall. Amount down to \$599.99. Did not make the Christi Reese for second quarter. Broke up on sections of trail and get info to Jane. Current board members are Nicole, Stefanie, David C., Jane, and Michele – really needs someone to step up as chair. Alyssa volunteered to be on the committee and will step up as chair, Meg said she was interested.

Public Comments – Randall had mentioned other trails and getting involved in canal banks and been doing lots of informal meetings with people. He would like the canals open to bikers/walkers. He thinks it would be better to be involved as an individual rather than as City or County board members. Discussed having it be more a public coalition rather than UTC or ORF. ORF would be interested in participating. Marc said that Pueblo is trying to do the same thing. They had the same issue but now there has been a change. Will need to be strategic about next move. Randall said if anyone is interested, let him know.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.