

OLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333
One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
August 11, 2025

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by chair, David Varner. Those present from ORF were:

David Varner, chair	Loreta Silverio	Sarah Brooks
Hayden Janssen, vice-chair	Randall Reitz	Scott Riise
Meg Thornton	Tom Friemann	Kelsay Heath
Joel Sholtes		

Travis Haldeman, Mesa County Parks and Grounds Manager; Scott Beilfuss, City of Grand Junction City council member, Henry Brown, City of Grand Junction Mobility Planner, Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Troy Ward, Town of Palisade

Absent: Jane Quimby

Welcomed new members. Did introductions around the room.

David would like to do an orientation meeting for the new members and will be reaching out to schedule a time.

Approval of Minutes – June minutes/Hayden. Randall second. Motion passed.

Public Comment – David explained why ORF does public comment at the beginning of the meeting. There was no public comment.

Announcements –

- a. Need volunteers to pass the bucket at CRCS, August 15th – Michele passed around signup sheet.
- b. Tour of the Moon registration volunteer signup – September 12th and 13th
Michele passed around signup sheet
 - i. Need 12, currently have 9 signed up for 3:30pm-6pm and 4 for 5:30pm-8:00pm
- c. Tour of the Moon Course Marshall volunteers – September 13th
 - i. Have one slot filled, need 3 more
- d. October 12th meeting (Columbus Day) Discussed moving it to October 20th
 - i. One Riverfront October meeting location – potentially at the new location

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – City is moving forward with work on C ½ Road. Would like to find a name for this section of trail. Sarah suggested Eagles Landing. Scott said that City Council will be going into Strategic Planning – plan lasts for two years.

Mesa County – Travis said Mesa County doesn't have a lot to report but they have been working on weed maintenance and spraying goat heads.

City of Fruita – Marc has a new Trails person, James Bray. He had been doing a great job in mowing and spraying goat heads. RiversEdge West did a lot of work on the Kokopelli Trail and it created a lot of slash. Have hired a professional company to come in and remove the brush. REW will also have a volunteer opportunity in October. BLM will have some reroutes in McGinnis and hopes to have it open in October. Marc is trying some new sticker signs that he put on the concrete, and it's holding up really well. It's located behind the True Value.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said has a request for use of an electric motorcycle for ADA accommodations. The concern is that he can go up to 80 miles an hour and must be less than 36" and only one person can ride it. Pete hasn't called him back but can ask within the agency to see if there is a public comment period. Pete said normally there is not public comment. Joel suggested putting together a committee to look into making changes to the compliance. One word that ORF can rely on is "unsafe".

Town of Palisade – Troy said Palisade has acquired all the needed acquisition for the sewer project. Will move forward with construction once the water is out of the canal, looking at November. There will be some interruption to Riverbend Park, 36 ¼ access point. Other entry points will be viable during construction. Construction will stop once there is water back in the canal so looking at 2027 full pipeline going to Clifton.

Hayden asked if CPW or public entities will be taking action against where the mussels have been identified to have originated from out of the private lake in Vail. CPW did not have an answer.

Trail Completion Committee Update – Joel said he is recruiting for new members. Did walk around last month and working on the Pike Family and hope to get a conversation going with them. Met with RTPO and they are looking at doing a **tax for ?** and the riverfront trail could be one of the projects they could fund. If there is anyone interested on ORF that would like to be on the committee, let Joel know because they will be doing a ballot initiative.

MEP Committee Update –

- a. Need new M/EP Committee chair – Hayden has spoken with Loreta and she has agreed to take it on with support for other MEP committee members. Meetings are on the opposite months of ORF meetings.
- b. July Splash Park update – Meg said some interesting things came out of the event. It's an amazing cross section of people that come to Splash Park. She asked if ORF is responsible for etiquette on the trail. There is a commercial that Mesa County Waste Water did that is really cute and she has talked with the company that produced it.

Meg agreed to follow-up with the content creator to inquire about developing an, “On-Your-Left” marketing campaign to educate trail users about proper trail etiquette.

- c. August Float Update – Joel said float trip is August 25th. BYO dinner. Have a registration form and can get a spot on a boat or bring their own. Have scheduled transportation for participation. Encourage board members to participate.
- d. September Ride Leader and Co-Leader needed – Hayden talked about the last week of the month for an event, perhaps the week of the 22nd. Sarah said she can do it on a weekday because she’s not going to do it on weekend. David said he could help but not on the 22nd. He asked if anyone was interested in the month of October. Randall asked if there was a calendar. Randall agreed to create a calendar for Board Members to sign up to host one ride/float/walk and co-host one each year.
- e. Fundraising run for the Confluence Center, November 8th on the Riverfront trail – Michele gave an update and said planning continues. Event will start and end on the riverfront trail across from the Confluence Center.
- f. Mile Marker Update – Jane unable to attend but she emailed Michele the following “Just wanted to follow-up on the mileage marker project since I will not be at the Board meeting tonight. I have received affirmative responses of support from all of the partner agencies - so I would like to move forward and pursue funding from the Foundation. For two sets of stencils (\$135 each), plus paint - I think \$1,500 would be a reasonable request. We may want some additional arrow stencils that were not included in the original sign company bid. I have not priced the special paint yet - but if we end up needing additional funding to cover paint - I figure we can do a supplemental request. Not sure what the process is to get authorization for funding - I am happy to purchase the items out of pocket if needed, and I can seek reimbursement. I just need to know when the funds are approved, and what the purchase process entails”. Michele said based on the last meeting and the fact that the RFF only meets once a quarter (July was their last meeting), she did do a request at the last RFF meeting and they agree to grant up to \$500 for the project. Will need to go back and ask for the additional funds needed. Will look at Marc’s information to see if the stickers would be better option.
- g. REW and Gear Junction are doing a river cleanup on September 13th.

Status of February Assigned Tasks from Poll

- a. Slide Deck Developed – Hayden said slide is available, have two upcoming presentations one to STEM and the Town of Palisade. He asked if each new member could help with new members could help with History, advocacy, etc.
- b. ORF Agendas out to group > 10 days in advance – Michele
- c. Updates to the webpage posting for ORF Meetings (Dates/Times)
- d. Partner contact list – Michele (done-Michele will change to spreadsheet format)

Need to update who is on the committees.

Michele asked who would be available to do a three-minute presentation to Town of Palisade on August 26th. Tom agreed to present.

Tom thanked David and Michele for three sets of tickets to Mark Chesnutt and he had Faith Eliza on the show to help give them away. He is continuing to share the information with listeners through the week.

Adjournment – David – Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.