

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
October 15, 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
Karen Jefferson	Frank Watt	Cliff Sprinkle
Dr. Bill Findlay	Eric James	

Also present were Bob Fuller, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Greg Linza with Mesa County, Paul Nelson with Riverfront Foundation, Kurt Mill with the Riverfront Foundation Bill Prakken with the Riverfront Foundation and Michele Rohrbach.

Did introductions around the room.

Approval – Brad/Cliff. Motion passed.

Announcements – Tour of the Moon event donated \$10,300+ and grossed \$1,300+ for the movie.

Brad thanked all volunteers for volunteering.

RFC office closed on Thursday.

New Business –

Greg talked about the November Trail Symposium over on the Eastern Slope. Mesa County was asked by GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) to talk to the group in their honor to explain our Partnerships and grants and success of program. Greg isn't able to attend so Brad will be going along with Mary Orn. Larimer County will also be speaking at the symposium. Greg talked about GOCO's Special Opportunity Grants rather than Legacy for trails (not trails in parks) up to \$1,000,000.

Strategic Plan – Brad explained what the Foundation members were asked to do at the meeting and talent in the room to work on marching orders.

Michele reviewed Riverfront Foundation (RFF) financial info.

Brad talked about the Skinner and Bennett properties. The appraisal for the Skinner property is \$400,000 but its two years old. Skinner wants to sell but Bennett isn't interested. Mesa County had right-of-way person approach Bennett and he listened. Greg said money has never been offered and thinks should invite them to meet with the RFF and County Commissions with ideas. Bill P. said Mesa Land Trust (MLT) would be interested in meeting with Bennett too. Think an

Arnett approach would be best. Need to go now while Commissioners are willing to participate. Greg has spoken with David Skinner and he doesn't think trail easement will help with selling property. Perhaps need a letter from Kathleen Arnett and Gail ? saying that the easement hasn't been a problem. Brad said the properties could have interest of nearby landowners might be interested in parts of the parcels so it would be more win-win for landowners.

Greg thinks Mesa County Commissioners should invite them to lunch or the RFF or even MLT to see if can make something work and move forward. Need to get something done sooner rather than later. Greg wants to set up a meeting with the appropriate people to figure out a plan to move forward. (Donna, Greg, Steve, RFF and MLT to talk about Bennett & Skinner properties). Greg thinks he can get letters from companies that have worked with City/County for Riverfront trails. Brad and Frank will write emails.

Greg asked about Brady property and if can move forward with trail.

Bill talked about the Bernhardt property in Palisade that MLT is trying to acquire. The MLT could end up holding the Ag land and house

There was no further new business.

Old Business – table until November.

Maps –

Strategic Planning –

Safety and Signage –

Government Relations – Jason unable to attend.

History –

Media Relations/Outreach – Brad talked about Karen and Michele working on getting presence on FaceBook. Strive will be on the trail this weekend. Brad wants to get better at sharing others events. He wanted to know if the RFF would be willing to pay for logo out on everything. Karen suggested coming up with a promotional package so it's promotion rather than cash.

Updates:

Mesa County – Phase III bids are due Thursday. Did not receive one bid from the Front Range and know it's from the effects of recent flooding. Greg explained that the trail is out of the flood plan and not required to have a Corps 404 permit.

Frank asked about dedication for Phase II. Greg said they've asked Fruita if they will be doing dedication. Expects to have Phase III done by September of 2014. Would be a great time for a ceremony.

Will be going for planning grant for Las Colonias to 29 ¼ Road in December (\$75,000 will be needed for match). Will also be applying for Special Opps Planning Grant (will need about \$120,000 for match).

El Pomar grant – Michele updated the status of the grant. Waiting to hear back from El Pomar regarding the RFF financial statements not being required to have audited by IRS rules.

City of Grand Junction – Mike unable to attend. Bennett said still waiting to hear on Las Colonias GOCO grant. Bill F. said Lincoln Park project is finished up.

Town of Palisade – Bennett unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Meet with PUC and railroad asked for more info regarding Fruita using the culverts. PUC didn't see a problem with Fruita using the culverts. Railroad will get back in a few months.

KAFM – Bob Richardson was on last month (hailed the hot tub out of the river). Cliff said it was a great show. Bennett said his looking for guests.

Committee Reports:

UTC – Tabled until next month.

State Park – Pete unable to attend.

Public Comment – Paul thanked RFC for inviting RFF to meeting. Commented that RFF would like to start attending RFC meetings. Want RFC to understand what RFF has been up to over the past 26 years.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:10m.