

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333
One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
December 8, 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	Scott Risse	Randall Reitz

Scott Beilfuss, City of Grand Junction City council member, Travis Haldeman, Mesa County Parks and Facilities and Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Troy Ward, Town of Palisade

Absent: Jane Quimby, Tom Friemann, Kelsay Heath

Approval of Minutes – Correction to October minutes, Sarah said RFT & Connector that was missing should have said, that the riverfront trail and connector need to be completed. October minutes/Hayden. Loreta second. Motion passed.

Public Comment – David – There was no public comment.

Announcements – ORF office will be closed for Christmas holiday. Brown Cycles New Years Day ride. She hasn't confirmed with Chris yet. She'll check in with him and get back. She will be out of town this year so if someone wants to represent ORF, let her know.

Partner Updates:

City of Grand Junction – Scott said the City has been working on financial items and mainly Homeward Bound. He said the solar addition to the Confluence Center was received favorably by the Council. Joel asked if ORF made it into the City's budget. Michele said she had not heard. Scott said the budget is a concern in 2026 and ongoing in years to come. Scott will look into the ORF 2026 funding.

Mesa County – Travis said he would talk to the County Commissioners about coming online to help with ORF's budget in 2026 since no longer providing in-kind. Grand Valley Disc Golf Association is expanding their golf course onto the Clifton Sanitation property so there will be a total of 18 holes. County is working on clearing homeless camps along the trail at Clifton Nature Park.

City of Fruita – Marc was unable to attend the meeting and he didn't send anything to Michele.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete did meet with the Riggs who own property adjacent to Adobe Creek Golf Course and CPW has an ingress/egress that travels through their property to CPW property. He's trying to get CPW property open to public access but he doesn't know the best method to do so. For the group, he thinks could just say that CPW is trying to establish public access but CPW doesn't know what that will look like or how it will impact future riverfront trail efforts.

WCCC removed Tamarisk, Russian Olive and Siberian Elm from the river corridor between Corn Lake and 29 Rd.

Two Rivers Wildfire Coalition may provide similar work in the near future.

Town of Palisade – Troy said broke ground on boat launch improvement. Have \$125,000 for the project. Approval for issues that were going on like boulders sloughing off, riprap issue, steep grade. Did not receive approval for the concrete boat ramp but will go back to the Army Corps in the future. Working on bank stabilization. Temporarily people will have to go around the construction at Riverbend which is a problem for people with ADA needs. Not sure if they will be able to start the sewer project this winter due to bid cost. Are resubmitting requests for proposals and have separated project out in two sections to see if it comes in closer to the budgeted amount.

Run for the Rivers Update – Michele said there was 125 runners and about 40 kids (kids didn't have to sign up). It was a fun event and raised \$2500 for the Confluence Center's overhead. Talked about making a "dog run" next year. ORF wasn't able to have a booth but Erin with RiversEdge West was kind enough to let Michele put things on their table. ORF will be asked to have booth in 2026 if the event continues. She'll update as she learns more.

Travis asked about the new trail markers. Jane was out of town so Michele showed the group what they looked like. Jane said the installation is on hold in the spring. Still waiting on GPS pins of where to place the markers on the trail.

Reviewed Priority Poll results – Hayden went over the results and top three items 2, 6 and 1. Nine members voted. Will need to assign leader and co-leader. Joel mentioned some items are low lifts and more internal while others are for the board. Item 2 is more an internal lift. Hayden mentioned last year two of the items fell to Michele to complete.

Joel thinks it's important for ORF board members to attend partners meeting. David asked him what meetings he was thinking since have tried this in the past and no one shows up to the meetings. Joel thinks it would be important for ORF members to attend RFF meetings. Hayden suggested limiting to RFF meetings and assigning one person to attend.

Bylaws will be removed from the list.

Expand ORF's Mission to include work and collaborations specific to the Irrigation Ditches/Canals. Michele explained that in the past City of Grand Junction has been sued and

ORF is apolitical. Randall has been in discussions with Sean Norris of GVIC and he said they realize that canal companies need to move forward rather stay behind. For them it would be a financial benefit for the canal companies. Would need to revised the strategic plan. Joel mentioned the UTC Master Trail Plan. Hayden said if move forward, who is going to work on it, will it be a distraction to the mission?

David said if going to be working on the strategic plan these items could be part of rewriting the plan.

Hayden asked who wants to lead the Strategic Plan. Joel and Scott will spearhead the effort. Randall will come in with the canal ideas and Sarah trail completion.

Sarah said the Grand Valley Rec will be launching a recreational master plan and it would be good to do the strategic plan in parallel in they process.

Motion made to commence the strategic plan process in 2026.

Trail Completion Committee Update – Joel said have had productive months. Phase 1 from 33 ½ Road to 34. Clifton Water is on board and close to having an alignment. Looking for a strategy to for the Pike family, Randall has been having some conversations with people to figure out how to proceed. Mesa County is working on design.

MEP Committee Update – Loreta updated that there wouldn't be any event in the early part of the year. Will piggyback on Brown's event. Speed is becoming an issue especially with e-bikes and serious injuries.

Hayden asked if to ask for comments on the mile markers. Sarah said should wait until we get closer to putting the markers down.

Hayden needs to resign from the board due to moving to Montrose for family reasons. He will notify Kerry Graves with the City Clerk's office in the morning.

Adjournment – David – Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.