

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333
One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
February 9, 2026

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
Randall Reitz	Jane Quimby	Tom Friemann
Joel Sholtez		

Trent Prall, City of Grand Junction City Engineer, Travis Haldeman, Mesa County Parks and Facilities and Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Troy Ward, Town of Palisade, Bill Findlay, Riverfront Foundation, Henry Brown, guest

Absent: Scott Riise, Kelsay Heath, Meg Thornton

Approval of Minutes –Jane motioned to approve December 2025 minutes. Joel second. Motion passed.

Public Comment – Public comment – Henry noted that the Watson Island Amphitheater site is currently underutilized and suggested it would be an excellent venue for local artist fundraising events.

Looking ahead to the completion of One Riverfront, he proposed the eventual creation of a "Two Riverfront" initiative to focus on the south side of the river. He encourages us to keep up the good work and to continue thinking bigger.

Bike Clinic: The monthly Bike Clinic primarily serves the unhoused community and individuals with transportation challenges. Henry mentioned that the clinic is available to accept donated bikes if Marc's bike library or other groups do not have a need for them.

Announcements – Eureka is hosting Insect Week in April – ORF will be holding an iNaturalist program on Saturday, April 11th from 9:30 to 11:00am. Limited to 15 adults. Children welcome with adult attendee.

ORF vacancy and expiring terms: The board currently has one vacancy and three upcoming openings with terms running through June 30th.

We are currently seeking candidates who possess strong social media capabilities and a commitment to active participation.

Key expectations for this role include consistent engagement at meetings and a willingness to volunteer for events.

Michele emphasized that although Joel, Jane and Sarah are leaving the board, they are more than welcome to remain on their working committees and continue volunteering for One Riverfront events. Several of ORF's former board members continue to volunteer annually for the Tour of the Moon, and she truly hopes they will all remain engaged with ORF as volunteers as well.

Michele reminded everyone that the City's Volunteer Appreciation dinner is April 27th and a Save the Date will be coming from the City soon. Kerry with the City Clerk's office said the event will be CMU and each board member is allowed one guest. City has asked Michele for photos of the board members who are leaving the board.

Partner Updates

City of Grand Junction – Trent Prall gave an update presentation on C ½ and 27 ½ Roads. He showed how much GOCO funds have been received for the riverfront project. State Trails Grant submitted - \$250,000; \$2 million GOCO this summer. Replacement of asphalt to concrete trails continue.

He also updated on the Redlands Tailrace concept he talked about at a 2020 ORF meeting. More to come and it's beginning to get more transition from the community. Probably five years out.

He further updated on River Park, Phase 1 – 1.9 miles. Stress point is area below the bridge and looking to replace the bridge which will make the area more user friendly. No public funding yet but hopefully in a year or two.

Henry asked about the Eddy easement and if the developer had to give the easement or was it purchased. Trent said the City had the easement from when it was Brady Trucking property. The City is now required to purchase easements for right-of-way if staff feels it is important or part of the transportation corridor.

Thanked Trent for attending and the update.

Trent said both Cody Kennedy and Cody Davis did great on presentation and kept to the script.

Mesa County – Travis said the Clifton Nature Park will be closed from February 17th to the 19th for tamarisk removal.

City of Fruita – Marc said had over 500 registered racers for the Sweetheart Run. They had to shut it down in order-to-order t-shirts. Did have several runners run without bibs due to the number of runners that signed up. There are 4 FMHS students working on mural for the railroad bridge. The mural will be finished by the end of May. It will depict the history of Fruita, music themes and dinosaurs. Cleanup on slash piles along the trail. Received a \$5,000 grant from WCCF for the bike library. Hope to purchase 30-40 bikes. FMHS Bike Tech program at will service the bikes.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Working with Ducks Unlimited and REW on the ponds at 29 Road. State is reaching out to indigenous populations regarding signage. Currently signage is historical but there is an opportunity to include more indigenous narrative. There is \$10 millions to replace the signs and not sure if the project will move forward this year.

Meeting with the Rigg family next week. Will use WCCC to remove all the weeds from the property. The Heinecke property alignment should be done. Have meet with a family that is interested in a nature-based playground. Will leave some trees that are down for play opportunities.

Redesigning the irrigation in Fruita and staff is being trained to inspect for zebra mussels.

Town of Palisade – Troy said progress on boat ramp and swim beach is going well and hope to have the big equipment moved out by the end of the month. Have removed a lot of trash but no way to remove all the broken glass. Starting to work on final layout. Will have accessibility at various tiers regardless of waterflow. Rockpile is getting smaller and smaller. Great weather for construction but terrible for skiing and water.

Sewer project – bids have been pushed out per bidders' requests. He believes will be getting better bids by separating it out into three parts. Missed a good window of opportunity but thinks will get bids that come in at more appropriate dollar amounts.

Strategic Planning update – Joel provided an update on his proposal to the RFF and would like to discuss the desired scope with the board. He specifically noted six levels of planning for review. The board discussed Option #3, which involves hiring an external party to survey the community and our partners.

Randall motioned to proceed with the larger proposal and select Strategic By Nature. Jane seconded the motion, and it was passed. Regarding Sarah's question about an RFP, it was noted that the RFF is comfortable with an informal process.

Trail Completion Committee Update – Joel reported that CMU and CU Engineering teams are taking on the current project with Mesa County Engineering acting as the client. Recent press coverage highlighted the 38 Road project and its role in addressing safety concerns. Additionally, Sarah expressed her interest in remaining on the Trail Completion Committee after her current term expires.

MEP Committee Update – Loreta said looking for volunteers for several upcoming events:

- February bike ride
- March possible trash cleanup event
- April Bug Week – iNaturalist training on Saturday, April 11th – 9:30am to 11:00am
- May – Riverfest
- June potential float trip
- September - Tour of the Moon

On your Left – Meg unable to attend.

Trail markers – Jane is ready to begin the installation but requires the specific locations to get started. While David confirmed that the GIS file includes all trails, Jane is unfamiliar with GIS and can't move forward until she knows where to place the stickers.

David wants to ensure that these placements are well-coordinated and do not conflict with any of our partners' existing plans. Sarah suggested that the City might have an intern available who could assist with this project and help coordinate the placement details.

Adjournment – David – Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.