

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**683-4333**

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**November 19, 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	Karen Jefferson	Cliff Sprinkle
Dr. Bill Findlay	Eric James	Claudette Konola	Jason Bailey
Dr. Larry Copeland			

Also present were Bob Fuller, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Ken Henry Riverfront Foundation, Bennita Philips, guest, Bennett Price, Town Palisade Board, Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bennett Boeschstein with the GJ City Council and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval** – Bill/Bob. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – RFC office closed starting Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.  
No RFC meeting in December.  
Tour of the Moon has been approved for 2014.

Brad stated Phase III funding to sign the contract was approved by Commissioner Acquafresca and Commissioner Justin. Brad thanked all those that spoke on behalf of the project. Contract came in \$1 million less than projected.

The Riverfront Foundation (RFF) has given \$100,000 to Mesa County for Phase III and \$250,000 for Phase I, II and the Clifton Nature Center.

Thanked the City of Fruita and the Town of Palisade for continuing supporting the Riverfront. Still waiting to hear from City of Grand Junction.

Brad asked how the RFC can raise more funds with a more grassroots campaign.

Discussed the 1997 joint resolution adding City of Fruita and Town of Palisade to the Riverfront Commission. Talked about the RFC budget and what the funds are used for.

Need to explain to the new Commissioners that grant money and RFF money is not taxpayer money. RFF funds are donations individual willingly give to the RFF.

Dr. Copeland spoke about the Katie Trail (a rails to trail project) in Missouri and how that trail is a health benefit and that the trail there helps lower the cost of health care in that area. Trail has

shown to increase property values of adjacent property. The gentleman he spoke with in Missouri said that it's very important to have a continuous trail.

**New Business** – Brad talked about GOCO asking Mesa County to present at the workshop over in Erie. Dan Gurnig for Bicycle Colorado was keynote at the workshop.

Items mentioned:

Bike valet

Farmers Markets

Bike Nights

Bill talked about the new GOCO initiative for Youth and ? and that Mesa County asked him to be on the task force. Discussed the Built Environment program that the Health Department is working on. Question asked about the LiveWell program. Michele explained how the funding went from being dispersed to individual communities to a central disbursement office on the Front Range. They defunded the existing programs and started with new communities.

Brad stated that the group has lots to think about between now and when start working on the strategic plan in January.

Bennett B. stated that the RFC has the support from Fruita, Palisade and the City of Grand Junction.

Strategic Plan – tabled until January.

There was no further new business.

**Old Business** –

Maps – Karen asked to table until January. Karen talked about John Hodge's inquiry on Facebook. Karen said John wasn't happy with the response and she chose not to banter back and forth on social media. Will be showing the group maps in January.

Safety and Signage – see report below.

Government Relations – Jason said nothing to report.

History – Jason said nothing to report.

Media Relations/Outreach – Karen tries to post to keep current and relevant.

**Updates:**

Mesa County – Greg and Donna unable to attend.

El Pomar grant – grant has been submitted and waiting to hear. Probably won't hear until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. said they do have the full amount of funding in their budget for the RFC next year. Still working on the repairs to the Blue Heron Trail. Las Colonias, Phase I has heard preliminary they aren't going to advance. Will reapply in the fall. Michele gave a shout out to the City for their "Fix It" program and the speed in which the City took care of a trail user's complaint.

Jason talked about the "Golden Ticket" from the Daily Sentinel. Will run through December 9<sup>th</sup>. Karen will get Michele some info to send out to the email list regarding this program.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said they are still working on their budget and hope to have completed by December.

City of Fruita – Bob stated that Phase II will be completed in December. Looking forward to the start of Phase III. Working on the trail from the Welcome Center to the Community Center. Has submitted a proposal to the railroad to use the culverts and the railroad said it would respond in 45 days. Will be removing the old sewerage ponds by the end of the year. Opportunity for the City to help with real estate. Bob said still working on the 10 foot section not included in the original Compton transaction.

KAFM – Bennett B. is asking for a volunteer for this month's program, next Tuesday at noon.

Dr. Copeland asked about an article in Grand Valley magazine – group said yes. Brad stressed everyone to use the talking points and be consistent with message.

Brad talked about Mike Bell with the Rock Slide and he is interested in doing a benefit for the RF project next year. Possibly a "Riverfront Ale". Thinks would be a great way to do fundraising.

Bennett B. talked about the two video projects. Hannah Holmes and Ryan Stringfellow.

### **Committee Reports:**

UTC – Kevin Williams with Grand Valley Drainage and Greg Trainor with the 5-2-1 Drainage District gave a presentation on the importance of storm water storage.

State Park – Pete said have started tamarisk removal at Connected Lakes through the Desert Rivers Collaborative (aka the Tamarisk Coalition). Will state revegetation next winter or possibly the following year.

**Public Comment** – Ken thanked Michele for all her hard work and apologized for the negative criticism regarding her position in the media and cyberspace.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:00m.