

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION  
683-4333**

**Urban Trails Committee**

**Minutes  
October 8, 2013**

**Called to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair, Biz Collins. Those present from the Committee were:

Julie Sabin	Biz Collins	Eric Marchese
Michelle Bailey	Kristen Heumann	Dan Fitzgerald
Dave Grossman	Jeff Kuhr	

Also present were City Council member, Duncan MacArthur, Jody Kliska with the City of Grand Junction and Kayla Dodson, public and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval of Minutes** – Julie/Kristen. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Julie to attend the RFC, October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Old Business** – Tabled until November meeting

Share the Road –

Grand Valley Bikes –

Riverfront Update –

There was no old business due to being tabled until November.

**New Business** – Duncan gave history on his background and how he got into government. He gave his thoughts on the UTC Master Plan but stated that they were only his comments and not those of the City Council. He also stated that he believes in personal property rights and understands that the UTC plan did not mean UTC or the City would be condemning property or taking land from landowners. He talked about how to make trails more appealing to developers and how they get more sellable net usable acreage thus more valuable when canals are piped in. Developer would pay for the piping of the canal. He said there is an agreement with Grand Valley Drainage District. He stated that if UTC takes canal trails off the map that you would need to show landowners that they will lose net sellable land for trails and sidewalks for transportation planning. Will need to be part of the transportation planning to meet the EPA Clean Air. Just because a line is on a map doesn't mean that people will consider that is a trail. Canal trails are an attractive nuisance and because they are there, people will use them whether there is a line on the map or not.

Talked about the easement City has behind Moon Ridge subdivision and the abandoned canal in the Redlands but Redlands Water and Power doesn't like where they granted their easement and don't want the City to develop that particular trail.

Suggestion made to take pictures of canal trails in other areas to show public that they do work.

Thanked Duncan for attending the meeting.

Urban Trails Master Plan – Dave said he was surprised to hear that Duncan didn't realize that the plan was about connectivity to parks and schools – perhaps UTC needs to do a better job of educating. Piping would have issues, mostly the financial aspect at this point in time. Discussed doing a demo project on the Highline canal around Matchett Park.

Jody updated on her meeting with Greg Trainor, John Shaver, Rich Engelhart, and Kathy Portner, they would like UTC to take step back and withdraw application from both the City and County to regroup and replan to come up with a better plan. Kathy Portner has been in contact with Bleiker group for estimate and to see if issue big enough to come and do a workshop. Bleiker group is interested in coming and doing a workshop.

Dave talked about the two workshops and the group still doesn't have a clear vision of what direction to move forward. 82% of the plan is to get kids safely to school and to parks. The plan is being held hostage by the canal bank issues.

Julie asked the question about withdrawing the application from both the City and County. Eric asked about finding a middle of the road – leaving the canal trails on the City map but removing them from the County. Group is concerned that wouldn't meet with the Bleiker group before the November meeting before the County. Jody isn't sure when Kathy would be able to get the Bleiker people here before January. Suggestion made to make it known to the public that the plan is being withdrawn and that the plan is being reworked. Dave moved to withdraw the application of the Grand Valley Trails Master Plan from the County and the City. Dan second. Motion passed. Dave will draft a letter and sent it through the portal.

Julie said everyone should read the language from the Comprehensive Plan that has been approved by both the City and County.

Dave talked about the portal he is building for a forum for outside regular meetings. He sent out and invite to all UTC members to accept to participate.

Biz talked about connecting to the [HealthyMesaCounty.org](http://HealthyMesaCounty.org) website to post events. Dave thinks UTC should utilize the site to help with public outreach.

Michelle asked what the next step would be to start marking off progress. There are internal things that need to be done, scanning in the UTC binders, the White Paper and the study done in the early 1990's. Michele has scanned in several documents and will upload them up to the new portal. Julie would like to have a priority list to work through. 2035 plan will be added to the portal. Dave will work on letter so that it can go to the County by Friday. Julie will need to call Keith to let him know the application will be pulled.

Dan asked about packages from other areas that have canal trails. Jeff said he'd be happy to have his staff work on getting the info for the next presentation.

**Public Comment** – Kayla thanked the group for allowing her to attend the meeting.

**Adjournment** – 7:25pm.