

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Urban Trails Committee

Minutes
November 12, 2013

Called to Order

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

Biz Collins	Eric Marchese	Kristen Heumann
Terri Wenzlaff	Scott McBrayer	Dan Fitzgerald
Dave Grossman		

Also present were Greg Trainor, Public Works & Utilities Director with the City of Grand Junction, Jody Kliska with the City of Grand Junction, Kevin Williams with Grand Junction Drainage District and Marty Chazen, City of Grand Junction Council, Kayla Dodson, Public and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Scott/Terri. Motion passed.

Announcements – Need someone to attend the RFC, November 19th meeting.
No RFC December meeting.

Old Business –Share the Road – Dean Bressler has been busy putting up “Share the Road” signs up all over town.

Grand Valley Bikes – Working on Safe Routes to School.

Riverfront Update – Mesa County approved to keep the grant money for Phase III of the Fruita Connection; however, they voted 2 to 1 to not fund the RFC office for 2014. The RFC and the RFF will need to raise even more funds to cover the shortfall in funding. The County has awarded the contract and construction for Phase III will begin in December. Greg believes it will be done by late 2014. Dedication of Phase II will happen sometime after the new year – Fruita is planning the event so more info to follow.

Safe Routes to School – Currently conducting school audits and have come up with some resolutions to issues. Working on Bike to School. Need to change behavior, especially parents.

Built Environment – Put together by Mesa County. UTC is a participant.

There was no further old business.

New Business – Greg and Kevin gave a presentation on the 521 Drainage Authority and the Grand Valley Drainage District. Kevin gave a history of Grand Valley Irrigation Canal (GVIC)

and explained how the water is handled. (thedrainagedistrict.org). Greg talked about the 521 Drainage Authority (Grand Valley Drainage District, City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, Town of Palisade and City of Fruita). He talked about Leech Creek and Badger Creek and their flood flows in September and the other 28 drainages within the Grand Valley. There are six drainage organizations in the Grand Valley - Grand Valley Irrigation, Grand Valley Water Users, Palisade Irrigation, Mesa County Irrigation District, Redlands Water & Power, and Grand Valley Drainage District. Asked the question if flooding is a significant issue that needs resolving and if so, how do they resolve the problem. Marty asked the question of how often are the washes cleaned out. Kevin said it isn't the Drainage District's responsibility to clear and clean – it's up to the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps said it's up to the property owners. Kevin said that there is something in the works that would remove drainages from regulations with regard to irrigation and washes and back to rural (municipalities sewer waters would not) but there are concerns.

Dave stated that years in the future the rural aspect of the drainage will become more urbanized and that they need allies to help them through their financial difficulties. Looking to gather support from the Community.

Kristen asked about the pollutants and resolution for the group. Greg said they are still waiting to hear from the Health Department and the EPA before they can move forward on a resolution. They would like to go to Best Management Practices rather than actually numbers. Question asked about piping and if that would help but Greg said it wouldn't help. Kevin said it would be very expensive and would require very large pipes for water flow for future expansion. Kevin said his board would like to take a step back and not just put lines all over the canals for planning purposes.

Thanked Kevin and Greg for the presentation.

Discussed the presentation and asked what the group thought. Jody explained how things have gotten to this point for the group. They need help with funding and public education is important for this valuable resource. Water will always be important in the valley.

Kristen stated that in other areas retention areas are viewed as recreational. Perhaps that is something that should be considered for this area.

Dan asked if there should be a subcommittee and would like pursue the idea and follow up. Dave thinks that there is a challenge and opportunity out at 24 Road. Dan said he'd be happy to be on the committee. Jody said she'll check with Trent to see if he could come and do a follow up presentation. Terri also said she'd be on the committee.

Discussed whether or not to have a meeting in December. Decision made to have a brief meeting and then move to Bin 707 or possibly just have the meeting at Bin 707. Will let group know after reviewing the December agenda.

Blieker – still waiting to hear when and where this training will take place.

Follow up from November 5th – Jeff unable to attend. Michele will see if Jeff can send email with update and then email it out.

Subcommittee to come up with prioritize list. Group will look at what's currently listed on Wiggio and add comments. Julie is interested as is Eric.

Urban Trails Master Plan – County has notified UTC that their application has been withdrawn.

Public Comment – Kayla asked what Wiggio is – Dave explained that it's similar to using Google Docs.

Adjournment – 7:25pm.