

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
March 18, 2014

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair. Those present from the Commission were:

Brad Taylor	Bob Fuller	Karen Jefferson
Dr. Bill Findlay	Claudette Konola	Jason Bailey
Dr. Larry Copeland	Eric James	Stacy Beaugh

Also present were Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Bob Fuller, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Jeff Kuhr with the Mesa County Health Department, Bennett Price, Town Board member with the Town of Palisade, Bennett Boeschstein, City Council member with the City of Grand Junction and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Jason/Stacy. Motion passed.

Announcements – Michele passed around sign up sheets for all the volunteer opportunities and explained what the Outdoor West Fest on April 12th.

Stacy updated on the String of Pearls Tour with the group from Verde Valley River Project. Social will be on April 9th and tour will be on April 10th. She ran through the tentative agenda and said a survey will be sent out to members shortly.

Updates -

Mesa County – Phase II is scheduled to be completed in April. Phase III is proceeding smoothly, on schedule and within budget. Completion is anticipated by early fall. Received word recently from Colorado Parks and Wildlife that the \$147,000 State Trails Grant drafted by Greg Linza and Mary Orn scored number 1 in its category by staff and reviewers. Final decision has not been made on grant yet.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. stated the Brady easement is still in the process – still waiting for it to be signed and recorded. Little house down by the Botanic Gardens that has been used by the Fire Department will be torn down shortly. He said that Mesa County Discoverability did a presentation to the City Council and wants to put a little building down by the Botanic Gardens as an outpost for their clients' equipment. Received favorable review from the City Council. Las Colonias application has been resubmitted.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said working on their Century and 10 will have a party on April 12th. He can't remember whether it will be Riverbend or Peach Park. Bennett P. passed around his only copy of a rack card created by Palisade and Chamber of their festivals.

City of Fruita – Bob reminded everyone about the PUC ruling with the railroad. Have received formal confirmation on that. He discussed the one really small piece of property and that Fruita needs to hire a third party to go talk to the property owner. Will slow the process down. Bennett B. suggested perhaps having Mesa Land Trust (MLT) go and talk to landowner.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said intern has been GPSing location of memorial benches and 911 markers. He's working on projects for Tamarisk Coalition. The intern is from CMU and per CMU's policy intern can't be paid. Pete said he has the ability to pursue funding. He's hoping to use funding for interruptive signs.

He talked about the Skinner property and that his department has \$350,000. He'd like to see if he can get the First Right of Refusal from Mesa County to pursue purchase. Appraised at \$400,000.

Concert Series is moving along.

New Business –

Mesa County Health Initiative – Jeff explained with the initiative and how it's similar to the old LiveWell program. He talked about the "Built Environment" which is focused on health and mental health and the County's Community Health Improvement Plan. Website: www.HealthyMesaCounty.org Brad asked Jeff what the RFC should be considering while working on their strategic plan. Jeff said he hopes that advocacies come out that work together and will work with other groups. Stacy asked Jeff how RFC could participate in the process. Jeff said he hopes that some RFC members could attend the three meetings.

There was no further new business.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning – Stacy said she has met with all members and most ex-officio members regarding her plan. She did a PowerPoint presentation on what will need to be done and all comments received to date, have been really great. She won't be at the April meeting but will be meeting with those that she hasn't yet and getting a draft out so can adopt the plan at the May meeting. Thanked Stacy. Comments due by Friday.

Mission/Vision is the key issue group will be working on tonight.

Advertising – Michele to check with Brad before paying the invoices for the two ads placed in the magazine insert and section. Need to think about next round of ads.

Tear away maps/rack cards – Michele showed the map and explained that the 2,000 maps have been printed and where they have been disbursed. Will be getting them to VCB and Fruita Welcome Center as soon as rack cards are printed. Karen then explained what the rack cards are for and that eventually hope to move away from printing maps.

Safety and Signage – nothing to report.

Government Relations – nothing to report.

History –

Media Relations/Social Network –

Get Kids Outdoors – Bennett B. updated on the Chevron wanting to bring donate to this program. Group asked Michele how that grant to District 51 worked. She informed the group that it was difficult getting updates from the District even though it was a requirement of the grant. When did receive reports, Bennett usually put them together. Another concern was that the grant was originally to get the kids to the riverfront project but most of the time the students went to the Monument, Rabbit Valley or the Grand Mesa. Very few trip to the riverfront project. Members said they would agree to keep the program going but with stricter criteria of how the funds are to be used for the riverfront project and that timely reports must be completed before funding will be given out.

Committee Reports:

UTC – Working on prioritized list. Found out last week that the Board of County Commissioners will be doing away with the 1997 Urban Trails Master Plan. County will follow Road and Bridge Standards and 2035 plan but there will be no document for actual development planning when development comes back to the valley.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.