

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY  
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 1992**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:42 P.M.. Those present from the Commission:

Bill Ela	Carl Zimmerman
Jane Quimby	Carol Hanna
Bill Graham	Brian Mahoney
R.T. Mantlo	Jim Spehar
Brad Loucks	

Also present: Gary Whittington, Harley Armstrong, Arvid Koppang, Ted Ciavonne, Suzanne Williams, Dick Fletcher, Oby Blanchard, Kathy Portner, Richard Mathews, Larry Walton, Larry Clever, Glenda Noble, Vicki Mercer and Stephanie Schmid.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Quimby/Mantlo to approve the minutes of September 15, 1992 as submitted.

Motion was passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brian Mahoney introduced the two new Commission members in attendance, Carl Zimmerman and Carol Hanna.

The Mesa County Commissioners will be hearing presentations for lottery applications on Monday evening, October 26, 1992. Brian told the Commission that there are approximately \$311,000 in lottery funds to be given out this year and about 20 requests for those funds. A request has been made by Bennett Boeschstein on behalf of the Riverfront Commission for \$276,100 for a replacement of the old Black Bridge. The County Commissioners have indicated that they feel this request is excessive in light of the total funds available.

It was decided that the application should have been reviewed by the Commission before submission, and that a number of issues including investigation of other funding sources for the project, making sure that the project fits into the Riverfront Commission's master plan and determining to what degree of priority the project should be given should be addressed. After some discussion, it was agreed that the application should be withdrawn.

Motion: Quimby/Mantlo to withdraw the lottery funds application for a replacement for the old black bridge from consideration for 1992.

Motion passed.

The Riverfront Run was held on October 3, 1992 with more participants than ever before (247 people). The Commission would

like thank the co-chairs of the Riverfront Run committee, Ronna Capra and Dan Craig.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ted Ciavonne joined the Commission to present an update of the design and construction at Connected Lakes Park. Mesa County is the present owner, and has served as the project manager for the property, but it is planned that as of January, State Parks will take over. U.S. Fish and Wildlife, in conjunction with the State Department of Wildlife, are the entities that have provided most of the funding for the construction.

Funding for the project is coming from in-kind, noncash or trade dollars as in the case if the City's sewer line construction which will result in replacement of some of older trail sections, gravel mining royalties, Fishing is Fun grants from the US Fish and Wildlife and the State Department of Wildlife, and future funding from State Parks in the form of grants from Watchable Wildlife and Go Colorado.

Phase I construction will include entry roads, parking lots, paved access to handicapped fishing areas, some paved trails and bringing water into the lake. Improvements planned for future construction include the boat launch, a large grass play area, restrooms and additional paved trails. Construction drawings and bids on construction will be done this winter. The park is planned to open in May of 1993.

Carl Zimmerman asked if they had considered the possibility of using gravity pressure feed from the Redlands irrigation system for irrigation of the grassy areas. Ted said that they had not, but agreed that it was a good suggestion.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Harley Armstrong from the Museum of Western Colorado made a presentation on the ballot initiative for the Mesa County Scientific and Cultural District. If passed, a .015% county sales tax would be imposed to raise funds for several entities that offer cultural and scientific amenities to the community including the Museum, DooZoo Children's Museum, Art on the Corner, Avalon Theater, the Musical Arts Association, Western Colorado Botanical Society and the Western Colorado Center for the Arts. Funds will also be available to assist existing organizations, new groups and special events in every community in the county. If the initiative is not passed, many of the organizations will have to cut back services and will loose their potential for stability and growth.

Bill Ela asked if a resolution from the Commission supporting the initiative would be of use to the organization backing it. Harley Armstrong indicated that is would be appreciated and used in promoting the issue.

Motion: Ela/Quimby to pass a resolution asking voters to support the initiative on the November 3 ballot to fund the Mesa County Scientific and Cultural District.

Motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Trails

R.T. Mantlo informed the Commission that progress is being made on discussions with property owners for easements along the Blue Heron Trail Phase II. Jane Quimby requested that the number of and value of donated easements be made available by November 1 in order to know whether or not the matching requirements for the Gates grant have been met. Kathy Portner asked if the Commission has the correct square footage for the easements in order to determine the value of the donations.

Brian Mahoney announced that a group calling themselves WATER (Western Association To Enjoy Rivers) has volunteered to clean up the riverfront from the Redlands Parkway to the Loma boat launch.

### Parks

Ward Scott has advised the Commission that there has been progress made with the D.O.E., the City of Grand Junction and the State Department of Health regarding the Jarvis property clean up. Initial clean up will begin within thirty days. The project will be done in three phases working south from the road to the river where the deepest tailings are located. They have come to some conclusions about the commingled waste, but they have not yet made them public.

### Administration

Stephanie Schmid provided the Commission with copies of current financial statements. The accounting software used to do the monthly statements does not have the capacity to do monthly budget comparisons. Next month's financial information will be presented in a monthly format as requested by former Commission member Ward Scott.

Kathy Portner was asked to speak to Community Development Director about the delays in payment of City funds to the Commission. It is possible that with the change in personnel, that there is a misunderstanding about how the paper flow process should be working.

In response to Gary Whittington's request for assistance with the charge for using the County landfill, the following motion was made. (See discussion under Committee Reports, Intergovernmental.) Motion: Mantlo/Ela to authorize payment of \$75 for the dump fee which will result from Gary Whittington's cleanup project at Snook's Bottom.

Motion passed.

Brian Mahoney briefly mention the memo that was sent to the City regarding items to be discussed by the Commission as a result of the dinner meeting with the City Council. Brian felt that no

discussion was necessary at this time, but he wanted Commission members to be aware of this information being sent to the City. Jane Quimby added that Ted Novak has stated that the City will be responsible for maintenance on all City trails.

### Operations

The proposed bench standards were discussed, including location which is to be determined by the trail designer, cost to the donor which will be \$1000 per bench and \$2500 for a table and benches, the kind of bench which will conform to the State Parks and Recreation standards, and the method of crediting the donor which will be a distinctive trailhead marker rather than individually marking the benches. Jane Quimby was concerned about the financial obligation of placing the trailhead marker. Brad Loucks indicated that this suggestion was the result of recommendations by Kurt Mill with State Parks.

Bill Ela questioned the wording in paragraph three regarding a perpetual care fund.

Motion: Ela/Mantlo to amend paragraph 3, second sentence of the bench standards to read "in the perpetual maintenance fund of the Colorado Riverfront Foundation".

Motion passed.

Motion: Ela/Quimby to adopt the bench standards as amended.

Motion passed.

Discussion on the proposed Adopt-a-Trail policy included a question from Jane Quimby regarding the length of time for the adoption. Brad responded that it seemed to be the consensus of Commission members in their responses to the Adopt-a-Trial questionnaire.

Motion: Mahoney/Loucks to approve the Adopt-a-Trail proposal as written.

Motion passed.

### Intergovernmental

Gary Whittington announced that he has arranged for a clean up of the Snook's Bottom area on Wednesday, October 28 from 11:30 to 2:00 using the Fruita Middle School seventh grade class. They will be working with the Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, the City of Fruita and S.O.F.T.. He asked that a Commission member be present to talk to the students about the possibilities of what could be done in the future in the area. His hope is that the students will want to make a commitment to the future of the Riverfront Project. The S.O.F.T. group is then planning a bonfire on Halloween night for all of the Middle school students. He also asked if the Riverfront Commission would be willing to pay for the cost of the dump fee at the landfill since the County was unwilling to waive that charge. Brian suggested that it be taken up under

the discussion of administration and Commission finances.

Brian introduced the representatives in attendance from the Town of Palisade, Glenda Noble, Richard Mathews, Larry Clever and Larry Walton. Richard Mathews, acting as spokesperson for Palisade, stated that they were there on a listening mission to learn about the process and goals of the Riverfront Commission.

The Palisade representatives were asked about usage of the Palisade trail and whether or not they had any plans to extend the trail. Their response was that money was the primary issue and that the focus of the community at this time is on completion of the athletic complex adjacent to the new high school.

Bill Ela asked if there was any possibility of motivating an easement donation from Bud Francis who owns property along the river and between properties owned by the Town. The feeling of those Trustees present was that it was not likely. They did indicate, however, that there might be a possibility of working with the faculty at the high school on projects along the river.

Carl Zimmerman asked about access to the trail from points other than the trailhead, and the possibility of routing the trail away from the river in order to avoid land owners who were unwilling to provide rights-of-way. The problem with that idea, according to the Palisade people, is the need to cross the irrigation canal which was a cause for delay in building the existing trail.

#### Finance

Jane Quimby informed the Commission that the Foundation is close to having enough money for Blue Heron II, but she is concerned about reducing bank account balances to much.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The fall newsletter will be mailed by the end of November according to Suzanne Williams.

Vicki Mercer from the Palisade Tribune introduced herself and asked if the Commission planned to meet in Palisade on an annual basis. The answer from the Commission was affirmative.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M..