

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY  
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING  
JUNE 16, 1992**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M.. Those present from the Commission:

Brian Mahoney	Jim Robb
Jane Quimby	R.T. Mantlo
Betsy Weldon	Ward Scott
Pat Gormley	Bill Graham
Lynn James	Jim Spehar
Brad Loucks	Rebecca Frank
Tilman Bishop	

Also present: Louise Antrim, Greg Dillon, Oby Blanchard, Jeff Williams, Dick Fletcher, Stephanie Schmid.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of April 21, 1992 were read and approved as amended. Amendments included a correction to read that Commission members might meet informally with Ed Gardner regarding impact mitigation on the Whitewater Gravel expansion and a clarification on Jane Quimby's question about the Junior Service League's Colorado Foundation Directory.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Riverfront Commission has received a certificate of merit from the sixth annual national awards program of Take Pride in America.

The State Department of Forestry will be holding their annual conference in Grand Junction the week of September 28, 1992 and would like to do a public service project for the Riverfront Commission. It was suggested that the Blue Heron I trail near the parkway would be a good location for a tree planting.

The first annual National Watchable Wildlife Conference will be held in Missoula, Montana on September 9-12, 1992. It is hoped that State Parks will be able to attend. The Commission would like to have a report on the conference from anyone who is able to go.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Memorial Bench Standards

The Commission has received a letter from Helen Traylor, informing them that a moratorium has been placed in effect on the installation of memorial benches along the riverfront trails. Copies of the moratorium have been sent to Carlson Memorials and Snyder Memorials asking them to suspend sales and construction of these benches. Helen also offered her resignation as memorial

bench chairperson in the letter.

After some discussion, it was decided to table any action on Helen's resignation until she could be contacted. It is the Commission's hope that once she understands how much her efforts are appreciated, she will be comfortable in continuing in her role as memorial bench chairperson.

Brad Loucks reported that the only issue addressed in the standards manual regarding benches was the concern about maintenance and longevity of the benches. There is no mention of standards for design or materials. Greg Dillon suggested that standards should include not only design, but also placement and frequency along the trail. Jane Quimby added that there should be some sort of uniformity in the plaques on the benches.

A committee was formed consisting of Greg Dillon, Brad Loucks, Sherwood Snyder, a landscape architect, possibly Ted Ciavonne or Bob Arcieri, Don Hobbs and someone from State Parks. They are to report on their progress at the August Commission meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Hawxhurst Land Exchange/Grassy Gulch Alternative

The B.L.M. is currently seeking public participation in the decision making process on the proposed Hawxhurst Land Exchange. Brian Mahoney suggested that the Riverfront Commission draft a letter to the B.L.M. urging them to use every reasonable means to acquire the Horsethief Ranch Property because of its importance to the community in terms of the riverfront project. It was agreed that the Commission would not comment on the merits of the exchange itself and the letter would be reviewed by Brian Mahoney, Pat Gormley and Jim Robb before it was mailed.

Motion: Scott/James to send a letter to the B.L.M. in support of the acquisition of the riverfront portion of the Horsethief Ranch property.

Motion was passed with Commission members Mahoney, Quimby, Gormley, Loucks, Mantlo, Scott, and Graham, voting in favor. Commission members Robb and Frank abstained.

The Commission also agreed to send a copy of the Hawxhurst Land Exchange proposal to the people on the Friends of the River mailing list with a letter encouraging them to express their support for the B.L.M. acquisition of the Horsethief Ranch property. Costs of the mailing will be born by the Riverfront Commission.

##### Nominations for New Commission Members

The terms of four Commission members, Rebecca Frank, William Ela, Brian Mahoney and Jim Robb expire on June 30 of this year. Brian suggested that the Commission be proactive in encouraging qualified

people to apply for the vacant positions. A letter is to be sent to the City Council and the County Commissioners reminding them of the need to appoint replacements to fill the vacancies.

#### Update of Trail Maps

The current trail map is out of date and needs to be updated to include Watson Island and the trail segments that are expected to be completed in the near future. It was suggested that the City of Grand Junction and the State Parks people get together to produce a map that has some uniformity and is compatible with trail maps for all of the Western Slope. The winter months would be the best time to work on the project with the goal being to have the finished product ready for distribution in the spring. According to Jim Robb, City Market is very interested in sponsoring the printing of these new maps. In the interim, the Commission prefers that something inexpensive be produced to add Watson Island to the trail information. Brian suggested that a committee be formed to work on the trail map and that City Market be included.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Trails

Jeff Williams reported on the progress being made on acquiring easements for the Blue Heron Trail Phase II. All of the land owners have been contacted, but most of them want to talk to a Riverfront Commission representative. The land owners have questions about the location of the easements. Jeff and R.T. Mantlo need a form that they can fill out for the easements. There is a form available at the Riverfront Commission office for this purpose. Jim Robb warned that these easements or grants of land, when acquired should be conveyed to the appropriate entity as soon as possible in order to avoid liability for property taxes on the part of the Foundation.

##### Parks

R.T. Mantlo reported that all the trails in the City's Parks Master Plan will tie in to the riverfront trails system.

##### Administration

Nothing to report.

##### Operations

Brad Loucks reported that he has gotten a price for the new locks for the trail barriers that will open with a master key which is substantially lower than the price quoted by the City. He feels they can be replaced for about \$300 instead of the \$900 originally mentioned. Pat Gormley and Jane Quimby suggested that the Foundation pay for the locks out of the Foundation's maintenance fund. Keys will be available to police, fire and maintenance

personnel. The keys will also be available at the City planning department.

The City has approached Brad Loucks about the problem of noxious weeds along the riverfront trails. They have projected a worst case scenario of \$5,000 per year for five years to control the weeds. Rebecca Frank asked that the Department of Wildlife be contacted in the interest of protecting riparian habitat along with controlling the weed problem. The consensus of the Commission was that weed control is the responsibility of the individual property owners and not the Riverfront Commission or Foundation. A county wide program would also be much more effective than intermittent or selective spraying.

### Intergovernmental

There is no activity on the ordinances for City controlled parts of the trail system. The City has not yet decided whether Blue Heron will be brought in as part of the City Parks system or, if they will create an entirely new entity. If it becomes a park, there are existing ordinances that will apply. If not, they will have to create a new set of ordinances to cover the river trail areas. Until they decide, there are no real laws governing this area.

Betsy Weldon is meeting with Bud Francis on Monday, June 22 to discuss the possibilities of an easement across his property. She has offered to attend the next Palisade Town Board meeting to request an easement for the trail across the land owned by the Town of Palisade. Pat Gormley requested a map of the area to help in understanding where these parcels are located.

### Finance

Pat Gormley reported on the status of the financing for the Blue Heron II trail. Two of the grants included in the funding package are the Gates Foundation grant for \$25,000 which requires that the Foundation raise \$250,000 and the Boetcher Foundation Grant which requires a dollar for dollar match from non-governmental sources.

The Foundation has purchased a computer to be placed the Commission office to be used for Commission and Foundation business. The computer will belong the Foundation.

The Foundation will not be providing any operations money, except from earnings on their principal. Donations to the Foundation should be used primarily for the construction of trails.

Stephanie Schmid handed out copies of financial statements for the Commission. It was requested that the books show that the Foundation has made a contribution to the Commission in the amount of \$2,375 which represents the computer for the office and also an expense for the computer in the same amount. Jim Robb pointed out that the funds donated by the Colorado River Water Conservation District be shown on the books as encumbered funds and not

available for operating expenses. This contribution in the amount of \$7,500 must be spent on something along the river. A contingency fund should be created against the possibility of showing a net profit in the budget.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dick Fletcher, speaking for State Parks, informed the Commission that they, along with the Division of Wildlife, have contracted with Ciavonne and Associates to begin the design process for Connected Lakes. Kurt Mill is very close to signing a memorandum of agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for the purchase of Corn II to be used for wetlands mitigation. Corn Lake will begin development within next the month. The Division of Wildlife has committed \$50,000 for the development of watchable wildlife for Corn Lake and Connected Lakes. State Parks is coordinating the work being done by Ciavonne to make sure it meets the requirements for the Fishing is Fun grant. They are also allocating the \$50,000 to \$100,000 in gravel royalties that are to be spent on park facilities such as roads, parking lots and sanitary facilities. Ciavonne will also do an overall horticultural plan which will address the issue of weed control.

Bill Graham encouraged Commission members to think of ways to utilize people sentenced to the Community Alternative Sentencing Program for projects along the riverfront.

The School District Vocational Education Program has a project in conjunction with Geotech that will be working on designing bird habitat in the Connected Lakes area. Geotech will provide reward money for the best design entered in the contest. This will take place in the fall and then the students will construct the habitat with Geotech covering the cost of the materials. They will also be working with State Parks and Ciavonne on this project.

Jane Quimby asked about the status of the adopt-a-trail program because she has a group that would like to participate. Stephanie responded that a questionnaire was handed out to Commission members but that only one had been filled out and returned. There is still no policy to cover this aspect of trail maintenance. There is also a need for an overview of what parts of what trails already have been adopted. The Commission will take this matter up at the next meeting.

The Grand Junction Police Department is starting a volunteer security program which will begin training sometime in the fall. The police will start their bicycle patrols of the trails around August 1. They want to see how this works before training the volunteers. They do not want to use volunteers at night. The Tour of the Valley Ride committee has offered last year to fund a bike patrol. They sent in a proposal, but there was no response. Brian gave a copy of the proposal to Brad Loucks to use as a resource.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.