

GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 21, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Those present from the Commission:

Brian Mahoney	Ward Scott
Bill Graham	Lynn James
R.T Mantlo	Jane Quimby
Brad Loucks	Betsy Weldon
Bill Ela	James Robb
Mary Koziol	

Also present: Kathy Portner, Suzanne Williams, Dick Fletcher, Lynn Bragdon, Kurt Mill, Oby Blanchard, Clayton Dause, Stephanie Schmid, Jessee Minkler.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 17, 1992 were approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Riverfront Commission will receive an award for its Earth Day participation at Lincoln Park at 9:30 on Sunday, April 26, 1992.

OLD BUSINESS

Watson Island Dedication

The ribbon cutting at Watson Island will take place at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 1992. B & B Electric and Public Service will hook up a source for electricity. Many clean up efforts have taken place in preparing for the opening of this part of the trail system. Oby Blanchard was asked to make special recognition of the help provided by the Delta correctional facility. There is a need to keep track of the groups that have helped to clean up Watson Island.

Update on Colorado Trail Symposium

Kathy Portner provided an update on the Colorado Trails Symposium. The majority of the events will be held at the Hilton Hotel. The Commission agreed that the administrative assistant, Stephanie Schmid should attend the symposium.

Reclaimed Art Exhibit

Jessee Minkler reported that posters have been printed to advertise the event. Prizes have been donated by local merchants for the school group entrants. Judging will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 26, 1992.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Riverfront Commission has been asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Grand Mesa Slope Management Consortium plan. The Commission unanimously agreed that Brian Mahoney should sign this memorandum with the Consortium indicating the Commission's approval of the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Confluence Point - Van Gundy Property

A letter outlining the importance of Confluence Point to the overall riverfront development plan has been drafted by Jim Robb to the property owner, Dean Van Gundy. Mr. Van Gundy has seen the letter and understands that it will be made public.

Motion: Robb/Quimby to send the letter signed by Brian Mahoney.

Motion was approved.

Administrative Budget

A draft of an administrative budget for the Riverfront Commission was presented. Recommendations included adding the Riverfront Foundation's contribution of \$5,000 and the amount that the Riverfront Commission has already spent as a part of the revenues. There was also some question as to whether the City's contribution for 1992 is \$17,000 or \$19,500. The budget will be revised and resubmitted at the May meeting.

Check Signing Authority

It was requested that the administrative assistant be given check signing authority for amounts up to \$250. It was agreed that Brian Mahoney and Stephanie Schmid will have authority on expenditures until the budget is approved.

Motion: Mantlo/Quimby to approve this request.

Motion was approved.

Motion: Robb/Quimby to disburse the administrative assistant's normal salary.

Motion was passed.

Nominations for Celebrate Colorado Awards

Brian Mahoney suggested that the Grand Junction Rotary Club be nominated by the Riverfront Commission for a Celebrate Colorado award for their work on the Duck Race which has netted the riverfront project \$40,000 to date.

Motion: To recommend the Rotary Club for the Celebrate Colorado award.

Motion was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trails

R.T. Mantlo reported on the Riverside/El Poso town meeting. Citizens attending appear to be interested in connecting the Riverside and Watson Island trails.

The Bureau of Reclamation has done the mapping for the Blue Heron II trail and will do the legal descriptions for the effected properties. It was suggested that the Commission apply for funding for next year for assistance in mapping the Riverside to 5th Street section of the trail.

Salt Creek Mine has informed the Commission that they have three bridges available. They are approximately 8 feet wide, 4 feet high and span from 65 to 67 feet each. They are asking \$1,500 a piece for them.

The Connected Lakes trail design process has started. Erosion that occurred last fall has caused some problems, but the County is working on repairs. The kiosk will be completed by the end of April.

Parks

The City has made an agreement in principle to allocate 15 acres for the Botanical Garden in the Watson Island area. Brian Mahoney suggested that the Commission help the Botanic Garden raise money for development.

Administration

Nothing to report.

Operations

A security bicycle patrol will start this summer. The police department, sheriff's department and state parks will coordinate the patrols.

The City will have a half-time maintenance person for the summer. They would like more information on what volunteers do in the way of maintenance.

The City and County are working on a policy for weed control along the trails.

It was suggested that the trail barriers be fitted with locks that can operated with a master key. The City Parks department will be responsible for keeping track of the keys.

A questionnaire was distributed to Commission members by Oby Blanchard concerning a policy for volunteers who want to adopt sections of the trails for maintenance.

Intergovernmental

Betsy Weldon was officially welcomed as an Ex-Officio member of the Commission and representative of the Town of Palisade.

Finance

Jane Quimby announced that the Riverfront Foundation has received a \$50,000 conditional grant from the Boettcher Foundation for the completion of the Blue Heron trail, Phase II. The grant is conditional on the remainder of the project being funded from other sources.

The Colorado State Forest Service in conjunction with the Small Business Administration has made a \$4,000 grant to purchase approximately 34 trees for the Junior Service League Park. The grant requires a matching amount of \$3,000. Lynn Bragdon of the JSL asked the Commission if their \$3,000 donation made sometime earlier would qualify for the matching funds portion. This proposal requires action by the Foundation. It was suggested that the JSL submit a written request to Jane Quimby regarding this matter.

The Junior Service League has put aside an additional \$2,000 for park improvements. They are looking for other grants to combine with these funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kurt Mill presented information on the GO Colorado ballot initiative intended to restore the disbursement of lottery funds to trails and parks. Kurt requested that the Commission sign a resolution endorsing the GO Colorado initiative.

Motion: Scott/Mantlo to allow Commission Co-Chairman to sign the resolution contingent on the lack of objections from the City and County. If there are objections, the matter will be brought back to the full Commission.

Motion was passed.

Jane Quimby announced that Colorado Business Magazine is doing an article on Grand Junction and that they were impressed by the Riverfront.

Ward Scott requested that a clear record of the contributions to the Riverfront Foundation be made paying particular attention to organizations and individuals who have made large donations.

Jane Quimby suggested that a trail guest book or a trail users survey be implemented. The information could be used for fund drives and to inform the City Council and County Commissioners.

Porta-potties and dumpsters are now in place.

Congratulations to Suzanne Williams for a great job on the newsletter.

Jim Robb commented that the Colorado Vacation Guide mentions the Riverfront Project three times. The State has locked in funding for the Colorado River State Park for the next five years.

Jane Quimby asked about standards for the memorial benches being installed along the trails. It was requested that copies of the standards be forwarded to Jane and Helen Traylor.

Jim Robb recommended that the Commission consider holding future meetings in Fruita and Palisade.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.