

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 1992**

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

Brad Loucks
Ken Nesbitt
R.T. Mantlo
Jane Quimby
Brian Mahoney
Lynn James
Jim Spehar

Ward Scott
Bill Ela
Pat Gormley
Jim Robb
Bill Graham
Jim Baughman

Also present: Kathy Portner, Jesse Minkler, Zita Lynn, Clayton Dause, Kurt Mill, Oby Blanchard, Suzanne Williams, Bob Moston, Juanita Moston, Peter Wimpy, Cindy Appel, Lynn Bragdon, Carl James, Bill Almbblatt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ela/Quimby to approve the minutes of January 21, 1992 as submitted.

Motion was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A \$5,000 check from the County has been received for the maintenance fund. The commitment was a part of the County lottery award for the Blue Heron Phase II project.

Brian Mahoney noted that Grand Junction as the host of the 1992 Trails Symposium was featured on the front page of the State Trails Newsletter.

Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado are looking for project requests. In the past, our projects have not met their criteria.

Commission members reported that there was a good turn out for the first meeting held to discuss the South Downtown/Riverside Master Plan.

The Riverfront Commission will have a float in the Lions Club Parade.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratify Goals for 1992

Motion: Robb/Quimby to approve the goals as submitted.

Motion was approved.

Ratify New Table of Organization

Motion: Gormley/Quimby to approve the table of organization as submitted.

Motion was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trails

The Watson Island trail will be completed this spring. The dedication is scheduled for May 1st at noon, to coincide with the State Trails Symposium.

Ward Scott reported that there is still no final resolution on the supplemental standards/co-mingled waste issues. Some progress is being made.

Parks

Ward Scott summarized the concerns brought out at the South Downtown/Riverside meeting. Property taxes were the residents number one concern. People living in the 5th to 12th Street area were also concerned with the non-conforming status of their homes. The Riverside residents voiced their pride in their neighborhood and their concern that the Riverfront Project would result in higher taxes for them. However, several residents indicated that they really liked the project. There was also an overall concern with the transient problem in the area. Bill Ela did a good job of relaying the goals of the Riverfront Commission to the group.

Kurt Mills from the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation gave an update on the Colorado River State Park. The operating money for the facilities is still up-in-the-air. The capital money is available for some improvements to Corn Lake. Those improvements should begin in April or May. Parks is still working with land owners along the River for land acquisitions. A wetlands mitigation plan is being worked on with the Bureau of Reclamation and Division of Wildlife. The DOW is also working on a warm water fishery at Connected Lakes.

Linda Dannenberger summarized the status of Connected Lakes' next phase. The design contract has been awarded to Ciavonne and Associates. The project is being funded by a 138,000 Fishing Is Fun Grant and \$175,000 in gravel royalty funds. Design alternatives should be completed by April or May with construction starting in August to be finished by the end of the year. State Parks takes over Connected Lakes the first of the year. A warm water fishery is included in the project. A watchable wildlife fishery in one of the lakes is being considered where endangered fish species could be observed.

Administration

Zita Lynn of the Energy Office explained the proposal for a junk art competition as a part of the Earth Day celebration. The Earth Day committee would like the Riverfront Commission to sponsor the event. The competition could be held at Watson Island or at Lincoln Park with the other events with the winning sculptures to be on display at Watson Island. The only money that would be needed would be for cash prizes, or the prizes could be in-kind donations.

MOTION: Gormley/Ela that the Riverfront Commission request the Foundation contribute \$500.00 toward awards and that the grand prize winning sculpture be incorporated into the Watson Island dedication.

Motion was approved.

Jane Quimby suggested the Special Projects Committee be contacted to coordinate the event.

Operations

There has been a very good response to the Administrative Assistant position. Jim Robb, Pat Gormley, Jane Quimby and Brian Mahoney will review the applications after the closing date.

The Colorado Riverfront Foundation will meet on March 17, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. before the Riverfront Commission meeting.

Intergovernmental

Nothing to report.

Finance

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Portner asked if the Commission would like to resubmit a request to the State Forest Service and SBA for a grant to plant trees at Junior Service League Park. The request had not been granted last year. The local match would be 3 years of maintenance of the trees. The Commission agreed the request should be made in cooperation with the Junior Service League.

Kathy also reported that the State Forest Service would like to plant some trees on the Riverfront for Earth Day. The trees have been donated and would be planted and watered by volunteers. A site will be chosen along the Blue Heron Section of the trail.

Finally, the Bureau of Reclamation is ready to get started on their in-kind assistance for the project. \$20,000 of services has been approved. Staff members will meet with the BuRec to outline some projects.

Brian Mahoney reported that the Riverfront office is being furnished with items donated by Mesa National Bank. Jim Robb and Bill Ela have already moved the furniture into the office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.