

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY  
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 1991**

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

Helen Traylor	Pat Gormley
Bill Graham	Jim Robb
Bill Ela	Jane Quimby
Brian Mahoney	Mary Koziol
Jim Baughman	Jim Spehar
Frank Dunn	

Also present: Kathy Portner, Dick Fletcher, Bud Franz, Roger Moore, Clayton Dause, Oby Blanchard, Hank Drake, Glen Miller, Pat Hambright, Libby Jackson, Bob McCormick, John Patterson, Pat Page.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Graham/Quimby to approve the minutes of the August 12, 1991 meeting as submitted.

Motion was approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commission welcomed Mary Koziol as the new Fruita representative, replacing Tad Hutchins who resigned. They also welcomed Frank Dunn sitting in for Dr. Lynn James.

Jim Robb announced that the 1992 State Trails Conference would be held in Grand Junction some time in the spring.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Administrative Report

The committee formed to consider the future of the administrative tasks for the Riverfront Commission has met once. As of the first of the year Jim Robb and his office will no longer be able to provide that service.

Riverfront Run

Pat Page gave an update on the Riverfront Run to be held September 28th. There will be a 10 km. run and a 2 mile run/walk. Both events will end at Riverside Park where there will be other festivities going on. This year there will be long sleeved T-shirts with a new design.

### Use of Ponds and Other Areas on Blue Heron Trail

After meeting with the Riverfront Commission at their last meeting, the jet ski association took their concerns to City Council about having a place to jet ski close in. City Council directed them back to the Riverfront Commission to try to solve the issue. A committee was formed including representatives from the Riverfront Commission, PIAB, jet skiers and wind surfers. The committee will meet on Thursday night to discuss short term and long term solutions.

There was some discussion about naming the small pond by the Redlands Parkway.

Motion: Quimby/Gormley to name the small pond by the Redlands Parkway, along the Blue Heron Trail "Nesbitt Pond".

Motion was approved.

A motion was made by Pat Gormley to allow the jet skiers to continue to use Nesbitt Pond for the rest of the season for skiing. The motion was withdrawn after some discussion about the user conflicts, biological effects and neighborhood concerns.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Meeting with City Parks and Recreation Board

A meeting with the City Parks and Recreation Board has been scheduled for September 24th at 7 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building. Frank Dunn expressed how important this meeting would be. There are a lot of issues to be discussed between the Parks Board and the Commission.

#### Arts Commission

John Patterson presented the summary of the Arts Commission's findings for the community. It included an inventory of art and cultural entities as well as community interests and needs. The Arts Commission is asking for input from the community. There are two upcoming public meetings on September 11th at 2 and 7 p.m.

#### Security/Maintenance - Bob McCormick

Bob McCormick presented his ideas for a volunteer patrol for the trail system. He has heard some concern from trail users about security. He volunteered to organize the program if the Commission wanted to pursue it. Pueblo has a crew of volunteers as rangers. Their duties include public relations, data collection, first aid, minor equipment repair for users, and security. The costs of such a program include training, equipment and uniforms. He was encouraged to pursue putting the program together.

### Trans-Colorado Pipeline

Jim Robb abstained from the discussion because of a conflict of interest. Bill Ela reported that the Commission has been asked to comment on the Conditional Use Permit application. The two preferred alternative routes are not along the River. The Commission was asked to review a proposed draft letter asking them to consider a river route and stated it would be a window of opportunity to get a trail through DeBeque Canyon.

Motion: Mahoney/Graham to approve the letter and send as a response.

Motion was approved.

### Ideas from Other Citizens

Jim Robb presented some ideas he's heard from various community members. Someone suggested that the ownership of the island near City shops be determined. If it's in public ownership it was suggested a band shell be put on the island.

Others have suggested the need for trash cans and port-a-potties. Also, the issue of user conflicts continues to be brought up, such as conflicts between walkers and bikers and skaters.

Helen Traylor and Bennett Boeschstein are working on a posters series for the schools on flora and fauna of the Colorado Riverfront.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Connected Lakes

The additional land deeded to Mesa County is being finalized. The Fishing Is Fun grant contract has been finalized and the RFP is in progress.

#### Supplemental Standards

The State and DOE are meeting again to try to come to some final agreement.

#### 5th Street Bridge Project - East

The low Watson Island bid came in at \$101,000 for concrete trails from United Companies. There has been some discussion as to whether 8' wide trail is adequate.

Motion: Gormley/Traylor to approve 8' wide concrete trail for Watson Island.

Motion was approved.

5th Street Bridge Project - West

Nothing to report.

Junior Service League Park

Nothing to report.

Volunteers

Nothing to report.

Special Events

Rusty Morris has announced that the Halloween Spook Trail is off for this year because the school district does not want to get involved.

City Parks and Recreation

Frank Dunn reiterated his enthusiasm for the joint meeting and hoped the groups could continue to work to develop continued communication.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Nothing to report.

Palisade Trail

There has been a complaint about weeds along the trail. The Commission has asked for volunteers to cut the weeds.

Fruita

Nothing to report.

Finance

Money continues to come in. There are several grants under review including Mesa County lottery, El Pomar, US West, and Boettcher. The Kiwanis recently committed \$3,000 toward the project, the largest commitment they've ever made to one project.

Colorado River State Park

The grading plan for the pile site is complete. State Parks now has a real estate person in place and can start some land negotiations. Construction at Corn Lake should start in October.

General Standards

Nothing to report.

Rafting

Nothing to report.

Blue Heron Trail

Community service workers cleaned up the trail recently.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Robb listed some volunteer positions that need to be filled:

1. Blue Heron Trail Phase I
2. Blue Heron Trail Phase II
3. Newsletter
4. Palisade to the East
5. Palisade to the West
6. Redlands Parkway to Fruita
7. 5th Street area footbridge

Jane Quimby suggested that perhaps those not appointed to the Commission might be interested.

Clayton Dause reported that Coors volunteers will clear the weeds from that section of trail if there is a place to take them.

Oby Blanchard reported that the Delta Honor Camp is ready to come back and do some work. He also asked that a thank you letter be sent to Diamond-Shamrock for donating the gas.

Glen Miller reported that Scout Troop 328 did their annual river clean-up. He noted that the river use has greatly increased. Ducks Unlimited and Rotary will do their clean-ups this month.

Jim Spehar reported that the concern about shooting along the urban riverfront is being pursued.

Brian Mahoney asked if the Foundation would consider providing additional money for Watson Island if necessary.

Jim Baughman commented on other river projects across the country and wondered if the Commission received information from those projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.