

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING
October 19, 1993**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 P.M.. Those present from the Commission:

Brian Mahoney	Bill Prakken
Lynda Boody	Fielding Braffett
Carl Zimmerman	Jim Baughman
Brad Loucks	Lynn James
Carol Hanna	Bernadette Prinster
Robert Ellis	Elvis Guin

Also present: Lynn Bragdon, Kurt Mill, Kathy Portner, Suzanne Williams, Linda Dannenberger, Ted Ciavonne, Steve Rocha, and Stephanie Schmid

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Prinster/Hanna to approve the minutes of the September meeting as submitted with the correction that Commission member Bernadette Prinster also attended the meeting.

Motion was passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission and the Colorado Riverfront Foundation will hold a joint retreat on January 8, 1993. It will be an all day meeting and will have a facilitator for at least part of the day.

The Mesa County Commissioners' town meeting schedule was included in this month's mailing. Commission members were encouraged to attend the meeting in their area.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission has submitted two lottery fund requests to the County Commissioners. Lynda Boody will be representing the Commission next Monday in requesting funding for replacement of two double bollards, one on the Audubon Trail and one on the Greenbelt access to the trail and for seed money for an eagle scout project to develop a nature trail adjacent to the Connected Lakes State Park with the help of Bob Arceri.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Rocha with Garfield Middle School informed the Commission of the Outdoor Classroom project he and his students are working on the Clifton Water District property near 34 Road. They (the school district) have been offered a 25-year lease from the Clifton Water Board to develop a wetlands mitigation program in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation.

There is a possibility of a \$100,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for the maintenance of artificial wetlands developed to replace wetlands lost in the process of dealing with the Burec's salinity project. The school board is hesitant to take on the responsibility of funding their portion of the 70/30 match that is required and the obligation of maintenance for a period of 25 years. The Water Board is also concerned about students trespassing on their facility and ultimately, trail users creating problems when the Riverfront Trail is constructed through that area. Part of the project might be the construction of a fence to separate the wetlands area and trail right-of-way from the water treatment plant.

Suggestions were made by the Commission that included: forming a consortium of public agencies and local businesses to take on the lease, finding a federal agency to administer the funds collected from non-governmental sources, having the Burec purchase the Clifton Water District property and finally designing a wetlands mitigation program that requires significantly less maintenance to reduce the liability to the leaseholder whoever that might be. It was also suggested that a similar program might be appropriate for the Palisade property.

In the interest of continuing this discussion and promoting more active involvement in the Palisade community, it was decided that a Palisade meeting would be held on Thursday, November 11, 1993 at the old Palisade High School at 7:30 P.M.. It is hoped that the Palisade Trustees, teachers and students, residents of the Palisade area and Commission members will attend and have the opportunity to meet and discuss possibilities for the future of the Palisade section of the trail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trails

Bill Prakken presented the bid results for the Blue Heron II trail construction. The low bid for asphalt was from United for \$224,800 and the low bid for concrete was \$243,340 from M.A. Concrete. The funds available for construction from the Foundation are \$216,000. The committee recommended that construction of the parking lot, which is included in the bids, be postponed to the second phase of construction, and that the City be asked to contribute \$18,500 to cover the additional cost of the concrete surface. It was felt that this would bring the project in line with the Foundation's budget and allow \$7,000 to \$8,000 for contingencies. If the City is not willing to cover the additional cost, then the committee recommended that the construction proceed with asphalt paving. The Commission was asked for their approval to go before the City Council to request the additional funds.

Motion: Boody/Hanna to approve the trails committee report and to support their decision to go before the City Council with the concrete recommendation.

Motion passed.

Parks

Lynn Bragdon reported that no progress has yet been made on the installation of the picnic shelter at Junior Service League Park. She did request that the manufacturer of the shelter be paid without any further delay.

Administration

Brian Mahoney informed the Commission that the budget deficit for future years will be addressed at the retreat on January 8. The possible shortfall for this year will be covered by the surplus remaining from the 1992 funding. A draft 1994 budget will be presented at the retreat. With this discussion, the financial statements were accepted by the Commission.

Jim Baughman brought up the Commission's request for \$500 for a feasibility study for the Orchard Mesa Bridge. The City Council is still looking for a long range plan from the Riverfront Commission. Brian stated that the five-year plan was included in the 1993 Annual Report that was distributed to Council. He will follow up on that request with the City administration.

Operations

Nothing to report.

Finance

Nothing to report.

Intergovernmental

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Dannenberger told the Commission about all of the work that has been accomplished in clearing trail for fishing access in and around Connected Lakes. Students at Bookcliff Middle School along with Brad Loucks have volunteered their time to finish this project. The County plans to recognize the students for their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Braffett/Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.