

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING
July 18, 1995**

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 P.M. at the United Companies Hunt Club at 18 Road and the Colorado River. Those present from the Commission:

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| Ken Nesbitt | Lynda Boody |
| Judy Kennedy | Brian Mahoney |
| Pat Kennedy | Paul Nelson |
| Elvis Guin | Bill Prakken |
| Bill Ela | |

Also present: Dutch and Linda Afman, Susan Bliss, Bob and Jane Cron, Shirley Ela, Pat and Ruth Gormley, Pat Guin, Denny and Kathryn Herzog, Janet Hollingsworth, Dr. Lynn and Patricia James, Chris and Connie Jouflas, Judy Kennedy, Cindy Kennedy, R.T. and Betty Mantlo, Kurt and Cynthia Mill, Robin Nelson, Joanne Nesbitt, Pat Page, Judy Prakken, Jane Quimby, Jim Robb, Carlos Sauvage, Bill and Stephanie Schmid, Ward and Barbara Scott, Joe Stevens, Helen and Charles Traylor, Gerry and Pat Tucker, Yeulin and Rose Willett, Dan Wilson and Carl Zimmerman.

The July meeting of the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission marked an important milestone in the history of the Riverfront Project. Therefore, usual format of the monthly meetings was abandoned and it was decided to have a barbecue to recognize the contributions of the Commission's retiring co-chairs, Bill Ela and Brian Mahoney and of all the other people who have volunteered their time and talents on behalf of the success of the Colorado River Trails.

After the group had their fill of hamburgers, potato salad and cake, a few matters of business were attended to and a new riverfront slide show was presented.

Announcements

The Riverfront Commission will be meeting in the newly constructed conference room at the C.D. Smith Building, located at 233 South 5th Street, beginning with the August 15 meeting. As in the past, the meetings will begin at 7:30 P.M. and will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Administration

In order to update the signature card for the Commission's checking account, Stephanie requested a resolution be passed by the Commission approving the removal of the retiring co-chairmen, Brian Mahoney and Bill Ela and the addition of the new co-chairs, Paul

Nelson and Bill Prakken.

Resolution: Be it resolved that as of this date, the signators on the Riverfront Commission checking account be the following individuals: William Prakken, Paul Nelson, Fielding Braffett and Stephanie Schmid. Be it further resolved that checks in the amount of less than \$500 may be signed by any one of the above individuals and that checks in the amount of \$500 or more must be signed by any two of the above individuals.

The resolution was approved by all Commission members present.

Recognition Awards

Jim Robb, who along with Bill Ela was the first Commission Co-chair, welcomed the group who had come to honor Brian and Bill. He conveyed Tillie Bishop's regrets that he was unable to attend the celebration and expressed to them Tillie's appreciation of all that both men have done for the Riverfront Project and their community.

Jim then introduced the two new co-chairmen, Bill Prakken and Paul Nelson. They had the pleasure of presenting their predecessors with the Commission's traditional river rocks which commemorate their service to the cause.

Additional presentations were made by Stephanie who gave Brian a stuffed goose named Lucy in honor of his undaunted optimism and his credo of always staying "loosey goosey". Jim Robb made a presentation of an original Watson Island artifacts, a Christmas tree that had been found on one of the organization's expeditionary raft trips. Bill Ela gave it to Jim when he retired from the Commission. It was decided that the tree should be made a permanent trophy and kept in the Riverfront office where the names of future Commission leaders could be added in recognition of their service as well as those who had gone before.

Entertainment

As soon as it was dark enough, Brian treated the group to the premier of a slide show prepared by a local volunteer, Richard Bolden. The tentative title, "The Birth of a Trail - Blue Heron II, Start to Finish", describes the content fairly accurately. Mr. Bolden photographed the development of the trail from the initial brush clearing done by the Bookcliff Middle School students led by former Commission member Brad Loucks to the staking of the trail alignment to the earth work to setting the forms for the concrete to the ribbon cutting to views of the finished trail.

Brian promised that he would continue to be available to present the Commission's slide shows to audiences either here in the valley or where ever there was a need.

THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
IN THE MESA COUNTYWIDE LAND USE PLANNING EFFORT.

WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED INPUT

You are invited to attend the third series of
COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Purpose: Opportunity for the General Public to review and comment on the Draft Future Land Use Plan (the Steering Committee's Preferred Alternative).

RURAL AREA COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY, September 5, 1995 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Fruita City Hall, 101 W. McCune, Fruita
Palisade Community Center, 120 E. 8th, Palisade
Glade Park Community Center

WEDNESDAY, September 6, 1995 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Gateway Community Center
DeBeque Senior Center, 538 Minter, DeBeque
Plateau Valley School, Plateau Valley School Multi-Media Center, Hwy 330
Whitewater Road Shop, Whitewater County Road Shop- Highway 50

URBAN AREA OPEN HOUSE (Hosted jointly by Mesa County/Grand Junction Steering Committees)

THURSDAY, September 7, 1995 12:00 noon - 8:00 PM

Grand Junction Ramada Inn
2790 Crossroads Boulevard, Grand Junction

Please attend and help your neighbors shape the future of Mesa County. Your involvement is NECESSARY in order to develop workable plans!

For more information contact Mesa County Long Range Planning at 244-1650.



Mesa Countywide
Land Use Plan

From Issues To Action

MESA COUNTYWIDE LAND USE PLAN

QUESTIONS FOR INVOLVED ENTITIES

1. Organization Title

Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission

Purpose/Mission Statement

(a) To foster, for people of all ages, park, recreation, leisure time facilities and opportunities along the Colorado River and its tributaries within the City of Grand Junction, County of Mesa, State of Colorado, and areas surrounding or convenient thereto;

(b) To reclaim the Colorado Riverfront and in so doing to develop the area to its maximum recreational potential, to preserve the wildlife and its habitat and to focus the progress as a source of community pride and economic revitalization for the entire Grand Valley in Mesa County, Colorado;

(c) To promote the development of a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails, both off-road and on-road, that will connect residential and commercial areas to local parks, schools and the Riverfront Trail System.

2. Geographical Service Area.

The river basins of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers in Mesa County.

3. Management and Operations Structure

Eleven member board appointed jointly by the Grand Junction City Council and the Mesa County Commissioners. Membership is voluntary and appointments are for three year terms which may be renewed. Two Co-Chairs provide leadership with the support of a part time staff person.

Financing Mechanisms

Funding for the operations and overhead of this organization comes from a grant from the City of Grand Junction and contributions from the Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Inc. which shares office space and staff support with the Commission.

Capital construction is funded by local government, state and federal grants, private foundation grants local fund raising

and individual contributions.

4. Major Planning and Construction Activities

- (a) The long-term goal of the Commission is to construct an east/west bicycle/pedestrian trail from one end of Mesa County to the other;
- (b) To build trail connecting the existing Watson Island Trail to Riverside Park;
- (c) To see the Orchard Mesa bicycle/pedestrian bridge completed connecting Orchard Mesa to the north side of the Colorado River and the Riverfront Trail System;
- (d) To protect the open space and foster trail development south of the city that will memorialize the historic Old Spanish Trail;
- (e) To encourage the marking of on-road bicycle routes that are both safe and suitable for non-motorized vehicular use;
- (g) To join by improved on-road and off-road trail networks the entire valley to the Colorado River corridor;
- (h) To acquire and see developed, as a part of the Colorado River Trails System, the Confluence Point site;
- (i) To see the old Climax Mill tailing site included in plans for local parks and recreation development.

5. Interaction with County/Municipal Government

There is a close working relationship with the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department. City emphasis on Community Development Department's participation in parks and recreation planning has diminished in the past few years, but we have a history of cooperation with city land use planners.

We have had development review privileges with the County for any property adjacent to the Colorado River for the purpose of requesting trail easements. The department head, Joe Crocker, has been supportive and encouraging of our efforts.

6. Interaction with Mesa County

A member of the County Commissioners serves as an ex-officio member of the Commission, but attendance has been sparse. There is contact and cooperation between Commission members and County staff, but mostly on an informal basis.

7. Perceived Role in County Land Use Planning

To encourage the concept that recreation and open space are critical components of land use planning and that they be included in the County's future planning efforts. As a County appointed entity we should be active in helping to shape Countywide development of non-motorized transportation routes and facilities.

8. Vision of Mesa County in 15 Years

Citizens will be able to travel the length and breadth of this valley on a trail system that will provide routes separated or at least shielded from automobile traffic. The schools, parks, homes and the rivers will all be accessible to the users of these trails.

9. Three Issues and Impacts

Recreation planning, in particular trails, must extend beyond the limits of the cities of Grand Junction and Fruita and should have the County's cooperation.

The County must take some financial responsibility for the construction and maintenance of recreational and trails facilities.

The consequence will be a decline in both the quality of life in the unincorporated suburban areas in Mesa County and the likelihood that the Riverfront Project will not realize its dream of a trail extending from the eastern boundary of Mesa County to the Utah border.

10. Participation in Implementation of Countywide Land Use Plan

The Commission should have had a seat on the original steering committee and it should definitely be represented on a County planning policy implementation committee.