

GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY  
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING

September 19, 1995

The meeting was called to order at the C.D. Smith Building conference room at 7:30 P.M. by Co-Chairman Bill Prakken. Those present from the Commission:

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Bill Prakken          | Paul Nelson    |
| Pat Kennedy           | Carl Zimmerman |
| Lenna Watson          | Kirk Rider     |
| Ken Nesbitt           | Jim Baughman   |
| Connie Bennett        | Lynda Boody    |
| Judy Kennedy          | Elvis Guin     |
| Bennett Boeschenstein | Kathy Hall     |

Also present: Bob Cron, Bill Noble, Janet Hollingsworth, Don Hobbs, Kurt Mill, Brian Mahoney and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Carl Zimmerman asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect the fact that the RFP for the bicycle/pedestrian bridge had not been sent out as of the date of the August meeting as he had reported.

Motion: Prakken/Nesbitt to approve the minutes of the August meeting with the above correction.

Motion was passed.

Announcements

Bill Prakken urged Commission members to attend the City Council dinner on Wednesday, September 27. He said that with all the new possibilities for GOCO funding, it is very important to keep the lines of communication with the City open.

Commission members were asked if anyone would be interested in participating in a workshop on the Gunnison River boat access. There were no volunteers. It was agreed that Brian Mahoney be asked to represent the Commission because of his past interest and involvement in the project.

The quarterly intergovernmental meeting has been scheduled for October 3, 1995. Bill again encouraged Commission members to make every effort to attend because of the information that can be gained from meeting with other agency representatives involved in activities related to the Riverfront Project.

Commission members were encouraged to participate in the Riverfront Run/Walk which will be held at Colorado River State Park/Connected Lakes on Saturday the 7th of October at 9:00 A.M..

### Old Business

Paul Nelson reported that he had spoken with Linda Tafoya of the Coors Foundation regarding a grant request for the Orchard Mesa bridge. He indicated that she would like more information on the project, the Foundation and its financial position. She is also interested in which local groups are currently offering to provide financial support for the project.

Stephanie distributed copies of the updated Riverfront Commission Directory and copies of the first Annual Report of the Commission written by Jim Robb in 1988.

### New Business

#### GOCO Special Integrated Projects (SIPs)

Bill Prakken began the report with some background on GOCO's intention to fund a few projects of major proportions (two to ten million dollars) around the state. He has heard that Mesa County is high on their list of possible locations for one of these projects which would involve a broad spectrum of players from Fruita to Palisade, including municipal, state and federal government agencies as well as private wildlife and land conservancy interests. With that introduction, Bill asked Kurt Mill of State Parks to provide the group with more detailed information.

Kurt handed out a memo from GOCO that among other things detailed their decision to sort applicants into two tracks for the purpose of making funding decisions for the SIPs projects. His recommendation was that the Riverfront Project should make every effort to be included in the first track.

He said that GOCO is envisioning partnerships that would involve the Division of Wildlife, State Parks, municipalities and open space interests. The key to success will be to come up with a plan that will fit the wants and needs of the local interests and also meet the criteria set forth by GOCO.

There is, as of this date, no lead agency to put this effort together for Mesa County. Kurt stressed the need to for agreement among the players who are going to need to come up with matching funds as well as project plans in order to make the grant application successful. The criteria for the grants has not yet been published so specifics on matching requirements are not known at this time. Generally, the larger the percentage of the match, the higher the application will score with the GOCO Board.

According to Kurt, there are potentially six to ten projects across the state that may be considered in the first track. Of these, up to six may be funded. It will be in everyone's best interest if all of the possible players agree to participate in the SIP. It is important that everyone's mission tie into the overall purpose of the SIP. He felt that it was very logical that the Riverfront Commission be the entity that would be responsible for submitting the SIP application. He added that Mesa County needs to be brought into the process, at least in the area of generating open space, whether they are involved in the management of it or not. Matching funds and respective shares of the pot may need to be negotiated because there will be participants with more dollars than others.

Among the questions that are yet to be answered are: where should the trail be located, does it have to be just trail, how far from the river can the project extend, are we competing with ourselves for other GOCO funding programs. In Kurt's words, it is going to take a lot of finagling to make this work. The possibilities for compatible multiple uses should be explored to the fullest and all interests should be considered.

Bill Prakken stated that what he understood was that everyone was looking to the Riverfront Commission to take the lead in getting this project off the ground. He expressed his excitement about its potential but did not want to charge off without the support of the Commission. He was concerned about how the process of developing the concept paper would be handled in terms of staff time or the availability of funds to hire someone on a contract basis to do the job.

Kurt pointed out that although the concept paper is due December 1, the final project plan is not due until March. He also reminded the Commission that there is quite a bit of planning that has already been accomplished by DOW, State Parks and Fruita. He felt that it was going to be more of an issue of coordination than creation to put together the concept paper. Planning grants would be helpful, but would put our project into Track 2 where the competition will be much greater.

Ken Nesbitt suggested that a committee of Commission members get together to develop some ground rules for participation in the development of the concept letter. Bob Cron volunteered, as a recreation professional, to assist in any way he could. Kathy Hall pointed out that it was a difficult time for the planning staffs of both the City and the County because of their involvement in their respective master plans. Jim Baughman suggested that the October Mesa County Cities meeting would be a good place for many of the potential participants to discuss the projects.

Motion: Boody/Bennett to have the Riverfront Commission assume a leadership roll for Mesa County in pursuing the Great Outdoors Colorado SIP program.

Motion was passed.

## **Committee Assignments**

A revised list of Commission committees was distributed to the membership. They were asked to request assignment changes, suggest new committees and sign up for the listed committees. Kirk Rider asked about a hunters' rights committee. Although this has not been a problem in the past, it was acknowledged that in the future, the issue of conflicting uses of riverfront recreational areas would become more of a concern. As a compromise, a new committee to address both wildlife habitat and hunting issues was formed. Kirk and Carl Zimmerman volunteered to head up that committee.

## **Committee Reports**

### **New Trails**

#### **Urban Trails**

Pat Kennedy reported on a bicycle trip that he and several other individuals took to explore the area south and west of the Ridges on the Redlands. He invited the Commission to join him on a follow-up ride immediately after the Riverfront Run on October 7. Interest in this area is associated with the potential for future recreational trail development.

The Urban Trails Committee participated in the ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the 28 1/2 Road improvements on August 28. This milestone represents the first striping and signing accomplishment on behalf of the Urban Trails Committee. Several other streets have also had bicycle lanes striped and signed. The consensus was that Mark Relph was really getting the job done.

The Bureau of Reclamation cost-share grant was considered and approved by City Council on September 6. This grant will allow the City to do a feasibility study for a canal bank trail along the Highline Canal between H and 28 1/2 Roads. Pat hopes that a friend who works for Jefferson County Open Space will have the opportunity to speak to the Committee this fall about what kinds of experiences they are having in Jefco in regard to canal bank trails.

The BOR trip to Phoenix is scheduled for early November. Parties making the journey include: two people from Grand Valley Water Users Association, Shawn Cooper with the City, Russ Storbo with BOR and either Bob Cron or Pat Kennedy from the Urban Trails Committee.

Shawn Cooper is actively seeking easements and rights-of-way in conjunction with subdivision requests within the City of Grand Junction.

Dick Proctor has invited Pat and Bob Cron to take a tour of the Highline Canal and Pat, Bob and Paul Nelson plan to attend the October board meeting of the directors of the G.V.W.U.A.

### Old Spanish Trail

Judy Kennedy reported that she had polled neighborhood residents regarding the signs they would like to see for the Old Spanish Trail access route. Public Works is making the signs. The BLM is providing materials and conscript labor from the Delta honor camp for construction of the trail. Judy expects to hold a grand opening for the trail in April or May of next year.

### Orchard Mesa Bridge

Carl Zimmerman informed the Commission that Sara Hunt with Ametech has submitted his request to incorporate headquarters for partial funding of the bridge. Carl is hoping to expand the participation in the Orchard Mesa Bridge Committee by recruiting at least one young person who can speak to the concerns of his or her peer group regarding their needs that could be met by a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the Colorado River. Keith Rose, with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, has expressed concerns about the bridge's impact on wetlands and wildlife habitat in the area.

The RFP for design and engineering of the bridge went out Friday, September 15 and will be due on October 14. According to Carl, this information should give us a much better idea of costs on the bridge. The next Orchard Mesa Bridge Committee meeting will be at 8:30 A.M. at the BLM office conference room on Monday, October 16. Brian suggested that the Grand Junction Lions Club Community Betterment Committee be contacted regarding a contribution to the bridge project.

### Intergovernmental Committee

Lynda Boody asked that the Audubon Society and other private wildlife interest groups be included in the invitation to the Intergovernmental Committee meeting on October 3. It is the intention of the Commission to use this meeting as a spring board for the development of a GOCO SIP steering committee.

### Trail Operations

#### Trail Monitor Reports

It was decided that the formal trail monitor reports would be suspended. Commission members were asked to comment in general about what they have observed on the trail. The fact that the Blue Heron Trail was about to get two benches was noted by one member.

Brian Mahoney asked Don Hobbs if he had any comments on the progress of reconstruction of Watson Island. Don replied that because of the cost, the City is required to solicit formal bids for the repair work. Unfortunately, formal bids require plans and specifications that clearly define the task. The responsibility of defining those specifications will fall to Shawn Cooper. According

to Don, the City is literally back at the drawing board at this time. Bill Noble reported that the levee is moving along and it is expected that the final inspection is set for March of 1996.

Pat Kennedy added that there is some graffiti appearing along the trail on the Audubon and Connected Lakes sections. Brian reminded the group that Woody Walcher has volunteered to power spray the graffiti for free if he is notified of the problem.

Bennett Boeschstein asked what was the purpose of the sign boards at several locations along the trail. He offered to be responsible for seeing that trail maps were placed in them with information on the trail. It was also suggested that they be used to promote membership in the Foundation.

Pat Kennedy commented that several of the trail signs were in need of replacement. State Parks can replace the signs at Connected Lakes. The other jurisdictions need to be contacted also. The issue of signage at South Rim was brought up. Brian said that Skip Behrhorst had offered to spend up to \$200 for signs that would show where the trail is located in the vicinity of his subdivision.

#### Administration

#### **Financial Reports**

It was confirmed that the Riverfront Commission is in fact included in the 1996/1997 City budget at the amount of \$20,000 per year.

Motion: Nelson/Kennedy to approve the financial report as submitted.

Motion was passed.

There was a brief discussion of the Commission's need for a new computer. Thought was given to the possibility of asking the Foundation for the money.

#### **Trails Map**

Stephanie stated that she thought that the trail map was in the process of being printed, but did not have any specific information on when it will be ready.

#### Public Comment

Pat Kennedy suggested that the possibility of name badges for Commission members should be looked into. He felt that the Fruita City Council made a very good impression at the GOCO open house because they all had distinctive name tags identifying them and their organization.

Janet Hollingsworth reported that she had attended a meeting for

the run/walk and that things were moving along very well.

Kurt Mill passed out copies of a draft of a resolution supporting a bill from Senator Bishop that deals with the ability of the State Parks Board to determine the types and amounts of fees charged to Colorado State Parks users. He asked the Commission look at the resolution and if possible, to have the Commission pass it at the next meeting.

The next Colorado Riverfront Foundation meeting will be October 18, 1995 at 7:30 A.M. at Mesa National Bank.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.