

**GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY  
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**AUGUST 20, 1996**

The meeting of the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission was called to order at 7:37 P.M. by Co-Chair Bill Prakken. Those in attendance from the Commission:

Paul Nelson	Jim Baughman
Bill Prakken	Judy Kennedy
Bennett Boeschstein	Lenna Watson
Pat Kennedy	Lynda Boody

Also present were: Bill Noble, Kurt Mill, Fred Bohlmann, Joe Stevens and Stephanie Schmid.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: J. Kennedy/P. Kennedy to approve the minutes of the July meeting as submitted.

The motion was passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Walkable Communities workshops will be held on September 23 and 24, 1996. The Urban Trails Committee and the City of Grand Junction are co-sponsoring these workshops and hope that members of both the Urban Trails Committee and the Riverfront Commission will be interested in attending.

The annual dinner with the Grand Junction City Council will be held on September 26, at Two Rivers Convention Center. The time will be 6:30 P.M.. Issues related to the Riverfront Commission, Urban Trails Committee and the City of Grand Junction will be discussed. More active participation in the Commission by Fruita and Palisade in the Commission activities may also be discussed.

The Riverfront Run will be held at Connected Lakes State Park on Saturday, October 5 at 9:00 A.M.. The major sponsors include United Companies, Colorado National Bank, Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods and Rocky Mountain HMO. Mike Heaston of Event Marketing Group has been engaged to coordinate the event. It will be a 5K run and walk. Commission members were urged to either participate in the run/walk or volunteer to help Mike with the event.

The Orchard Mesa Lions Club has donated \$1,000 to the Colorado Riverfront Foundation for the Orchard Mesa Bicycle/Pedestrian bridge.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Paul Nelson gave a brief update on the north/south corridor project. He reported that the recommended river crossing is at 29 Road, but that extending the corridor along 29 Road across the railroad tracks and to I-70 is not feasible at this time. The matter of this bridge conflicting with the bicycle/pedestrian bridge is no longer a concern.

Because he had been out of town, Bill Prakken asked about press coverage of the Riverfront Foundation grant to the Botanical society. Bill Noble, coordinator for the Society, informed the Commission that there had been an article about the Botanical Society's fund drive and the Foundation's contribution to that drive. According to Bill, the cleanup process on Watson Island will be completed by the end of September in spite of problems with the first earth cement samples sent to the EPA. It was agreed that John Elmer should be asked to update the Commission on the cleanup process at the September meeting.

Paul reported that a meeting between Louis Brach and City and County staff members is scheduled for Thursday, August 22 at the shopping center site. Along with Paul, they will discuss Louis' concerns about trail users and other trespassers in the area. He promised a report at the September meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Orchard Mesa Bridge

Bill Prakken reported that there had been a problem with getting approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Corps of Engineers' 404 permit for construction of the bridge. After conversations with the superiors of the then USF&W representative, it appears that these problems are being resolved. The Commission as agreed to invite a Fish & Wildlife representative to attend the Legacy steering committee meetings and future intergovernmental meetings in an attempt to avoid future misunderstandings with that agency. Bill credited Dave Blair with Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's office for having provided considerable assistance in resolving this situation. It was also fortunate that the timing of the fish ladder dedication coincided with this turn of events, bringing some of the US Fish & Wildlife people to Grand Junction where they could be contacted in person.

### Urban Trails Committee

Pat Kennedy informed the Commission that the Committee has been working with the City of Grand Junction to acquire the BLM lease for the Lunch Loop area of the Tabeguache Trail and that the negotiations appear to be going well. Keith Mumby, with

the City Parks Advisory Board, has taken the lead on seeing that the management plan is completed and the lease is consummated.

The draft of the Canal Trails Feasibility Study has been completed and was presented to the public at an open house on August 6 at Two Rivers Convention Center. A number of written responses have been received, the vast majority of them favorable to the concept of recreational use of the canal banks. According to Pat, the final revisions should be made and the report delivered to the printers by the end of the week so that the September 1 deadline for delivering the report to the City will be met.

Pat met with Mark Achen concerning the Colinas del Valle project and was told that the City, more specifically the Community Development Department would not take the lead on that endeavor. Mark revealed that it was his hope that Urban Trails would follow the "Riverfront Commission model" in its efforts to promote trails. He suggested that Urban Trails host the Colinas del Valle open house which was held on August 8. Pat was pleased with the turnout at that meeting which included five landowners and forty-two residents of adjacent neighborhoods. He has received fifteen to twenty written statements to date concerning trail preservation in that area.

An open house was held on August 13 for the 15<sup>th</sup> Street bike lane. This route would connect Patterson Road to Horizon Drive via 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The issue was removing on street parking on either both sides of the street or only one side or the other. There was strong support of the removal on street parking by the residents of the Nellie Bechtel apartments where the open house was held.

The August Urban Trails Committee meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> included a lively discussion of the feasibility study and the Committee's recommendations for the study. The result of this discussion was an agreement among the members that the recommendations of the Committee should be confined to the study area. Ramifications of the study that had implications about other parts of the canal system should be listed in section labeled conclusions and would not necessarily be applicable to the study area.

#### Legacy Update

Pat Kennedy read an update on the Legacy project from Bob Cron who was not present at the meeting. The revised project schedule, based on the \$4.5 million grant award was submitted to GOCO on July 23. The final application has been accepted by GOCO. The project sponsors have responded well to the need to eliminate projects but understand that we will keep going back until we get the entire project funded. GOCO has evaluated the combined cash flow for all six Legacy projects and hopes to accommodate the Yampa, South Platte and Colorado River projects and schedule funding for the other three around them. A master agreement between the Riverfront Commission and Great Outdoors Colorado will be the next step in receiving the first phase of funding. Sub-agreements between the Commission and the individual sponsors will also need to be developed. It will not be necessary to reapply to GOCO to be considered for the next round of Legacy grants as the original six grantees will be rolled in with the next group of applicants. Stephanie added that the draft of the master agreement has been received and distributed to the City and County attorneys and Bill Prakken as well as Bob Cron.

## Safety Committee

Lenna Watson reported that the Committee is still trying to get a hold of air photos of the trails in order highlight problem areas for the appropriate jurisdictions. Maintenance on the trails, especially the Audubon trail, has been attended to and barricades are in the budget for next year and will be changed at that time. She is still looking for a representative from the Sheriff's Department and has visited with Dave Roper, the City's Risk Manager, who is interested in serving on the Safety Committee. He suggested that she learn more about the Mesa County Safety Council. She concluded by informing the Commission that accessibility to the trail is being discussed by the City, County and State Parks in regard to emergencies. Being able to unable to locate and reach individuals on the trail could potentially at serious problem.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

When asked if there were any concerns about the financial statements, Stephanie mentioned the \$2,000 under the revenue section of the budget that was labeled other municipalities. Because it had been agreed that Fruita and Palisade would not become participants until 1997, she questioned whether or not any thought had been given to a source for those funds. She also reminded the Commission that Doralynn Genova had requested, at the April meeting, that a copy of the 1996 budget be sent to Bob Jasper for review. She asked if there had been any response to that information from the County. Bill Prakken asked that he be reminded to give Bob Jasper a call.

A question was asked about the line item in the budget for education concerning its purpose. Stephanie responded that it was primarily to cover the cost of sending her to the State Trails Symposium, but that the funds were not exclusively for staff education.

The issue of billing the Legacy partners for their share of the Legacy Coordinator fees was also mentioned. It was agreed that all those sponsors who had agreed to contribute to the Legacy Coordinator should be invoiced for their 1996 share of the expenses in order to be able to pay Bob Cron in a timely manner.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Bennett Boeschstein reported that progress is being made on the trail link between Fruita and Loma with the help of a \$15,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. Plans for this project should be ready for public inspection by the end of September. Kurt Mill is making progress with the State Park acquisition behind the Devil's Canyon Learning Center and a group from Colorado State University engineering class will be working on the old Fruita bridge to see if it can be rehabilitated for bicycle and pedestrian use. There is also interest on the part of school groups and adults in becoming involved in brush clearing and other initial stages of trail construction.

Bennett also commented on his review of the Club 20 Missing Links report which, in the version he had been given, needed some serious editing. There was some concern expressed regarding the priorities that might be set and what criteria would be used to evaluate the trails that have mapped.

Lynda Boody asked about the Ball in property in Palisade and whether or not the Commission had any serious interest in acquiring it. The consensus from Paul and Bill was that it was not a critical piece. Lynda, who lives quite near to the site, expressed concern because of the undesirable activities that are conducted there. Bill Prakken suggested that Lynda become a committee of one to contact the Town of Palisade to determine their interest in the area and to see what could be done that would be in the best interest of the Town, the adjoining landowners and the Riverfront Commission.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M..