

**Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission  
Urban Trails Committee**

**Minutes**

**December 10, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 P.M. by Co-Chair Bob Cron. Committee members present from the Urban Trails Committee:

Pat Kennedy  
Lenna Watson  
Cindy Burke

Bob Cron  
Mike Heaston

Also present were Shawn Cooper and Stephanie Schmid.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Heaston/Kennedy to approve the minutes of the November meeting with the correction of the starting time for the Commission Retreat which should be 8:30 A.M. not P.M..

Motion was passed.

**Announcements**

The Riverfront Commission's annual retreat, whose purpose is to chart the Commission's course for the next several years, will be held on January 11 at the United Companies hunt club near Fruita. Bob urged Trails Committee members to attend because the Committee's future is closely tied to that of the Commission.

Committee members were also invited to the Commission's December meeting which will involve a brief business meeting followed by refreshments and socializing in honor of the holiday season.

**Old Business**

Tiera Rado Update

Bob reported that he along with Shawn Cooper, Steve Hickman, the Superintendent of the Monument, and a BLM representative met with developer Jack Acuff to talk about an access along the canal on his property to the BLM property and connecting to a trailhead on the Monument. Bob is waiting for permission from Carlos Sauvage of the BLM to cross their land, at which point he feels that he can find volunteers who will help scratch out a trail across the approximately quarter mile from the subdivision to the Monument.

There was discussion regarding Steve Hickman's attitude toward new trails on the Monument. The feeling seemed to be that the policy of "pedestrian traffic only" on the Monument trails was position of the Monument representative while the BLM representative felt that trails should be open to all non-motorized users. Bob suggested that Jack Acuff was not eager to attract trail users from outside the subdivision who would require parking facilities and create traffic problems.

**New Business**

There was no new business to report.

## **Committee Reports**

### Canal Trail Feasibility Study

Regarding the report from Russ Storbo at the October meeting, Bob reported that the promised letter from the BOR outlining their revised position on the canal trails issue had not been received. He asked the Committee for their permission to write a letter to the BOR requesting the letter be sent in a "timely manner". It was decided that the issue of a trail along Government Highline Canal from Indian Wash to Palisade should not be broached until the BOR letter has been received. Bob stated that the BOR has taken the position that they cannot build a trail along this section of the canal without a local sponsor who would take the responsibility for management and maintenance.

### Subdivision Trails

Shawn Cooper informed the Committee that the developer of the Glen at Horizon subdivision has already offered the right-of-way along the canal adjacent to his development for public recreational use. The Grand Valley Irrigation Company has appealed this offer to the planning commission, claiming that the developer has no right to give the land or an easement to the City. Shawn expects that there will probably be a lawsuit filed by GVIC. According to the City attorneys, there is no basis for the suit. The consensus of Committee members was that due process was indeed the best way to resolve the issue.

Shawn also outlined the progress being made on acquiring canal bank right-of-way between Canyon View Park and 25 Road through negotiations with developers of subdivisions in the area.

### Metropolitan Planning Organization

Pat Kennedy reported that the MPO is generally supportive of the efforts of the Urban Trails Committee, but that it is sometimes difficult to understand their process. Bob and Pat agreed that Mark Relph was really the person who is the key to getting bicycle trails established in the valley. Bob added that he and Pat would be meeting with Mark the following day to discuss his plans for trail development over the next few years.

## **Public Comment**

Stephanie asked the Committee to affirm that they wished to continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month so that she could post the meeting schedule for 1997. Several members suggested that the meetings start at 7:00 P.M. instead of 7:30 P.M.. Bob asked that this matter be put on the agenda for discussion at the January meeting.

Mike Heaston asked for an update on the Little Park Preserve site. Shawn reported that a draft copy of the as hoc committee's report is being reviewed, but that a final report would not be ready until next spring. According to Bob, the BLM area manager appears not to be quite so anxious to have the City take over management of the area as she once was and the process of public input will require a period of public comment on the report before a final decision can be made.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.