

**Grand Junction/Mesa County
Riverfront Commission**

Minutes

May 20, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 P.M. by Co-Chairman, Paul Nelson. Those present from the Commission were:

Paul Nelson	Kirk Rider
Judy Kennedy	Carl Zimmerman
Pat Kennedy	Lynda Boody
Bill Findlay	Lenna Watson
Jim Baughman	Lynn James
Earl Payne	

Also present: Bob Cron, Clayton Dause, Brad Taylor, Sue Kalizewski-Gormley, Kristin Kohler, Elvis Guin, Joe Stevens and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Boody/Rider to approve the minutes as submitted with the correction that Judy Kennedy was not present at the April meeting as was indicated in the minutes.

Motion was passed.

Announcements

Paul Nelson introduced Earl Payne, newly appointed ex-officio member of the Commission representing the Grand Junction City Council. He also introduced Kristin Kohler, a Grand Junction High School student who has been working with Stephanie in the Riverfront office to fulfill her community service requirement for her government class.

Stephanie reminded the Commission that the Philanthropy Days social would be held at Cross Orchards on Wednesday, June 4th from 6:00 until 8:00 P.M.. She encouraged members to use this opportunity to meet representatives from a number of foundations which could provide funding for future trail projects.

Lynda Boody provided details on the intergovernmental raft trip, scheduled for Friday, June 13th. Participants are being asked to meet at the Loma boat launch at 7:00 A.M. on that date. A shuttle will be arranged to pick rafters up at the Whitewater ranger station at 5:00 P.M. and return them to their cars at the launch site. Lynda asked that people wishing to go on the trip call her no later than Friday, June 6th. She expressed concern that there might be more rafters than boats because of the enthusiastic response she

had received so far. Kirk Rider mentioned that Earl Rhodes might have a boat that could be used for the trip if it was needed.

Old Business

Climax Mill Tailings Site Master Plan

Joe Stevens reported that R & L Consulting has been hired to do the master plan for the Climax Mill tailings site. He added that the tailings site, along with nine shares of Colorado River water rights have been officially transferred to the City of Grand Junction by the State Health Department.

Name the Bridge Contest

Commission members were provided with a list of the entries for the Name the Bridge contest. A date of Tuesday, May 27th at noon was set for those who would like to participate in the choosing of a name for the new bridge. It was agreed that it would be a brown bag lunch in the conference room at the C.D. Smith Building.

Watson Island Trail Update

Joe Stevens reported that the bids had been opened for construction of the one and a half miles of trail connecting the new bridge to Watson Island and the 5th Street bridge. Discussion ensued as to whether or not there would actually be a surplus of funds for the construction of the extension of the trail. Joe explained that could not be determined at this point and that it would not be up to the Commission to decide what to do with the money if in fact there was any budgeted amount unused.

The Commission considered several possibilities for use of the money if there was any left over. Connecting the remaining trail segments on the east end of Watson Island was suggested. However, the suggestion that garnered the strongest support was the possibility of extending the trail to the east toward 27 ½ Road to the extent that the availability of funds permits.

The Commission was also told of the plan to remove the debris along the east end of the spillway between Watson Island and the north bank of the river. As a result of the Bureau of Reclamation's wetlands mitigation program, this project will be accomplished with little or no cost to the City of Grand Junction.

Old Spanish Trail Easement

Paul Nelson informed the Commission that the Orchard Mesa Irrigation Company has threatened revoke the easement across their property, effectively closing the Old Spanish Trail. The ditch company has stated that granting the easement was conditioned on the approval of a subdivision of the land over which the trail crosses into four parcels. Paul and Judy Kennedy are working with them and the County planning office to facilitate a resolution to the problem that apparently stems from a misunderstanding over the terms of the original agreement. Paul has every expectation that the misunderstanding will be resolved to the satisfaction of all, and that the trail will

not be closed. Carl Zimmerman suggested that Commission members attend a board meeting of the irrigation district to assure them that the matter will be taken care of.

New Business

Jarvis Property Pond

Carl Zimmerman described the options being considered for the development of the pond on the Jarvis property. Parties involved in the discussion include the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the State Soil Conservation Service, the City of Grand Junction and the Riverfront Commission. The goal of the federal agencies is to develop an inundation pond that will provide habitat in which larvae of endangered fish can mature. They want a backwater pond that will avoid impounding stagnant water, but will not be attractive to non-native species which will feed on the larvae. Carl felt that the area has potential for revegetation that could make it an attractive setting for the proposed trail.

Concern was expressed by Commission members and Joe Stevens, representing the City Parks Department, about the cost of maintenance of the site after construction is completed. With the understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation and/or the Fish and Wildlife Service will commit to covering the cost of maintenance of the site, a motion was made in support of Carl's efforts toward construction of the pond.

Motion: P. Kennedy/Boody to state the Commission's support of the backwater pond approach to developing the Jarvis site.

Motion was passed.

Carl informed the Commission that another meeting was scheduled for the coming Friday to discuss the degree of financial participation on the part of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service. He felt that, if the project is to go forward, it will probably happen this summer. He promised to report on the progress of the planning and the level on financial commitment demonstrated by all parties to the project at the June meeting.

American Heritage Rivers

Bob Cron described, to the Commission, the American Heritage Rivers program as proposed by President Clinton in his State of the Nation address this past January. According to Bob, ten rivers or river communities will be selected this fall to be designated as American Heritage Rivers. Funding will come from existing federal programs since no new funding has been earmarked for the project. His feeling is that the recognition would make the possibility of receiving federal funds more likely. Seven federal agencies will participate and positions will be funded to oversee the activities of each area designated as an American Heritage River.

Bob suggested that he take the project to the Legacy Steering Committee and let them decide whether or not they would like to sponsor an application on behalf of all the Colorado River Greenway Legacy Project sponsors. He felt that the Riverfront

organization in combination with the Legacy project would meet the criteria set forth in the proposal and at least for the first couple of years it could be beneficial to participate. He pointed out that there could be a downside to the program in that politics and federal bureaucracy could influence the outcome of the awards and their administration. He admitted that as yet there was no information on possible match requirements or if or how a nominee could withdraw after being selected. His recommendation was that they should try for selection as one of the first ten. There was no action taken by the Commission with the understanding that Bob would report on the Legacy Steering Committee's decision at the next meeting.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Stephanie reported that the bridge dedication committee had suggested that the bridge dedication and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Commission/Foundation should be two separate events. She asked Commission members for their thoughts on the type of event they would like to see planned to mark the occasion. After some discussion, the consensus of the group was that they agreed with the suggestion to make the anniversary a separate celebration and supported the idea of charging for the refreshments or meal. No formal action was taken on the discussion.

Hidden Lake Trail Acquisition

Paul explained that a drainage area or wash between D Road and the river, adjacent to the Hidden Lakes site, may be offered to the Riverfront organizations for the development of open space and a trail link which would connect to the No Thoroughfare Canyon to the river. The current owners, Redlands Water and Power, apparently have no desire to retain the property. According to Paul, the majority of the property owners in the area are in support of the prospect of open space and a trail being developed under the auspices of the Riverfront Commission. He asked for comment from the Commission. Members seemed to be in support of the idea. He promised to keep the Commission informed of the progress on this acquisition.

Committee Reports

Orchard Mesa Bridge

Carl reported that he has walked across the bridge and that construction is on schedule and within budget. The handrail is all that remains to be done. Work on surfacing the trail on the south bank will begin in a week and a half.

Urban Trails Committee

Bob Cron announced that the Urban Trails Master Plan has been adopted by the Grand Junction City Council and he is working on its adoption by the County. He mentioned the editorial feature in the Sentinel presenting the two sides of the canal trail issue and that written responses to his request for support of canal trails was slim. He added that he and Pat had sent a letter to Senator Wayne Allard in support of the reauthorization of ISTEA and that Main Street has been striped with bicycle lanes.

Legacy Update

Bob reported that they are waiting on the land exchange between Redlands Water & Power and the B.L.M. in order to finish the Redlands boat takeout. The low bidder on the fence has agreed to move up the scheduled start date to comply with Elam's request. The final report on the Old Fruita Bridge has been submitted by the CSU engineering students, leaving only the matching funds to be raised in order to begin renovation. The evaluation of the Hidden Lakes acquisition is being coordinated between the state Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Safety Committee

Lenna Watson noted that the Safety Committee is working on user friendly trail markings that will indicate distances from the trailheads. State Parks has started a trail host program and Grand Junction is working on starting one in the near future. The comment card boxes are in place and are awaiting the cards which will be printed by the City print shop. Safety signs will soon be placed at each trailhead to encourage users to observe basic trail safety and courtesy. She announced that her personal goal is to locate pay telephones along the trails.

Bridge & Trail Dedication Committee

In Bill Prakken's absence, Stephanie outlined plans for the bridge dedication ceremony scheduled for August 14th. The Committee's decision was to hold the ceremony during the lunch hour on a weekday in hopes of attracting the greatest number of people. In addition to the usual ribbon cutting and speeches, they plan to offer lunch-like refreshments, give away souvenir mugs and have some sort of festive entertainment.

Trail Maps Committee

Lynda Boody reported that she, Judy Kennedy and Bill Findlay had met and are in the process of mapping the trails using GPS information. She has also talked with the City print shop where she learned that they could do two color printing for \$.08 per page. She asked the Commission whether they would object to the use of advertising on the map pages to help fund the project. In response to several suggestions from Commission members, Brad Taylor urged that they consider which sponsors would be appropriate.

Motion: Watson/P. Kennedy to seek sponsors to pay for the printing of 10,000 new trail maps.

Motion was passed.

Administration

Financial Report

Stephanie reported that Grand Junction, Mesa County, Fruita and Palisade have all paid their 1997 sponsorship commitments in full.

Public Comment

Because of the late hour, there was no public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M..

APPROVED: _____
DATE: _____
BY: _____