

GRAND JUNCTION/MESA COUNTY
RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

MINUTES

December 17, 1996

The December meeting of the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission was called to order at 7:34 P.M. by Co-Chair Bill Prakken. Those in attendance from the Commission:

Paul Nelson	Pat Kennedy
Bill Prakken	Bill Findlay
Lynda Boody	Carl Zimmerman
Lynn James	Bennett Boeschenstein
Jeanette Maim-Goecke	Jack Yates
Lenna Watson	Kirk Rider

Also present were: Bob Cron, Joe Stevens and Stephanie Schmid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Kennedy/Watson to approve the minutes of the November meeting as submitted with the correction of the spelling of name of one guest from O'Shea to Shea per Pat Kennedy.

Motion was passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly appointed members of the Riverfront Commission, Bill Findlay and Jeanette Main-Goecke were introduced and welcomed to the meeting by Bill Prakken.

Commission members were reminded of the importance of attending the annual retreat on January 11th. The topics of the retreat will be "wither the Riverfront Commission?" and an effort to identify near term priorities for the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Blue Heron Lake

Paul Nelson reported on the efforts of Russ Walker and his environmental education students at Mesa State College to assess the problems at Blue Heron Lake. They are working on accumulating twelve months of data on the site. They invited a number of people with an interest in the lake to a brown bag lunch to discuss their findings thus far. Owners of the businesses adjacent to the lake were included as well as representatives of city, state and federal entities concerned about wildlife habitat and

public health. Those attending agreed that something should be done to improve the situation, but none of the alternatives were favored at this time. The group agreed to meet quarterly, continue to study the lake and look for solutions. The US Fish and Wildlife agency may have some funding for improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Orchard Mesa Bridge

Carl Zimmerman reported that the bids (\$770,928) for the bridge construction were substantially over the engineer's estimates and \$239,000 more than had been budgeted for the project. A total of \$21,800 in additional funding has been committed by Mesa County (\$12,000) and the State Trails Committee (\$9,800). The City of Grand Junction has decided to make up the difference of approximately \$216,000 from their contingency funds and has added a 5% contingency to cover any additional overages.

Carl emphasized to the group that there are a lot of people who should be thanked for their part making this project possible. Bill Prakken pointed out that Carl should also be recognized for his efforts in keeping things on track. The fact that the city council recognizes the importance of the bridge to the Colorado River Trail system is gratifying.

It was suggested that a ground breaking ceremony be organized for the bridge. A committee of Paul Nelson, Carl Zimmerman, Lynda Boody and Jeanette Main-Goecke was appointed to plan the event.

Urban Trails Committee

Pat Kennedy reported that the last month had been relatively quiet for the Urban Trails Committee. He and Bob Cron met with Public Works Manager, Mark Relph, to discuss projects planned by the city for 1997. Bob Cron added that discussions are continuing with Jack Acuff who is developing the Seasons subdivision. Jack is planning a trail along a canal on the property to the BLM held public lands and has asked the Urban Trails Committee to participate in the process. According to Bob, there is quite a bit of interest in a trail that would run inside the Monument property that would connect to the BLM and Seasons trails.

Legacy Update

Bob Cron informed the Commission that the final language for the Master Agreement with GOCO has been agreed upon and is being reviewed by the sponsors who will be receiving cash. He hopes the signing of the document will be completed by the middle of January. He reported that the final document does provide exemption from liability for individual members of the Commission.

He added that the dialog is continuing in Fruita concerning the alternatives for the Fruita to Kokopelli trail, no decision has yet been made.

Bob also reported that GOCO has requested an application from the Legacy Steering Committee for round three of the Legacy program. The deadline for this round is January 17th. There is a total of \$9 million in this round with a total of eleven projects applying for the funds. Bob promised a draft of the request will be sent to the sponsor representatives by the end of the year. The next Legacy Steering Committee meeting will be on January 8th when the request will be discussed. He emphasized that GOCO's priority seems to be acquisition of open space and that is what he will highlight in his proposal to the committee.

Safety Committee

Lenna Watson outlined current activities of the Safety Committee. Ariel photos of the trail have been acquired to pinpoint areas that are in need of safety improvements. Plans are being laid to install quick response facility improvement cards which will encourage trail users to notify the entities responsible for maintenance of hazardous conditions on the trail. Finally, the committee is working on developing a system to simplify locating trail users who are in need of assistance, emergency or otherwise.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Report

Stephanie pointed out that the only thing of note in the financial statements was that fact that the Commission has spent more in paying the Legacy Coordinator than it has received leaving a receivable of \$395.83. All of the Coordinator funds for 1996 have been received except for the GOCO share and the two state agencies, Parks and DOW who will pay Bob Cron directly. The signing of the Master Agreement and receipt of the GOCO share will more than cover the deficit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Yates requested a letter of support for a US Forest Service grant for a bridge to cross the Grand Valley Canal to access the new river park at the end of Logan Street in Palisade. This location will become the main entrance to the park and will accommodate both vehicular and bicycle/pedestrian traffic. Bob Cron agreed to write the letter on behalf of the Legacy Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M. for refreshments .