

Grand Junction/Mesa County  
Riverfront Commission

245-0045

Minutes

July 17, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 P.M. by acting Chair, Pat Kennedy. Those present from the Commission were:

Judy Kennedy	Pat Kennedy
Jeanette Main-Goecke	Earl Payne
Lynn James	Carl Zimmerman
Bill Findlay	Jim Baughman
Lenna Watson	

Also present were Bob Cron, Brad Taylor, Elvis Guin, Joe Stevens, Clayton Dause, Lynn Green, Kristin Winn, Dusty Dunbar and Stephanie Schmid.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Kennedy/Watson to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was passed.

**Announcements**

The bridge dedication is scheduled for Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Pat informed the group that the Foundation board had indicated that they would prefer to have the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the bridge dedication on the same day. Commission members did not agree and felt that they should be two separate events. The consensus was that plans should go forward with a September date to mark the Commission's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Riverfront Run and Walk will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Connected Lakes State Park. Discussion revealed that the preference was for giving out the awards at the race site rather than at Oktoberfest later in the day. Suggestions for food offerings other than cold fried chicken and potato salad were requested.

**Old Business**

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

It was decided that Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> would be the date. Carl Zimmerman suggested that someone from the Foundation participate in the planning effort. Pat asked Jeanette to act as the chairperson for planning of the event. Location and menu were also discussed. Because there is no budget for the event, it was decided that guests be asked to pay for their dinners. Pat estimated that somewhere in the

neighborhood of \$10 to \$12 per person would be adequate to cover the costs for the dinner.

### Name the Bridge Contest

Joe Stevens reported that the City Council has not chosen any of the suggestions made by the Commission for a name for the bicycle/pedestrian bridge. They have requested that another recommendation be made by the Commission. He informed Commission members that Council had selected the name Las Colonias for the future park on the former mill tailings site. After some discussion, it was decided that the name Orchard Mesa Pedestrian Bridge was the first choice.

*Motion:* Main-Goecke/Findlay to recommend to City Council that the bridge be named the Orchard Mesa Pedestrian Bridge. The motion was passed.

*Motion:* Zimmerman/Findlay to make a second choice for the bridge name Old Mill Bridge. The motion was passed.

### **New Business**

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Meetings

Dave Sokur was not present, but Bob Cron explained that Dave, who is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is charged with the responsibility of acquiring properties or easements for endangered fish. According to Bob, he has funds for acquisitions that may dovetail with Riverfront Commission and Legacy projects.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Orchard Mesa Pedestrian Bridge

Carl commented that after having floated under the new bridge, he is impressed with the way the colors on the bridge blend in with the surroundings. The lighting on the deck is in place, but the light poles on the trail are not finished. Pat asked if there would be lights on the trail on the north side of the river. Carl replied that he didn't think so. Joe Stevens informed the Commission that plans for Eagle Rim Park include construction of the first phase in the spring of 1999 with Legacy dollars funding a portion if it. The source of the remainder of the funding for the project has yet to be identified. Carl reported that wind erosion at the Eagle Rim site has become a problem that needs to be dealt with.

#### Urban Trails Committee

Bob Cron reported that bike lane striping by the City continues. Gunnison, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Unawep were three streets mentioned. He and Pat Kennedy are working on filling the vacancies created by Yeulin Willett's resignation and the expansion of the size of the Committee. Two of the three vacancies have been filled by appointment of Jamie Lummis and Paul Teal. The third candidate is also an applicant for the Parks

Advisory Board and has asked that they wait until that appointment has been made to make their final decision.

#### Legacy Update

Bob Cron provided the Commission with an update of all the accomplishments of the Legacy partners since the \$4.5 million was awarded by GOCO last year. His report is attached to these minutes. Discussion followed pointing out the need to make the public more aware of the Legacy accomplishments. Several suggestions were made including developing a traveling display of before and after pictures and using occasions such as the bridge dedication to publicize the contributions to the community made by the Riverfront Commission and the Legacy project.

#### Safety Committee

The proposed safety sign was circulated among Commission members for their comment. Stephanie reported that Fruita has asked that Fruita's name be added to riverfront logo before they agree to display the sign on their trails. Commission members agreed that that was a reasonable request. Lenna described the Committee's plans for marking the trail for the purpose of locating trail users in need of emergency assistance. She is in the process of raising an estimated \$1500 needed to pay for the materials to mark the trails. Stephanie reported that she has learned that the cost of the posts is going to be significantly higher than originally thought. She was more comfortable with a \$2500 estimate for the project. Joe Stevens pointed out that checking on other sources and getting competitive prices for the posts may prove to be worthwhile. Judy Kennedy added that the sheriff's posse plans to patrol the Old Spanish Trail on horseback on an irregular basis. Lenna added that they also plan to patrol the riverfront trails as well. Visibility rather than enforcement is the goal of this effort.

#### Bridge Dedication Committee

Stephanie reported that the Colorado Lottery is providing \$1000 in cash, \$150 for advertising, cups, plates, napkins, balloons, helium and a costume character for the dedication. The Foundation was asked at their July meeting whether or not they would be willing to help pay for the dedication. Their response was that the Commission could pay for it.

The commemorative mugs for the dedication need to be ordered immediately. Stephanie asked Commission members what they would like to have on the mug. The phrase "I helped build the bridge", the riverfront logo and a picture of the bridge were all suggested. Joe Stevens offered to supply tables and chairs from the parks department to help reduce the costs. He also offered to supply the public address system. It was suggested that the contractors for the bridge be approached for contributions toward the cost of the dedication.

#### Trail Maps Committee

Those Committee members present were unsure as to what was happening with the trail map. They thought that they were probably waiting on BLM staff to work with the

G.I.S. information they have collected. They were not sure if the Palisade trail had been mapped.

#### **Administration**

#### **Financial Report**

There was no discussion of the financial statements.

#### **Public Comment**

Rob Reece spoke for a group of residents adjacent to No Thoroughfare wash who are interested in cleaning up the site and resolving conflicts concerning the location of property lines in the area. Redlands Water and Power is the current owner of the wash and they have asked the Riverfront Commission if they are interested in accepting the site as a donation. The Commission's interest in the property stems from the fact that it could connect the Tabeguache trailhead and Monument Road to the river trails. Mr. Reece stated that Redlands Water and Power held an easement on the property while others present understood that they owned it. It was agreed that the issue of ownership needed to be clarified.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M..

Annual accomplishment  
Colorado Riverfront Greenway Legacy Project

Two years ago, began to put together coalition to seek Legacy grant  
May 22, 1996 awarded a three year grant of \$4.5 million  
Thirteen partners about \$11 million - cash, in-kind  
Often more than one partner

Palisade - clean-up, clear River Bend Park, planted 500 trees and shrubs  
repair 0.25 existing trails flood water damage, seal cracks this summer  
Negotiating for DOE bridge

State Parks - acquiring riverfront 31 - 27 1/2 Road  
one parcel left to 29 1/2, working with owners to 27 1/2  
Trail construction 30 1/2 to 30 Road - under contract  
Park improvements - Island acres, Corn, Colorado River Wildlife Area  
under contract  
Fruita Riverfront Park - Appraisal Corn, WCCI done; contract to AG.  
ALL WITHOUT CONTRACT

DOW - Watchable wildlife site, 14 acre ag easement Grand Junction Wildlife Area  
Horsethief  
North side of Orchard Mesa bridge  
Land purchase in out years- working on Hidden Lakes parcel w/ GJ, W&WS  
AGAIN LIMITED BY NO CONTRACT

BLM - Acquired 320 acres Flume Canyon  
Redlands Boat Takeout land exchange  
Elam contributed access road, parking, trail  
Fence done, Signs???  
Pollack Trailhead done

Mesa County - Ostranger purchase 207 acres, BLM appraisal - First project  
Sidewalk along Broadway connecting to trails to river  
Underpass - Ridges Blvd  
Whitewater DOE parcel, BLM partner - 109 acres

BOR - Extensive habitat improvement projects at Colorado River, Grand Junction  
and Horsethief Wildlife  
Purchase of 154 acre riverfront parcel - across from Colorado River Wildlife  
Purchase of 487 acres riverfront DeBeque

MCLC - 14 acre conservation easement next to GJ Wildlife Area  
negotiating for 5 1/2 acre vineyard south bluff of Palisade

GJ - Orchard Mesa Bridge

Connect trail to 5th and 7th - Under contract (State Parks)

DDA Las Colonias Park - contract underway for master plan - GJ partner

Botanical Gardens - education building and native butterfly house nearing completion

Outdoor garden - Landscaping shaping continuing, water lines in

Acquired the lot west of structure

NO GOCO. DESERVE OUR SUPPORT

Fruita - Donation of four acres along Little Salt Wash

\$15,000 donated trail work Little Salt Wash

Completed a design analysis for Old Fruita Bridge

With BOR completed analysis of routes from Fruita to Loma Boat

Negotiating with refinery site for acquisition of portion of north route

Mesa County, SP

S.D. #51 - Palisade H.S. - Completed bridge over canal

Observation structure build this summer

Pond construction - overbid

Students captured first place state wildlife habitat Evaluation competition

Grand Junction H.S. - purchased river evaluation equip. for their river science program

Mt. Garfield M.S. - Completed access road and parking last spring

Information kiosk done

AmeriCorps constructing foot bridge, wetlands platform

Columbus E.S. - Completed site improvements

teacher training and materials

A great year leading to our tenth anniversary

My pleasure working with all the partners

All deserve your thanks, next time you see