

**Grand Junction/Mesa County
Riverfront Commission**

245-0045

Minutes

August 17, 1997

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Paul Nelson. Those present from the Commission were:

Judy Kennedy	Pat Kennedy
Lynda Boody	Bill Prakken
Paul Nelson	Dusty Dunbar
Bill Findlay	Jack Yates
Lenna Watson	Jeanette Main-Goecke

Also present were Sue Gormley, Bob Cron, Brad Taylor, Don Hobbs, Lynn Green, Clayton Dause, Carlos Sauvage, Jennifer Ely, Rob Reece, Dave Sokur and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: P. Kennedy/Findlay to approve the minutes of the July meeting as submitted. Motion was passed.

Announcements

Paul Nelson introduced Dusty Dunbar, the Commission's newest member. He added that he, Judy Kennedy and Jeanette Main-Goecke were reappointed by the same action of the Grand Junction City Council, Fruita City Council, Palisade Town Board and Mesa County Commissioners. All four were appointed for three year terms.

The Great Outdoors Colorado reception will be held on September 9th at Connected Lakes State Park from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. It will be an opportunity to meet GOCO board members and staff and discuss Legacy and other riverfront projects.

September 18th is the date that has been chosen for the celebration of the Riverfront Commission's 10th anniversary.

The County Planning Commission will consider adoption of the Urban Trails Master Plan on Thursday, September 25th at the City/County Auditorium. Members of the Urban Trails Committee encourage attendance by all those interested in seeing proposed canal bank trails continue to be a part of the plan.

The 10th Annual Riverfront Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th. Members were encouraged to take posters to display at their offices and applications to distribute to their friends and coworkers.

Old Business

No Thoroughfare Wash

Bill Prakken advised the Commission that the Redlands Water and Power Company has offered to give the property known as No Thoroughfare Wash to the Colorado Riverfront Foundation. Unfortunately, he explained, there are some problems with one of the residents who has attempted to adversely possess his neighbors' properties, including the Redlands Water and Power property. There has been a new survey commissioned, but whether or not it will be completed is uncertain at this time. Criminal charges are pending against the neighbor who has been claiming more than his rightful share of the territory for trespass, harassment and a few other things. The outcome of this action is unknown. Bill suggested that a firm commitment from the Foundation to take title to the property should be the next step. Their next meeting is scheduled for October. He noted that there has been a cleanup effort and stakes have been set to help establish the boundaries of the Redlands Water and Power property interest. He asked area residents present at the meeting to keep the Commission informed as to what is going on. He also advised them the having the Foundation assume ownership of the wash would not guarantee a resolution of the conflict with their neighbor.

10th Anniversary Celebration

Jeanette Main-Goecke reported that she, Pat Kennedy and Stephanie Schmid had met prior to the Commission meeting to discuss plans for the anniversary dinner. Two sites were considered, Connected Lakes and the Botanical Gardens. Jeanette and Pat plan to look at both sites before deciding. Bennett's Barbecue will provide the food with a menu of chicken and brisket. Beer and wine will be provided, and a sheet cake with a happy anniversary message will complete the meal. Pat asked Don Hobbs if chairs and tables could be borrowed from the City. Sue Gormley offered the County's new canopy for the event. Bill Prakken suggested that a budget be developed. Pat responded that he hoped that the cost could be kept under \$15 per person. Bill asked if there were any plans to use Commission funds to help pay for the dinner. Lynda Boody offered to donate the cost of printing and mailing the invitations courtesy of the BLM.

New Business

Public Service Property

Sue Gormley, with Mesa County, described a triangular shaped parcel adjacent to the Brach's property that the County may be able to have because of a land use decision allowing Redlands Power to construct a power transmission line back in 1987. She assumed that there would be interest on the part of the Commission in acquiring the property and wanted to know what expectations the Commission might have for its use if the County did acquire it. She had not received a response from the Commissioners to her memo regarding the acquisition. She asked the Riverfront Commission whom they thought should own it. If the County agrees to accept the parcel, the County Assessor will provide an appraisal and a letter of interest will be generated.

The Commission's response to Sue's inquiry was that they hoped that the site could be used for parking for the Audubon trailhead. Paul added that a trash container and possibly a portable toilet would be appreciated, but were not absolutely necessary. This use would require very little in the way of improvements other than removal of the concrete pads that supported the transformers. Bill Findlay suggested the possibility of a playground along the trail to attract more people to the area. It was suggested that Sue test the waters with the Commissioners to determine their interest in the possibility of future improvements at the site.

Grand Mesa Slopes Open Space Grant Application

Carlos Sauvage informed Commission members that he has been working on a number of property acquisitions and exchanges in the Grand Mesa Slopes area. He defined the area as including everything from the Gunnison River east to Powderhorn Ski Area and from Palisade south to Lands End Road. There are three parcels in the Halls Basin part of G.M.S. that are for sale by owners who are willing to make their properties part of the Grand Mesa Slopes conservancy. He reported that the City of Grand Junction is willing to sponsor a GOCO open space grant application that would help finance the purchases.

He added that the BLM has money to do some of the preliminary title work and hazardous materials inspections. If BLM owns the conservation easement on the newly purchased properties, it will be willing to put in some cash toward the needed match and the value of the Somerville Ranch conservation easement will also provide matching dollars for the grant request. The City would hold title to the land.

Carlos asked Commission members if they knew of any other entity in the valley that was planning to make application to GOCO for open space money. No one present was aware of any applications. He also asked for a letter of support from the Commission for the grant application. Barring any conflicts with Legacy partners who might be seeking open space funds from GOCO, the Commission endorsed his acquisition efforts and agreed to provide a letter of support for the grant request.

Committee Reports

Paul began this part of the meeting by noting the absence of an Orchard Mesa Bridge committee report on the agenda. He added that he had erred at the dedication ceremony in failing to recognize Stephanie for her preparations that helped make the dedication of the bridge and trail a success.

Urban Trails Committee

Bob Cron announced that the ninth member of the Urban Trails Committee has been appointed. Bob Ferrante, with Colorado National Bank, is the third new member of the Committee. He stated that he is pleased with the energy that has come to the Committee with the addition of the new members.

The Urban Trails Master Plan, proposed as an amendment to the Multi-Modal Plan, is scheduled to be considered by the County Planning Commission on the evening of

September 25th, and it will be presented to the County Commissioners on October 14th at 9:00 A.M.. According to Bob, the only controversial item in the plan is the inclusion of canal banks as potential trail alignments. The canal companies very much want the canal banks taken out of the plan while the Urban Trails Committee feels strongly that the staff recommendation to include those potential transportation routes in the plan should be supported. He reminded everyone that the proposal is dependent on the underlying landowners providing an easement or right-of-way for the trail. It is the intention of the Committee to encourage citizen participation in those meetings to let the Planning Commission and the County Commissioners know that they support the use of canal bank for trails.

A retreat has been scheduled for the Urban Trails Committee on Tuesday, November 11th from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.. The plan is to identify the Committee's objectives and goals for the coming year. Bill Prakken and Paul Nelson were invited to join them in their deliberations.

Paul asked the Committee to consider the possibilities of a link between the new bridge and the Old Spanish Trail. Bob responded that there is a route identified on the Multi-Modal plan that includes Unaweep which will have striped bicycle lanes when it is finished. There is, however, no plan for lanes on 28 or 28 ½ Roads to connect to the Old Spanish Trail.

Bob reported that Joe Crocker informed him that it is not County policy to stripe bike lanes, in spite of indications to the contrary in the Multi-Modal Plan. Pat Kennedy added that Doug Cline will be the ex-officio member of the Urban Trails Committee representing the City's Public Works Department.

Legacy Update

Bob Cron reported that the trail from 5th Street to 7th Street is very close to being done. City Council has approved a change order to extend the trail to the east to 27 ½ Road and to close the loop on the trail damaged by high water on Watson Island. The Botanical Society is in the process of planting \$12,000 worth of new plants, and they are working on shaping the mountains on the south side of the building which will exhibit vegetation native to the alpine to desert biomes. The Redlands boat takeout work is done but the ownership transfer has not been completed. Bob closed his report with the news that, at long last, the Agreement between Great Outdoors Colorado and the Legacy Steering Committee has been signed by all parties and is official.

Safety Committee

Lenna Watson introduced Frank Kochevar and Rick Corsi with Mesa County who are helping with the labeling of the trails for emergency location. Frank has used GPS to locate the trail on air photos. He has also located the quarter mile road markers and the intersections of those markers with the trails for the Redlands Loop portion of the Riverfront trail. He plans to locate the real-time points on the trail and put an aluminum nail and washer that will have the grid number stamped on it. The proposed Carsonite markers can then be installed at those points.

Questions regarding distance were raised as to what point would be determined to be the starting point or zero and would the markers show distance in both directions. It was explained that the distance between the markers would not be consistent because the trail doesn't run parallel to the grid lines. Marking the distance from both ends of the trail was encouraged. The possibility of using Rick and Frank's work for the basis of the trail map was also discussed. Paul and Lenna both thanked for their interest and help with the marking project.

Trail Map Committee

According to Lynda Boody, they are working on downloading the GPS information into the County's computer system. She said she would like to wait until the new air photography is done in order to have several options for overlays of the trail system. Dave Sokur reported that Fish and Wildlife has flown and photographed the river at high water stage, and that they would be willing to share that information. He was asked to find out about cost of acquiring copies of these photos. Lynda also asked for input from the Commission on what kind of information members would like to see on the map.

Administration

Financial Report

Stephanie made a brief explanation of the new and improved budget report afforded by the change to Quick Books accounting software. She also reminded the Commission that both the City and County have requested budget changes for 1998 and 1999.

Public Comment

Lynn Green with the Junior Service League asked Stephanie what was expected of her organization in regard to the Riverfront Run. Stephanie replied that an organizational meeting had been proposed and that they should get together at the close to the Commission meeting.

Clayton Dause, Botanical Society liaison assured Commission members that they would be more than welcome to have the 10th anniversary dinner at the Botanic Gardens site.

Rob Reece informed the group of the Bluffs Five, which is a new running event planned for November 1st. He claimed that it will be the largest cash paying race in Grand Junction. There will be a loop on the Old Spanish Trail and the Bluffs trail and will include a five mile run and a two mile fun walk. The purpose of the event is to promote trails in that area. Bob Cron encouraged him to contact residents in the area to avoid any misunderstandings on the day of the race. Paul suggested that he also contact Orchard Mesa Irrigation since the right-of-way on that part of the trail is not yet secured.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 P.M.