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NOV 14 1997

**Grand Junction, Mesa County, City of Fruita, Town of Palisade
Riverfront Commission**

245-0045

Minutes

October 21, 1997

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

Pat Kennedy	Bill Prakken
Paul Nelson	Lenna Watson
Judy Kennedy	Jeanette Main-Goecke
Bill Findlay	Linda Boody
Jim Baughman	Joe Stevens
Bennett Boeschstein	Carl Zimmerman
Dusty Dunbar	

Also present were Kurt Mill, Elvis Guin, Bob Cron, Christine Joslyn, Bill Chenoweth, Clayton Dause, Carlos Sauvage, Brad Taylor, Rob Reece, Audra Pflughoeft and Michele Bertron.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from last meeting were never typed.

Announcements

Retreat will be Saturday, January 17th, 1998 at 8:30am at the Hunt Club (18 Rd & River Rd). Be thinking of topics for discussion. Tim Sarmo will be the facilitator.

Introduced new Administrative Assistant, Michele Bertron.

Riverfront Commission nominated for El Pomar Excellence in Non-Profit Management by Tillie Bishop, Sam Saplizio. Announcement luncheon Friday, November 14th in Colorado Springs. Only organization to be nominated twice. Will receive at least \$1,000.

Old Business

Carlos Sauvage reported that Greg Hoskins reported that he is very close with paperwork.

Sue Gormley reported status with county survey for Old Spanish Trail along canal on Orchard Mesa.

New Business

Eagle Rim Park Status

Joe Stevens said project still going to happen, but has been deferred 1 year, not in '98-'99 City budget-not looking as this will be entered in the 1999-2000 budget due to cash flow challenge. Some council members interested in some activity like ground breaking in '98.

Paul Nelson asked Bob Cron if this postponement would be a problem with GOCO. Bob said it depends on how far back it's pushed. Legacy doesn't happen until 7/1/99.

Bill Prakken asked if cost would go up if delayed. It was suggested sending a memo to council urging not to delay from original schedule. Carl Zimmerman second, stating more erosion, dust, neighborhood quality. Motion passed.

Carl Zimmerman reported on workday, highway department donated 160 posts, had over 50 people, ages 10 – 70+ put in 99 posts. Middle school will be stringing cable Saturday the 11th.

Eagle Rim workday – bought under for over 50 – debated whether to continue 27 3/8 west along canal bank. Meeting with Jim Rooks, Orchard Mesa Irrigation Executive Director to put in gate.

Joe Stevens said Floyd (troll) had complained regarding trespass. Carl suggested trying to appease him with a gate (used to be one there).

Paul commended Joe and City on Unawep. Joe Stevens glommed onto GOCO project maps.

Javis Property Status Report

Carl Zimmerman recognized Patty Schrader, US Fish and Wildlife. Passed out articles from Daily Sentinel on Jarvis Property. City had \$50,000 grant from EPA (Water Quality). Next priority is connected through Jarvis to Corn Lakes. Showed progress (visually) since 1947 (as an island flood channel), 1954 more vegetated. Gravel mining caused hole dug to present depth, used for landfill about contemporary with tailings which covered.

Cars removed by DOE, dug site out to remove tailings.

City decided whether to receive payment of \$254,00 in lieu of rehab. Water level higher than river, subsurface flow, water quality poor. USF&W interested in creating backwater habitat. Proposed breaking dike, drain in low water, fill in high water. Concerns: dike limited, not close to meeting FEMA requirements. Considered building FEMA approved dike just north of property to more defensible area, \$250,000 price tag.

Carl indicated sign change in last 50 years – valuable, ideal location for trail (on set bade dike near bridge site under 5th Street bridge) good view of the confluence area.

Bill Prakken said suggestion had been made to put trail on existing dike but not most scenic spot as it is away from river. Suggested putting in a second trail of crushed gravel.

Carl Zimmerman concerned about commentary of endangered fish versus people, he sees it as a win—win. USF&W willing to give \$200,000 to help create pond – spoke to expenses that City would incur if was not done by USF&W. City Council voted to accept the \$50,000 grant from EPA but wanted more time to consider rest of project.

Bill Prakken expressed that Riverfront concerns here were with having a trail through the area.

Bill Findlay mentioned that of the three options, this was best to have – salty pond, unsafe dike or rehab.

Bob Cron reminded that there is a 9:30am meeting at Bureau of Reclamation regarding this project. Carl Zimmerman will attend. Patty Schrader stated that this is not just a fish project but is a rehab of riparian environment.

\$50,000 is water quality money to try to handle containment's.

Other qualities of project discussed: viewscape, riparian restoration.

Carl Zimmerman would like to see Riverfront Commission support this project with letter. Bill Prakken stated that Riverfront Commission has not been to involve itself with uses adjacent to river and concentrate on trails.

Bill Prakken motioned to discuss further. Lenna Watson second. Motion passed.

Christmas celebration will be discussed further at Tuesday, November 18th meeting. December 16th meeting will be quick, lightweight then social hour. Plans will be made at November meeting.

Bill Prakken – Riverfront Foundation made decision to pitch in \$50,000 on Old Mill Bridge. In late 1996 citizens made \$12,000 in contributions via Enterprise Zone, earmarked for OM project. Question for Foundation, is this money in the \$50,000 part or in addition to the \$50,000 commitment? City thinks it is getting \$62,000. Bill Findlay stated via Brian Mahoney that it was part. Carl Zimmerman thinks the Council is expecting \$62,000.

Carl Zimmerman stated that he requested , contacted Sasha at State Trails; received \$9,800, urged seeking funds for new projects.

Carl moved to request Riverfront Foundation to pay \$61,700 to the City of Grand Junction, Linda Booty second. A discreet questioning by Bill Prakken to see what commitment actually was suggested by Judy Kennedy. Seconded by Lenna Watson. Amendment passed. Motion passed.

Fruita update by Bennett Boeschstein, thanked Riverfront Commission for support for \$150,000 request for both Legacy and State Historic Funds (Fruita Bridge is on National Registry), has old highway and good cooperation from Alan Baica.

Christine Joslyn, college intern, is doing inventory of riverfront parcels west of Fruita.

Refinery - still working with proposal with County to gain land along river. Examining cleanup/reuse plan.

Little Salt Wash Trail – River Road/I-70 connection seeks signing on Grand Junction section on River Road from Redland Parkway to 20 Rd. Fruita section signed, US 6 Highway bike route, Colorado Bikeways Route.

Kurt Mill, State Park, state park in Fruita finalizing contract with Corn Construction. Hazardous waste cleanup done. Seeking non-profit partner to donate a portion for tractor museum (Chris Bennetts). Bruce Wells feels property is underappraised – stand still. 60 acres with some commercial value zoned AFT.

Elvis Guin, Palisade, stated mowing and fencing have been done around riverfront project. Kids using area. Beavers at work. Tamarisk eradication – specific to tamarisk.

Committee Reports

Urban Trails Committee

Pat Kennedy attended September 25th County Planning Meeting regarding trails. County accepted Urban Trails plan, canal banks highlighted with disclaimer, felt a reasonable compromise. Want continuity of trails from City to County, close to being approved, will be heard November 25th.

Wish ex-officio City Council for Urban Trails Committee, either Jade Scott or Reford Theobald would attend meetings.

Discussed Urban Trails retreat November 11th. 15 issues have been identified from which to choose three through five.

Paul Teal reported on underpass at 30 Road, bicycle path needed and road too narrow. Bridge planned for 2004. Presented artist's conceptions.

Jody Klisha mentioned bike map funding available for Urban Grand Junction using multi-modal plan.

Discussed Los Colonias plan – good turnout.

Jim Stevens mentioned various options and continued input, will bring to next Riverfront Commission meeting.

Legacy Committee

November 5th meeting at 1:30pm at Riverfront Commission office. Decide whether to apply for nomination as American Heritage River – will send information packet.

Whitewater property may have closed with County; Island Acres and Corn have more improvements and more trail 30 ½ to 30 Road.

County Lottery Money – projects related – Botanical Gardens, (included riverfront parking) Orchard Mesa Neighborhood Coalition (bank stabilization), Palisade High School ponds, mile marker signs along riverfront trail.

Safety

Carsonite sign project. Working on trailhead signs with distance. GIS markers are in place. No new report on map.

Administration

No discussion of financial reports.

Sue Gormley wishes to have budget requests for County with more lead-time.

Public Comment

Rob Reece – no Thoroughfare Wash; fence up with Redlands Power. Neighborhood supportive; cleanup underway.

Bluffs Five Race at Gunnison Bluffs, 5 mile run, 2 mile hike.

New trailhead, view of Gunnison River,

Clayton Dause reminded everyone about the Botanical Gardens grand opening on November 8th, 10am – 5pm, first free day.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm.

10:12, 12, 12, 12, 12

To: *City Council,*Department Heads,*All Parks Users
From: Shawn Cooper
Subject: Watson Island Channel Cleanup
Date: 11/5/97 Time: 10:23AM

Through a very creative effort, we are currently completing a tremendous clean up effort along the channel which isolates Watson Island from the Botanical Garden Site. Last spring we were approached by Mr. Randy Snyder from the Corps of Engineers about a contractor in the Paonia area who was required to perform wetland mitigation work. Mr. Snyder and I had talked the previous winter about the need to clean up the area, so he recommended the contractor perform the mitigation work on this site. The work has included removing all of the "visible" concrete and debris from the south slope of the channel (the concrete and rock debris was used to refill an eroded area on the east end of the island and the remaining trash and debris was disposed of in the landfill). As part of the effort we also cut the slope back to a more manageable 3:1 slope and finished with salvaged top soil. The work will also include the installation of an erosion control blanket and native seed mix on the newly laid back slope. The project has made an incredible difference in the immediate appearance of the island. We are still trying to get assistance with completing the clean up of the DOE site just south of this area. There remains a small amount of debris which needs to be removed and then the area reseeded. With the clean up of the area, Watson Island is becoming a true amenity to both the City and the Botanical Gardens.

Also, FYI regarding the large piles of dirt behind the Botanical Gardens building, these are part of the Gardens Master Plan to re-crea