

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
November 17, 1998**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Pat Kennedy at 7:30pm. Those present were:

Paul Nelson	John Heideman
Pat Kennedy	Mark Gardener
Bill Findlay	Paul Jones
Dusty Dunbar	Russ Walker
Lenna Watson	

Also present were Gerry Tucker, Catherine Robertson, Greg Trainor, Bob Cron, Jack Yates, Sue Rittenhouse, Brad Taylor, Jerry Noland, Marcia Noland, Clayton Dause, Gary Lacy, Joe Lacy, Kyle McCutchin, Pete Atkins and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Bill motioned to approve the minutes, John second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Paul handed Pat a newspaper article - Pat read the article stating that Tillie Bishop and Brad Taylor had been honored for their work.

Pat reminded everyone about the December meeting and social at the Pinon Grill on December 15th.

Old Business

Paul mentioned that he and Bob Cron met with Catherine Robertson yesterday regarding the forum on river use. Paul will be contacting Kurt Mill.

Working on volunteer project - removing of tamarisk on section of river by the Geese Sculptor.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Russ Walker will be contacting the statistic professor at Mesa State to have students gather usage numbers of the trails. Russ will get back to the group at the next meeting.

Bob Cron introduced Gary Lacy and Greg Trainor. Greg gave an overview of the Green Mountain water release issue. Gary Lacy then did a slide presentation on water parks and his idea on spots in the Grand Valley that would be good choices for the water park and briefly touched on estimated cost. This was followed by a question and answer period.

The cost for Gary to do the study would be \$4,200. Bob suggested the group needs to decide if they want to take the project on. It was determined to hold off until after the meeting on the 24th where other entities will be at the presentation.

Bill motioned to fund the study if nothing comes up at the meeting on the 24th. Lenna second. Motioned passed.

Bob, John and Mark will be the contacts for Gary regarding the above matter.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Dusty reported that work is happening on the bridge. Working on traffic analysis for paths within the City.

Palisade Update - Jack said they've been putting up signs. Approved for a Volunteers in Outdoor Colorado project. Believes they will have about 200 people for two or three days. They would groom the trails that Americorp built this past year. Working on fence to keep cows out of the park. Have gotten Fishing is Fun grant but haven't received approval to start construction. Organizations still working on raising money for the pavilion - part of it will be enclosed with glass to be used for meetings. Working with Bob Carlson about landscaping and vegetation for Riverbend Park.

Urban Trails Committee - Gerry told the group about Paul Teal working on a possible feeder trail to the river along south 31 Road. The right of way belongs to the County and Paul is working with Pete Baier and Carl White (both of the County). The off street path along Horizon from G to 7th and also 24 Road from Canyon View to F Road are in the 1999 budget. A preliminary plan is complete for the Walks and Strolls which will promote the use of trails. Retreat will be December 3rd at Coors Ceramics - 4pm to 8:30pm. Discussing with the City of putting UTC logo on signs. Renaissance Developer has yet to go before the planning commission (will be heard tonight). Redlands Mesa and UTC have been meeting regarding trails within the development. Jamie and Gerry met with Dan Wilson regarding the Persigo agreement. Three new members on the UTC

board - Terri Binder, Kelley Burford and Robert Traylor and one new ex-officio, Paul Lans with the BLM.

Legacy Update - GOCO has decided to commit additional money to existing Legacy projects plus several new ones - about \$23 and \$30 million dollars sometime in the spring. Will be for Fiscal Year July 1st. Not sure of process. Thinking about bringing small core of Board Members and staff to each community to review the projects.

Dinosaur Hill - new parking lot is complete. Will be picnic shelter soon.

Jarvis - still working on some vegetation. City of Grand Junction won award for this project. Trail and bid documents will be done soon.

Fruita State Park - hoping to bid contract for construction of the park mid December.

Botanic Gardens - garden sprinkler system done, hydro seeded the area in front of the building, working on new roof for the "Worlds Largest Birdhouse". Still need money to complete projects. Need to fence the site to curb vandalism.

Eagle Rim - first phase goes to bid in early December.

DOW - Horsethief - completed a Watchful Wildlife kiosks and signing that goes with it. (Shared cost between DOW and BOR). Getting close to the acquisition of across from Riverbend Park in Palisade.

Safety Committee Update - Matt Carson from the fire department attended last meeting. Discussed whether or not to put GSI markers for emergency vehicles. Didn't think it was necessary. Group has come to a point - is this committee still needed. Group needs direction.

Pat suggested perhaps going to a quarterly meeting. Lenna wants to know if there is someone else interested in chairing the position.

Public Comment

Clayton said working on landscaping for parking lot.

Sue Rittenhouse with the Audobon Society requested becoming a partner of the Legacy Steering Committee. She explained about their goal to build a nature center. Have completed a feasibility study to see what groups wanted. Received 85 surveys. Things are moving faster than anticipated. Told the group of what groups would be served by this project, what people wanted included in the design (a library with reference material, class room with lab space and equipment available, an auditorium to seat 50+ people, a couple of offices and exhibits - loud and clear message that exhibits should be hands on

and interactive, mostly outdoor experiences available) and possible sites under consideration.

Bill motioned to add Audobon Society to Legacy. Lenna second. Motion passed.

Russ Walker added that there are many educational organizations in the area. Perhaps it would be a good idea for all to meet and get their visions on the table. This might help get one really good center that a single group might not be able to handle alone.

Lenna suggested an educational committee of the Riverfront. Thinks it would be a good way for the Riverfront to get info out to the community. Another idea was a clearing house of where people can contact/go to get information. Facilities seem to be another issue.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm