

RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045

Minutes of Meeting
June 16, 1998

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Paul Nelson at 8:05pm. Those present were:

Paul Nelson	Bill Prakken
Pat Kennedy	Jeanette Main-Goecke
Bill Findlay	Carl Zimmerman
Dusty Dunbar	Lenna Watson

Also present were Clayton Dause, Brad Taylor, Kurt Mill, Bob Cron, Doug Cline, Elvis Guin, Don Hobbs, Bennett Boeschstein, Steve Hickman, Gene Thomas, Jonathan Cooley, Stephanie Matlock Cooley, Catherine Robertson, Bill Dean, Vi Sis, Cal (?), ? and Michele Rohrbach.

Paul thanked the City of Fruita for the great tour and for the chili.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Kennedy motioned to approve, Lenna Watson second.

Motion passed.

Announcements

Informed the group about the Grand Valley Music Festival first event had approximately 300 to 350 people in attendance. Reminded everyone about the concert on Saturday, June 20th. The group will be the Empire Brass Band starting at 8pm at Reed Park in Fruita.

Old Business

Redlands Boat Take-Out - After floating down the river on June 6th, many felt that there needs to be more and better signage. Signs should be on both sides of the river, not just the one side. There also needs to be a cable across that has signs on it stating how far away down stream the hazardous is and it's your last chance to get off the river safely.

Paul asked Bob about the money leftover for the Redlands Boat take-out and how does the Riverfront Commission go about planning for the necessary signs and cable.

Bob recommended that the Riverfront talk with Catherine Robertson with the BLM.

Catherine said that there are people who would be interested in working on improving the signage. Paul said he would be happy to work with the group on the project. Lenna Watson added that the Safety Committee would like to be a part of the group. Paul said the Water Club should also be involve.

Bob said Carlos will be re-evaluating the signs already there and making the necessary corrections needed. Carlos has contacted the owner(s) on the left side regarding putting up signs. Bob added that the installation of the cable will be a major project across the width of the river.

New Business

Botanic Gardens - Paul, Jeanette Main-Goecke with the Botanic Gardens and Doug Cline with the City meet last week regarding the parking situation - lack of space, especially when there are big events down at that area.

Doug showed the group the ideas they discussed to alleviate the parking problems on maps he brought with him. He talked about the two locations that have good possibilities. One site still has two houses on it, asbestos removal is being done to both and when it's complete, they will be a practice burn for the fire department. This site has access to/from Struthers Avenue, the City has a 20 foot public easement to Struthers Avenue - the area goes over to Los Colonias Park. It's about three or four acres.

Doug then talked about another area he wasn't aware that the City could use. According to Tim Woodmansee, it could be leased and used for additional parking.

There was discussion about the three way trade of properties. Jeanette Main-Goecke stated that she hasn't had any success in contacting Harry Elam. Bill Prakken said he would contact Harry.

Doug said there were still many things that would need to be work out regarding the type of surface, etc.

Jeanette said she has concerns regarding safety. Bob Cron mentioned that if they go with the area highlighted in yellow, it will need to provide access for persons with disabilities.

Paul stated that parking to the north and west of the Botanic Gardens would not be a good idea. People appear to be parking on Struthers down by 5th Street and walking through what will be gardens. Jeanette added that they will be putting up a rod iron fence to deter people from walking through the gardens.

Consensus of the group was that they should go for the area highlighted in yellow first.

Paul thanked Doug for all his hard work.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Bennett stated that with the tour, everyone had been updated. He also thanked Dusty for her hospitality. The group then sang "Happy Birthday" to Dusty. Bennett also thanked the Riverfront Commission for all their support in the Fruita riverfront projects, especially the 23 acres on 18 Road.

Paul then asked Bob Cron to talk about the deal to acquire the 23 acres. An emergency application was made to Great Outdoors Colorado, asked for \$224,000, City of Fruita had \$25,000 to apply towards the purchase price of \$249,000. GOCO granted \$204,000 so the deal was short \$25,000. Paul Nelson made some telephone calls and was able to get \$10,000 from a local Foundation. The other \$10,000 will come from a project that didn't use all the money allocated. Bennett is finalizing the deal and hopes to close within 30 days or so.

Bennett said the Old Fruita Bridge is coming right along. State Park is also moving right along. Little Salt Wash is going in segments and the 23 acre parcel will fill in more. John Mansville and the Refinery pieces are coming together.

Palisade Update - Jack Yates stated that July 4th will be the Grand Opening of the new bridge at Riverbend Park. Will have an article in the paper to notify the residents what they will see when they get to the park - a natural park. Americorp finished up last week and completed 7,200 - 10,000 feet of trail. The completed what Jack had for them on the Master Plan and then he had them start work on the loops. They also marked the trail.

The Francis' property - Jack is putting together a package for GOCO. Expect to close around the second week of July.

Elvis has agreed to be in charge of the "Friends of Riverbend Park" committee. It will be a mini "Riverfront" for the park.

Palisade just approved an ordinance where if two acres or more are developed, 10% of what you develop either in land or value (most time will be value) must go to parks.

Urban Trails Committee - Pat Kennedy informed the group about the ad hoc committee meeting regarding canal banks. He talked about the survey being prepared and who will be surveyed, Mesa County residents and other canal companies around the state to see if they allow recreational use on their canal banks and if so, how they went about doing it. It seemed like a positive meeting and even had some humor. The committee's name is the "Maybe Trail Committee".

The last UTC meeting dealt with the new filing in Monument Valley - Filing Number Six. The developer is Dave Fletcher and the concern is the street width of South Camp Road. The city's standard is 44 feet (it's considered a major collector), what's being seen on South Camp Road is 28 feet and hoping to get 38 feet to do a striped bicycle lane and a three lane street with a turn lane plus enough space for an off road bicycle path. There is a meeting this Thursday night with the Planning Commission. Several members will be in attendance to voice their opinion on these issues - really want to see the city standard of 44 feet used. South Camp Road has a huge impact on the community, there is a lot of bicycle traffic to and from the Monument, as well as pedestrian traffic to Windgate Elementary School.

Other areas of discussion were: a logo for Urban Trails, derivative of the Riverfront Commission's logo; trying to raise Community Awareness.

Bob Cron added that they will be interviewing three candidates next week for vacancies on the Committee. Informed everyone that Cindy Burke resigned.

Paul said he heard via a rumor that the City of Grand Junction asked the Renaissance Subdivision (immediately north of Trails West) to take out the trails access from South Camp. Apparently the developer wanted trails but the City said take them out. So it's back in for redesigning.

Pat Kennedy asked if he should meet with the City Planner that requested those changes.

Lenna Watson added that Jamie Lummis (new co-chair of UTC) did an outstanding job on Ride Your Bike to Work Day for National Trails Week.

Legacy Update - Bob Cron said he will contact Shawn Cooper regarding the Renaissance, he wasn't aware of that. He gave the group a brief idea of what the Legacy project is about and how the 13 different entities (including Fruita) were partners in obtaining a large grant of \$4.5 over three years. Currently finishing the second year of that grant to advance the cause of the Colorado and Gunnison River Greenway. There is matching money of about \$10 million added to that at the local, state and federal levels.

State Parks nearing completion of half a mile of new trail from 30 ½ to 30 Road. Brad Taylor with State Parks said it's now open. Also finished the improvements at Island Acres, work at Corn Lake is done. State Parks was able to get an additional \$1,531,000 for the new park in Fruita.

Division of Wildlife - some efforts going into interruption at Horsethief Wildlife area. Nearing completion of appraisal of three properties for acquisition. Appraisals are due July 15th. Depending on the appraisal amount, one or more of the properties will be acquired along the Colorado River for wildlife and greenway purposes.

Mesa County and the Riverfront Commission did nice job of dedication ceremony at Whitewater. Bob explained about the cooperative effort by the City of Grand Junction and their hauling material to the site for use in the parking area. The City isn't involved in the project. The County smoothed it and the BLM and County shared in the some of the cost of the parking area. Bob also talked with the County regarding improving access under the railroad bridge. Bob added that there were many comments about the distant to pack out from the river at the Redlands end. He reminded everyone that that was the agreement - everyone agreed that it was to be primitive, it was not to be designed for power boaters put-in.

Mesa County Land Conservancy received \$215,000 to purchase a large conservation easement up on the Little Dolores River up in Glade Park, it will be matched with some money from Mesa County.

Grand Junction is working on moving forward on the Jarvis Trail, it is difficult getting a surveyor to provide the information needed and to get the easements under the railroad and underneath Hwy. 50. May want to split the project into two part contract and build the trail on the new dike and then come back when have easements under transportation facilities to finish the trail.

Botanical Society is working on getting their parking lot and entrance circle in this summer. Hope to have butterflies in the butterfly house this summer. Will be putting up the butterfly sculpture on the entrance.

Bill Findlay asked about the permit problems with Jarvis. Bob said he's heard they've been approved but hasn't seen them. More fill will be brought in to keep water from becoming ground water that will drain out, this eliminate the possibility of contaminated water causing harm to the endangered fish and to avoid the possibility of turning up something unforeseen when re-shaping the area. Looking at a start date in July.

Safety Committee Update - Lenna Watson said Safety Committee will be on tour during the summer months. Last meeting was at the Audobon Trail when Fred Bohlman with State Parks talked about the unleashed dog problem. The Sentinel did an article on the problem. Lenna thanked Don Hobbs for coming the Riverfront meetings and for attending the Safety meetings. Lenna is personally calling those who submitted comment cards and then contacts resource people to see if there is a resolution and then calls people back to let them know what has/will be done. Safety manned the Butterfly House on Ride Your Bike to Work Day. Will be meeting at Corn Lake in July.

Paul Nelson mentioned the new maps that the Map Committee had completed with City Market printing 10,000 of them in color and Mesa County plotting the map for printing.

Paul also mentioned that tonight is the last night for Bill Prakken as co-chair and Carl Zimmerman as a member. Both have agreed to attend the meetings until their

replacements have been named. Paul thanked both of them for all their efforts and hard work. Both will be missed, however, Pat Kennedy will be the new able body co-chair.

Public Comment

Elvis Guin invited Bill Prakken and Carl Zimmerman to join the "Friends of Riverbend Park".

Brad Taylor with State Parks informed the group about the seriousness of a federal audit that could have a major impact on Corn Lake and Highline Lake. The audit has raised the question that federal money has been misused. A letter has been written to David Skaggs to get some help with interpretation. This means the Division of Wildlife could lose \$10 or \$11 million per year. State Parks will be required to return these parks to the Division of Wildlife or pay the Division of Wildlife the assessed value of the land - estimated at about \$22 to \$40 million to correct the problem. State Parks is not objecting to the laws, there has been an understanding for 25 years between the DOW and Fish and Wildlife that the funds should be used in a particular manner and that is how State Parks has managed the areas that way.

Bob Cron asked if there was something in the works saying this is how it's been and let's just leave in as is and go on from here. Brad said that is how they feel about it but not sure that the federal government would agree.

Kurt Mill added that if Highline Lake goes back to the Division of Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife may preclude any motorized boating there, get rid of swim beach, tear out the swim beach building, the group picnic buildings, etc. The idea being it should not be used for recreation, even though taxpayers have paid for those improvements.

Brad added that it's going on all over the US not just in Colorado. He also said that the entry fees collected over a couple of years by the State were deemed a profit by the auditors therefore, State Parks owes the DOW \$1.2 million. State Parks is 70 percent self sufficient and they are not making a profit, any money generated goes back to run the system.

Kurt and Brad said they are frustrated and the auditors are not willing to negotiate in good faith nor are they willing to give State Parks credit for things they have done that help Fish and Wildlife.

Paul said that the Riverfront Commission would be willing to do what needs to be done to help solve the problem.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.