

**Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission
Urban Trails Committee**

Minutes

October 8, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 P.M. by Pat Kennedy. Committee members present from the Urban Trails Committee:

Pat Kennedy
Lenna Watson
Yeulin Willett

Bob Cron
Mike Heaston

Also present were Shawn Cooper, Kim Fleischman and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Watson/Heaston to approve the minutes of the September meeting as submitted.

Motion was passed.

Announcements

Committee members were reminded of the Gunnison Bluffs tour on October 10th, the visit to Glenwood Springs to view their trail system on the 18th of October and the Botanical Society groundbreaking on November 1st. Pat encouraged members to participate in all of the events if they could possible could.

Old Business

Walkable Communities/bicycle Facilities Update

Pat reported that Dan Burden, the former Bicycle Coordinator for the State of Florida, was the presenter for the two workshops. He filled the two days with examples from all over the country on how to both encourage and manage pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Bob Cron felt that the participation by both City and County staff and a City Council member was a very positive aspect of the program. Bob is in the process of getting together with Mark Achen to discuss the "what next" part of the Walkable Communities and Bicycle Facilities presentations. He reported that there is interest in the community in having Dan return to do some analysis of specific sites.

Pat described Dan's use of what he calls charrettes, which are short, intensive work sessions to resolve specific problems. These programs last anywhere from three to eight days and have the goal of developing solutions to these problems by the end of the session. Pat suggested that something like that might also be considered if Dan can be brought back.

Lenna informed the group that Stephanie had shared the "facility improvement form" that had been introduced at the workshops with the Safety Committee, and that they intend to adapt it for use along the Riverfront trails. She said that they plan to have the report forms available at several locations along the trail so that people can fill them out and either put them in some sort of drop box or mail them to the proper authority. Pat suggested that some of the forms be made available in bike shops, if for no other reason than to help raise awareness of the program. Lenna added that they intend to have some publicity to make the public aware that there is a means of alerting trail managers to a hazardous condition on the trail.

New Business

Highway 340 Underpass Trail

Pat showed the Committee an air photo of the area of the Ridges Blvd./Highway 340 intersection and the possible trail alignments for a connection to the Audubon Trail. He has walked the area with Bob Cron and Tim Woodmansee to determine the feasibility of building a trail that would make a direct connection from the Broadway underpass to the Audubon trail. He is waiting for Tim to make a determination of the land ownership before evaluating possible trail alignments and contacting individuals from whom right-of-way may need to be acquired. He also discussed the underpass under the railroad tracks that connects Riverside Park to the downtown area. He suggested that that would provide a route for cyclists to travel from the Ridges to downtown without having to encounter the traffic at 1st and Grand.

County Trail Improvements Update

Pat also reported on a meeting with Joe Crocker, the County Public Works Director, to discuss what the County is planning for trails for 1996 through 1998. In addition to the Highway 340 improvements, 1996 plans include sidewalks on F Road from 29 ½ Road out to 32 Road, a detached bicycle path on D ½ from 30 Road to 32 Road and a detached bicycle path on B ½ Road from 28 Road to 28 ½ Road. Pat expressed his concern about continuity of trails between the City and the County and the fact that infrastructure standards are not the same. Pat reported that Joe told them that his charge from the County Commissioners is to provide pedestrian facilities to get children to and from school safely.

Committee Reports

Little Park Preserve

Pat reported that the BLM's Bang's Canyon ad hoc committee is planning a retreat on November 9th to resolve differences among them. Lynda Boody, the BLM representative, hopes that everything will be settled by the end of that weekend. Keith Mumby is representing the interests of the City and the Urban Trails Committee on the ad hoc committee. Pat added that a conversation with Carlos Sauvage has led him to believe that once the ad hoc committee has finished with their work, the lease agreement between the City and the BLM will be a simple process.

Colinas del Valle

Pat informed the Committee that he had the opportunity to take Councilwoman Janet Terry on an tour of the area. He felt that the tour helped her understand the Committee's vision for the site. Bob added that none of the landowners in the area have responded to the Committee's offer of organizing a cleanup of the area.

Subdivision Trails

Shawn Cooper told the Committee about several subdivisions where he has had success in dealing with developers in negotiating easements and trail rights-of-way. Bob Cron added that Jack Acuff, a developer on the Redlands is interested in connecting his proposed subdivision to the Liberty Cap trailhead on the Colorado National Monument via trails or pathways.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Bob reported that Cliff Davidson, Administrator for the MPO, is developing an inventory of all transportation facilities in the County including bike lanes and paths. The Committee now has a set of the maps which cover the valley between 19 Road and 32. Bob asked the Committee members to look over the maps, make any additions and corrections and return them to Cindy Burke so others can look at them. The maps need to be returned to the County by October 22.

Canal Trails Feasibility Study

Pat reported that he had been informed by a citizen who uses the canal bank that gates have been installed along the maintenance road to impede access to the canal. Pat felt that this was probably a direct result of the feasibility study. He asked the Committee for suggestions on how to proceed with the now completed study. After some discussion, Shawn Cooper recommended that a follow up meeting be called to learn what the City, County and Bureau of Reclamation think of the study's recommendations. Shawn offered to organize the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Watson/Heaston to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M.