

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

Minutes

September 10, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M.. Those present from the Urban Trails Committee:

Pat Kennedy
Lenna Watson
Yeulin Willett

Cindy Burke
Mike Heaston
Gerry Tucker

Also present were Shawn Cooper and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion was passed.

Announcements

The Committee was reminded that the Walkable Communities/Bicycle Facilities workshops are scheduled for September 23rd and 24th here in Grand Junction. As a sponsor of these workshops, it would be appropriate for members of the Committee make every effort to attend at least one of the sessions. Pat asked that members interested in attending contact Mike Drollinger or Jody Kliska at City Hall. Shawn Cooper informed the group that Joe Stevens had offered for Parks to pay for any Committee members who wish to participate.

Pat encouraged everyone to attend the City Council dinner on September 26, 1996.

The Riverfront Run will be held on October 5th. Mike Heaston, is coordinating the event, encouraged everyone to either volunteer to help or to participate in the run or walk. He described the plans for the day including the refreshments that will be served. Yeulin offered to be the trail bike for the run.

Old Business

Bike/Pedestrian Trail Map & Plan

Pat Kennedy announced that the bicycle/pedestrian trail plan and map, developed by Mark Relph, will be presented to the City Council at their workshop next Monday night. It is hoped that this will serve, at least for the time being, as the Urban Trails Plan. Copies of the map will be given to Council members for reference. The map includes off-road trails as well as on-road trails. Pat expressed his concern regarding the lack of access to the riverfront trail being constructed between Corn Lake and the mill tailings site.

Tabeguache Trail/Lunch Loop Lease

Yeulin Willett reported on the progress of the BLM's Bang's Canyon ad hoc committee in developing a management plan for the Tabeguache/Lunch Loop area. He stated that they expect to take another year to complete the study and formulate a plan which can be given to the City for use in acquiring a lease from the BLM. According to Yeulin, at their last meeting, representatives of motorized off-road interests attended and asserted that the area should be held open to motorized use.

Yeulin suggested that if the Urban Trails Committee felt it needed representation on the ad hoc committee, someone else beside him should be attending the meetings. He also suggested that Keith Mumby with the Parks Advisory Board, Lynda Boody and Catherine Robertson are the people who should do the job. Shawn Cooper did not feel that there was any great urgency to completing the lease deal, and he felt that Keith Mumby should be given a chance to work out the details of the City's acquiring a lease for the site. Pat stated that he would call Catherine Robertson to learn more about what could be done to facilitate progress on the project.

Mesa County Equestrian Association

Pat explained that the Mesa County Equestrian Association had invited Urban Trails Committee representatives to attend their meeting on September 19th to explain the responsibilities and functions of the Committee. He invited any other Committee members who would like to join him to attend the meeting. His suspicion is that they are most interested in the availability of canal bank trails for equestrian use.

Shawn Cooper reported that there is a piece of BLM land just south of I-70 and west of 32 Road that is slated for disposal and is of interest to the equestrian group. He added that there are problems with access to the property, but that the City is moderately interested in the possibility of a land swap with the BLM to acquire the land. There will be more interest if the annexation vote goes through this fall. He added that equestrian use is planned for the Matchet property and that the former owner is interested in establishing an equestrian recreation program in conjunction with the park.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Committee Reports

Canal Trail Feasibility Study

Pat presented the final version of the Feasibility Study to the Committee. Alterations of the draft were essentially limited to syntax and grammar corrections and clarifications of points already included in the report. It will be presented to City Council next week.

Colinas del Valle

Yeulin brought up the issue of a resolution passed by the City Council concerning the preservation of the trail system in the Ridges subdivision. Discussion ensued as to whether this particular resolution applied to the existing development in the Ridges, all of the

originally planned area and whether or not it would it apply to areas beyond the Ridges. Shawn suggested that the original master plan for the area be consulted to see what area was originally affected and what the status of this plan is at present.

Pat reported that Mark Achen had told him that the City did not wish to be involved in pursuing the establishment of the Colinas del Valle trails. On the positive side, a trail easement has been dedicated in the Trails West subdivision adjacent to Colinas del Valle. Pat's suggestion was for the Committee maintain a low key attitude and take things one step at a time in order to avoid creating opposition to the idea of trails in that area unnecessarily.

Broadway Underpass Connection

Pat reported that he has asked Tim Woodmansee to research the land ownership between the future Broadway underpass and the pumping station on the tailrace of the Redlands Power Plant. His hope is that a link between Colinas del Valle, the Ridges and the Audubon Trail can be developed.

Subdivision Trails

Gerry Tucker reported that there were no new subdivisions that involve trails. Shawn briefed the Committee on residential developments adjacent to canals and the related easement acquisitions.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

There was nothing in the September MPO meeting that concerned the Urban Trails Committee.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion: Watson/Tucker to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M.