

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

Minutes

November 12, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M. by Pat Kennedy. Committee members present from the Urban Trails Committee:

Pat Kennedy
Gerry Tucker
Yeulin Willett

Bob Cron
Mike Heaston

Also present were Shawn Cooper, Russ Storbo and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kennedy/ Heaston to approve the October minutes as submitted.

Motion was passed.

Announcements

The Riverfront Commission retreat will be held on Saturday, January 11 at the United Company's 18 Road gravel facility from 8:30 P.M. to mid-afternoon. Urban Trails Committee members are invited and encouraged to participate in this discussion and planning exercise.

Bob Cron added an item of new business to the agenda to discuss the western slope urban trails map that is put out by State Parks and the Colorado Lottery.

Old Business

Walkable Communities Follow-Up

Bob Cron reported on an meeting that was held to discuss the possibilities for the future of the Walkable Communities project in Grand Junction. He informed the Committee that it appears that there is support for bringing the program presenter, Dan Burden back for a one week visit. His time would be spread between Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade. He would be asked to do some analysis on special problems in Grand Junction, particularly dealing with circulation around the college, the underpass connecting downtown to Riverside and tying the railroad station to the downtown area. It appears that this would be scheduled for sometime in March or April.

New Business

Ridges Boulevard/Audubon Trail Connection

Pat Kennedy met with Richard Theresa Rounds, owner of the property just south of the intersection in question, about the possibility of a trail easement across his property that would connect the Broadway/Ridges Boulevard underpass to the Audubon Trail. He and Bob had met with them previously to explain the project, but when Pat called him back, he stated that he was not interested in giving up his privacy. Pat felt that this may not have been an opportune time to approach him with all the construction activity that is taking place around his property. He plans to talk to him again in the future and if he is still not agreeable, alternate alignments may be considered.

Tiera Rado

Bob Cron reported on his conversations with Jack Acuff, a developer in the Redlands who is building the Seasons subdivision. Jack has expressed an interest in trails in his development and the possibility of connecting them to the adjacent BLM lands and eventually to the Monument at the Liberty Cap trailhead. He and Shawn Cooper plan to meet with Jack to further discuss the possibilities. Bob added that Steve Hickman, the Superintendent of the Monument, is willing to allow access to the Monument, but for pedestrian use only.

Urban Trails Guide

Stephanie asked Committee members to review the Mesa County portion of a map that has been prepared by the State Lottery people for corrections and additions. She explained that they are changing the format by creating two where previously there was only one map for the western slope. The mountain towns will have their own map in 1997 and only Grand Junction, Delta, Montrose, Telluride, Durango and Del Norte and will be on the new western slope map. She encouraged the Committee to think in terms of the future rather than just next year in establishing the format for the new map. The goal should be as trails are added, there will be room to include them on the State's map.

The first question asked was what is the purpose of the map; general information for visitors from out of town, or for use by local residents as well. Members of the Committee questioned the purpose of an urban trails map that shows clearly rural, primitive trails. They also wondered about the appropriateness of listing on-street trails within Grand Junction. They suggested that Highline Lake, East Orchard Mesa and the Grand Mesa Slopes access be included. It was agreed that the map should be a Grand Valley map that represented the concept of a trail network throughout the valley. They asked that they be able to proof the finished product before it is printed.

Stephanie asked Shawn Cooper to help her put the information together to send to State Parks so that the map can be revised accurately.

Committee Reports

Canal Trail Feasibility Study

Pat reported that a meeting was held on November 1st to discuss what should be done with the feasibility study. Its recommendations and conclusions were discussed. He stated that, in spite of this meeting, he still wasn't clear on how things were shaking out. He asked Russ Storbo for his input on the matter. Russ responded that the Bureau has decided to back the water users on the issue of allowing recreational use of the canal banks. The succession will be trail sponsor to water users to BOR. If the water users don't agree, BOR will back the water users. If the water users agree, they will give their approval. According to Russ, the cooperative agreement between the City of Grand Junction and the BOR expired on November 1st and will not be renewed. The \$250,000 that had been allocated for canal trail development on the Highline Canal has been designated for use elsewhere. The BOR policy, according to Russ, is "the Western Colorado Area Office is overall supportive of trails development on lands near or on project lands that do not interfere with project purposes, whether those purposes are irrigation or wildlife". Russ has been asked by his superiors to draft a letter stating this policy which will be sent to the appropriate parties.

Bob suggested that the Committee wait until the letter had been received before responding to BOR's new position.

Committee discussion of this matter included questions about the definition of unreasonable interference with the water users' O&M activities and what steps should be taken next. There was support expressed for the City's pursuing the trail issue on the Matchett property and agreement that, with the BOR's approval, Russ continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the Urban Trails Committee.

Colinas del Valle

Shawn Cooper reported that he has been contacted by a developer who is working in Ridges/Colinas del Valle area who is supportive of including bicycle/pedestrian trail in his subdivision. Pat suggested that Yeulin meet with Mark Achen to discuss the concept of the City adopting the trail plan in the Colinas del Valle area. Bob and Pat offered to join him in that meeting and asked for a report from Yeulin if they were unable to attend.

Subdivision Trails

Shawn told the Committee about a new subdivision going in at 7th and Horizon Drive that has agreed to dedicate its canal bank for public access and use. He reported that the City is continuing to acquire rights-of-way along the Grand Valley Irrigation Company.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Pat attended the last MPO meeting where he learned that, with a few minor revisions, they intend to adopt the Urban Trails Master Plan as a part of the MPO planning process. The next meeting will be on November 21, their planning maps need to be returned by that date.

Public Comment

Shawn asked if there might be any concern about the expansion of the Mays Concrete facility adjacent to the Blue Heron Trail. He said that the City can request landscape screening but that it was already pretty well screened. It was agreed that that the question would be discussed at the Riverfront executive session the following day.

Bob asked if there were any plans to expand the parking lot at Junior Service League Park. Shawn said that there were no plans to do so.

Adjournment

Motion: Heaston/Cron to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M.