

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

**Minutes**

**January 14, 1997**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 P.M. by Co-Chair Bob Cron. Committee members present from the Urban Trails Committee:

Yeulin Willett  
Lenna Watson  
Cindy Burke

Bob Cron  
Mike Heaston

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Heaston/Burke to approve the minutes of the December meeting with the following changes requested by Bob Cron: the name Liberty Cap be added to trailhead and trail in the first paragraph of the Tiera Rado Update and that the BLM lands be specified regarding the motorized and non-motorized trail use in the second paragraph.

Motion was passed.

**Announcements**

Stephanie told the Committee that Dan Burden with Walkable Communities will be returning to the Grand Valley during the last week of March. She added that according to Jody Kliska, Fruita had not yet committed to participating in the joint venture to bring him back to Grand Junction.

**Old Business**

Urban Trails Plan

According to Bob Cron, the Urban Trails Plan, developed jointly by the Urban Trails Committee and the Grand Junction Public Works Department will be presented to the City Planning Commission in the near future.

**New Business**

COPMOBA Concerns

Yeulin Willett sent the Committee a letter prompted by conversations he had with COPMOBA members who were concerned that certain actions on the part of the Urban Trails Committee had caused barriers to be put up in the Colinas del Vale area and restrictions to access on the canal banks. After sharing these concerns with the Committee, Yeulin suggested that these individuals might just have needed to vent their frustrations about losing trail access and that their concern with the Urban Trails Committee was not the result of their objection to specific actions by the Committee. Bob Cron offered to attend a COPMOBA meeting in order to get better acquainted and to listen firsthand to their concerns.

### National Trails Appreciation Month

Shawn Cooper provided the Committee with a notice of grant moneys, available from the Colorado Lottery, for the promotion of trail usage in conjunction with National Trails Appreciation month in June. Stephanie informed the Committee that a discussion of this matter has been slated for the February meeting of the Riverfront Commission. Because the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Riverfront Commission will be observed this summer and the bicycle/pedestrian bridge and trail will be completed at about the same time, it is hoped that a very special celebration can be mounted that will take all of these events into account.

### Riverfront Commission Safety Committee

Lenna Watson informed the Committee that the Riverfront Commission's Safety Committee is working on a project to mark the trails for identification purposes to facilitate locating people on the trails who are in need of assistance. She invited anyone interested in helping with this project to attend the Committee's next meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M..

### Horizon Drive Trail

Bob Cron, Pat Kennedy and Mark Relph visited the area of the proposed trail that will extend from 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Horizon Drive to the airport. According to Bob, the northwest side of Horizon appeared to be the best choice from 7<sup>th</sup> to G Road. From G Road to the Hilton, an alignment behind (west side) of the businesses that front Horizon was discussed. Public Works staff members will do some analysis and get back to the Urban Trails Committee members with their findings.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Canal Trail Feasibility Study

Bob referred Committee members to the letter from the Bureau of Reclamation which states its current position on recreation use of the canal banks on the Government Highline Canal. The Bureau has chosen to put its support behind the canal company. Bob proposed that the Committee watch for opportunities for recreation easements or to acquire title to land adjacent to canals. He suggested that the Committee should offer to meet with the canal companies, if they will agree to meet, to discuss how not to interfere with their operations. He proposed that they push ahead a little at a time. He stated that information from the Bureau Solicitor suggests that canal bank roads can be used for recreation if ownership is or an easement is in place.

Shawn Cooper reported that the City Parks Department plans to recommend that the request for vacation of the G Road right-of-way adjacent to the Highline Canal be denied. The thinking is that even though the realization of a canal trail appears not to be in the near future, maintaining future access to the canal as well as an existing north/south pedestrian corridor is important. Shawn stated that they did not anticipate serious opposition to their position this time. Bob asked that he be notified of the date of the hearing for the issue.

#### Subdivision Trails

Shawn had no additional information on the pending litigation over the canal bank right-of-way that is a part of the subdivision at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Horizon Drive.

#### Metropolitan Planning Organization

There was no December meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

### **Public Comment**

Cindy Burke suggested that bike route markings in the South Rim subdivision need some improvement. She suggested that they needed to make sense and not end abruptly, leaving the user exposed to vehicular traffic. Shawn offered to talk to Mark Relph or Jody Kliska about the situation.

Stephanie asked Yeulin Willitt about the COPMOBA mountain bike trail map. Yeulin suggested that Dr. Neil Gilman would be the best source of information about the map. The map is intended to illustrate off road trails in Grand Valley area.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.