

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

Minutes

April 8, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by Co-Chair Bob Cron. Committee members present were:

Yeulin Willett
Mike Heaston
Pat Kennedy

Bob Cron
Gerry Tucker

Also present were Shawn Cooper and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kennedy/Tucker to approve the minutes of the March as submitted.

Motion was passed.

Announcements

Bob Cron informed the Committee that there would be an open house on April 14th to consider bike lanes on 3rd Street. It will be from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. at the Bank of Colorado. Alternatives for combinations of parking and bike lanes will be presented. He encouraged Committee members to attend.

Bob reported on the outcome of the plans for a bike lane on 10th Street. It will be striped in May with parking on the west side of the street and no parking on the east side. There will be two bike lanes and two lanes of automobile traffic. This configuration will extend from South Street to North Avenue.

Old Business

Walkable Communities Consultant

Pat Kennedy reported on Dan Burden, the Walkable Communities person and his return visit to Grand Junction. The purpose of this visit was to work with City and Mesa State officials on traffic problems being encountered around the college. According to Pat, they observed students crossing North Avenue and 12th Street. Dan suggested changing the exit patterns from Houston Hall, the addition of berms and removing some pathways on 12th Street to control where the students are likely to cross these streets. Bike racks and bike lockers were also discussed.

Bike Route Meeting

Bob reported on the CDOT bicycle division meeting held on March 19 in Palisade. The purpose of the meeting was to gain input from local representatives concerning the State'sr proposed bicycle route through Mesa County. The preferred route, as described by Bob, enters Mesa County via I-70 to Palisade where it changes to G .4 Road, G Road and 33 Road to Hwy. 141. Orchard Avenue

and then Elm Avenue provide the route through the east side of Grand Junction. Fruita was not shown on the map so he was not able to determine the trail's route on the west side of Grand Junction. The local representatives felt that they could not comment until they have had the opportunity to travel the proposed route themselves. Mark Relph volunteered to organize the tour.

City Council Candidate Poll

The names of Grand Junction City Council candidates who responded to the letter asking them to state whether or not they were in favor of recreational use of canal banks were reported. All those who responded claimed to support the use of canal banks for recreational trails. Responders included Mike Sutherland, Jack Scott, Kevin Van Gundy, Joseph Marie, Harry Tucker, Linda Afman, D.J. Beam, Don Kendall, William Baughman, William Hugenberg and Katie Kaufmanis.

Urban Trails Master Plan

Bob reported that the Urban Trails Master Plan will be considered by the City Council within the next week. Shawn Cooper and Mark Relph will be handling the presentation. Bob explained that it would be taken back to the County Planning Commission after the City has approved it.

New Business

Letters to Editor and Interested Parties

Bob asked the Committee to consider the objective of the letter writing campaign before sending out the letters. Pat Kennedy asked who the "interested parties" were. Mike Heaston named organizations such as the Striders and other trail oriented groups, participants in the Riverfront Run and people who responded to support the feasibility study. The purpose of the letters is to measure the amount of public support that exists for the canal trail issue. Pat added to the discussion by asking what should be done after the letters go out.

The discussion of specifics of the two letters, one to trail users and the other to the Editor of the Daily Sentinel, resulted in agreement on two issues: one that the letters should clearly state that the Urban Trails Committee is a non-political, volunteer citizen organization, and two that it is the Committee's mandate to promote, coordinate and facilitate bicycle/pedestrian trails in Grand Junction. They agreed that responses should be mailed to the Urban Trails Committee directly and not to local elected officials. It was suggested that a "please reply by" date should be included.

The idea of bringing Stuart Macdonald back to speak to elected officials, perhaps to inform the new City Council members of the issues connected with canal bank trail use was considered. It was agreed that the new Council members should also be made aware of the conclusions and recommendations in the feasibility study.

Yeulin Willett suggested that a mediation approach be tried to generate movement toward a compromise between the canal companies and those who support the use of canal banks for trails. It was pointed out that the need for them to come to the table to negotiate is not there yet. Pat suggested that a specific project such as the Matchett property may be needed to get both sides to come to the table to talk about a mutually satisfactory solution. The fact that the City has not made a formal statement regarding how the canal company's concerns will be addressed was brought up, but the overall feeling was that until there is a specific project, the City does not feel that it is necessary.

Snowmass Bicycle and Pedestrian Summit

Bob reported that he had learned more about the bicycle/pedestrian conference in Snowmass. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are devoted to an intensive safety course.

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Committee Reports

Canal Trail Feasibility Study

There was no further discussion.

Subdivision Trails

Gerry and Shawn had nothing new to report.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Gerry Tucker reported that the MPO plans to do a survey of school children to learn what they want in the way of trails. They are doing a major inventory of sidewalks to determine the need for sidewalks in the vicinity of the public schools because areas without adequate sidewalks require more school busses to transport children to and from schools. He added that they are waiting for the City to complete their major street plan so that they can coordinate their plan with the City.

Public Comment

There was no public to comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

RESOLUTION NO. 32-97

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE URBAN TRAILS MASTER PLAN
AND THEREBY AMENDING PORTIONS OF THE PREVIOUSLY
ADOPTED MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN.**

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction places a high priority on developing facilities for pedestrian and bicycle use; and

WHEREAS, pedestrian and bicycle facilities add to the quality of life for the citizens of Grand Junction; and

WHEREAS, this master plan is required to plan for the proper location of such facilities; and

WHEREAS, this master plan can be used as an advisory plan and a tool for identifying and prioritizing future pedestrian and bicycle improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council previously adopted through resolution 46-93 the "Multi-Modal Transportation Study" as part of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Grand Junction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION:

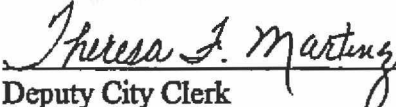
To adopt the attached "Urban Trails Master Plan", dated April 8, 1997, thereby making it part of the *1993 Multi-Modal Transportation Study* by amending; appendix B, Illustrations of Pedestrian Bicycle Trails and Routes; and Maps #7, On Road Bike and Pedestrian Routes; and Maps #8, Off Road Bike and Pedestrian Routes.

PASSED and APPROVED this 16th day of April, 1997.



President of the Council

Attest:



Deputy City Clerk