

**Grand Junction/Mesa County
Riverfront Commission
245-0045**

Urban Trails Committee

**Minutes
May 13, 1997**

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 by Co-Chair Bob Cron. Members of the Committee present were:

Mike Heaston	Gerry Tucker
Pat Kennedy	Bob Cron
Lenna Watson	

Also present were Shawn Cooper and Stephanie Schmid.

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion was passed.

Announcements

Bob Cron informed the Committee that the terms of Yeulin Willett and Gerry Tucker would expire as of the end of June. He added that both had indicated their willingness to serve another three year term.

Old Business

Urban Trails Master Plan

Bob reported that the City Council has adopted the Urban Trails Master Plan as an amendment to the Multi-Modal Plan. He intends to meet with the County Commissioners to discuss their approval of the plan as well. Shawn Cooper indicated that he would like to be present at that meeting.

Canal Use Letters

Bob reported that his letter to the Daily Sentinel had resulted in a feature article presenting both sides of the canal trails issue. Dick Proctor provided the paper with the water users perspective. Response to the articles came in the form of two phone calls to Bob and Pat. One was supportive of canal trails and one was opposed.

Response to the letters mailed to individuals included the suggestions by Neil Bradford and David Eisner that the Committee establish a fund to purchase easements from the landowners adjacent to the canals and that an education campaign be launched to encourage all the

people who own water rights to attend the meetings of their respective water boards to voice their opinions on the issue of recreational use of the canal banks.

Bob suggested that the Committee let the matter sit for a month and possibly approach City Council to request money for a fund to purchase easements. He proposed that the Committee advertise the fact that easements were being sought.

New Business

Snowmass Bicycle Pedestrian Summit

Bob asked Shawn Cooper if the City, i.e. the Parks Department, would be willing to sponsor Urban Trails Committee members who wished to attend the bicycle/pedestrian summit in August. Shawn's response was that Joe Stevens was willing, but wanted to know how many people wanted to attend and how much it was going to cost since it would be an unbudgeted expense. Bob recommended that a final decision be made at the June meeting. He encouraged Lenna to attend in light of the safety issues that would be discussed in several of the sessions.

Committee Reports

Government Highline Canal Feasibility Study

There was nothing further to report.

Subdivision Trails

Shawn reported that the Moon Ridge subdivision, located south of G Road between 25 and 25 ½ Roads abutted the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal and that he was working with the developer to acquire a trail right-of-way along that portion of the canal.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

There was nothing to report.

Public Comment

Bob reported that an opportunity to clean up some of the debris in the channel at the west end of Watson Island has come up that will involve little or no expense to the City. He suggested that the County be asked to waive the dump fees for the material that will be removed in order to keep the costs to a minimum.

Further discussion of Watson Island produced the suggestion by Bob Cron that the washed out trail on the east end of the island be joined by a loop through the area that used to contain "Oby's benches". He proposed to take the idea up with the Riverfront Commission.

Adjournment

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