

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
April 15, 2014

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm by co-chair. Those present from the Commission were:

Brad Taylor	Bob Fuller	Karen Jefferson
Dr. Bill Findlay	Claudette Konola	Jason Bailey
Dr. Larry Copeland	Eric James	Cliff Sprinkle

Also present were Donna Ross with Mesa County, Frank Whidden and Greg Linza with Mesa County, Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Bob Fuller, City Council member with the City of Fruita, Bennett Price, Town Board member with the Town of Palisade, Bennett Boeschenstein, City Council member with the City of Grand Junction, Benita Philips, public and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Claudette/Bob. Motion passed.

Announcements – Michele passed around sign-up sheets, she needs two more volunteers for Outdoor West Fest on May 4th.

Michele mentioned that the Watson Island disc golf group will be doing a fundraiser later this summer.

The group thanked Donna for all her efforts on the riverfront project and presented her with a “RFC River Rock”.

RFC office closed on Thursday, April 17th for training.

RFC retreat is on Saturday, May 3rd. It will be a driving retreat – Riverbend Park, Clifton Nature Park, 29 Road and social parking going there, social parking on C ½ Road, all the way out to Fruita out to 17 Road. Start at 8:30am to 3:00pm.

Updates -

Mesa County – Greg said Public Works has some funds to do a minimalist parking lot at 29 Road but won’t happen for one to two years out. Greg introduced Frank Whitten new Manager who replaced Donna and took on 8 other departments. Greg said the program put together for the AZ group was great. Phase III is rockin’ and rolling. Concrete to be laid in the next few days. Pallets of concrete blocks will be delivered soon to do the retaining wall. Have saved about \$200,000 to date.

He said Mesa County will be receiving another \$160,000 for Phase III because of CDOT’s mistake.

Only \$347,000 of taxpayers being used on Phase III which is only 7% of the total cost. Greg said CDOT has been a great partner and have helped save lots of money on the project and playing well with the County.

Phase II is complete. Greg talked about doing a dedication ceremony for Phase II if GOCO is interested. Clint with the City of Fruita had wanted to wait until Phase III is completed.

Greg added that Mesa County made money on Phase II and no taxpayer dollars were used on this section.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett said there are two grants into GOCO, one for the trailhead and one for the engineering of the amphitheater. The newspaper article was very negative and said nothing has been done other than plans. Lots of tamarisk has been removed and the disc golf group has full use of Watson Island. Brady 50' easement has been recorded. He also talked about the City looking to capture methane from the sewer treatment plant and may have to do something like State Park did by going next to trail.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said enjoyed the RFC company last Thursday. The AZ folks seemed to enjoy the social and many really liked participating in Bennett's barrel tapping event. He also took many to the distillery for tasting research. Haven't heard anything more on the shooting range. Bennett said that the State doesn't want Fish & Wildlife to have to take care of the property.

City of Fruita – Bob reminded the group that Fruita did get agreement from PUC to use the culverts under the railroad tracks. Still need to work out the deal on the 100' of land and will have someone go talk with the owners next month. Finishing up the reclamation of the old sewer ponds. Greg said he attended the meeting last week regarding the Compton property and Matt Sheeder will be the one to talk with the Comptons. Fruita has had to extend the State Trails Grant once and may have to extend a second time if need be but would like to move forward with spending the money.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Working on issues along C ½ Road, motorized use along the trail with four wheelers and motorcycles using the subdivision for access and transients moving to State Park property. Pete said he posts and then removes their property; he doesn't store like the City of Grand Junction does.

New Business – There was no new business.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning – Brad talked about the revised draft of the strategic plan. He pointed out the phrases he, Frank and Stacy came up with. He said they kept them short and simple. He asked for comments and if everyone felt they were going in the right direction. Brad asked everyone to review the revised draft and send comments to him, Frank or Stacy or share with the whole group. He wants to get to the goals. Claudette asked about measurable goals and whether or not that would be another document. Karen said that she has a list of measurable goals that would be reviewed on an annual basis. Brad wants to resurrect the Annual Report. Bennett B. said look at

what other more mature trails groups are doing. Brad said it's great to aspire to what the Greenway Foundation is doing but we can't compete with them with our current structure. Want to approve at next meeting.

Advertising – ran out of time

Safety and Signage – Michele stated that received a letter from El Pomar and they will be granting \$2,500 of the \$15,000 requested. Will need to figure out how to find the other funds needed. Greg said he may have some funds and Bennett B. said the City may have funds too. Bennett also reminded everyone that the City and County have their own signs shops. Talked about getting students involved.

Verde River – Brad said not sure if Stacy will be sending out an evaluation. Frank and Stacy did a fabulous job. It was interesting to see how many of the AZ folks wanted to see more of the Grand Valley. Kristin Lynch got a group together to bring them to downtown and then a tour to the Monument. Lisa Eckert offered to give a tour on Friday. Larry C. took several to CMU and they met with Tim Foster.

Government Relations – on hold until strategic plan is done.

History – ran out of time

Media Relations/Social Network – ran out of time

Get Kids Outdoors – ran out of time

Committee Reports:

UTC – Still working on prioritized list. Dave Grossman resigned because of the County abolishing the UTC Master Trails Plan. Brad explained to the group that UTC had talked with him about what has happened. UTC will continue to focus on safe routes to schools and trail connections within the City of Grand Junction.

Public Comment – Benita spoke about the possibility of a trail in Palisade along the canal from Riverbend Park. She has spoken to all of her neighbors to see if they would have a problem with a trail. She is pleased to see that the RFC is still supporting UTC. She believes this is a health issue.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.