

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

**Minutes**

**February 13, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. Those present from the Trails Committee:

Pat Kennedy  
Bob Cron  
Gerry Tucker

Laura Farnsworth  
Lenna Watson  
Cindy Burke

Also present were Jim Grisier, Dick Proctor, Russ Storbo, Shawn Cooper, Steve Inglis, Carlos Sauvage and Stephanie Schmid.

**Approval of Minutes**

Bob Cron asked that the words "open space", used in the discussion of the Redlands Trail project, be struck from the record. There were no objections to that suggestion. Russ Storbo also requested that the minutes reflect the fact that congressional aides collectively had expressed their support for the canal trail project to Carol deAngelis, the local head of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Motion: Watson/Burke to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion was passed.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Old Business**

There was no old business

**New Business**

Bob Cron mentioned the possibility of applying for a GOCO planning next fall for the purpose of determining how to connect the urban trails to the public lands.

**Committee Reports**

Canal Trail Feasibility Study

Pat Kennedy reported that at the last meeting of the Canal Trails Feasibility Committee, the responses to their inquiry to the Bureau of Reclamation, the City of Grand Junction and the Grand Valley Water Users Association regarding the legality of the canal bank trail were reviewed. Although there was not total consensus among the responses, the conclusion drawn by the committee members was that legal barriers were not an issue and that the next logical step in the study would be to interview the affected landowners to determine the degree of support or opposition they might offer. He emphasized that the approach would be informal and the landowners' responses would be nonbinding. He has developed a questionnaire that will insure consistency in conducting the interviews. The visits should begin as early as next week and Laura Farnsworth will be assisting him. Pat added that it had been decided at the meeting that it was time to involve Ted Ciavonne in the engineering phase of the feasibility study.

## Colinas del Valle

Pat Kennedy informed the Committee that the letter requesting Planning Commission designation of the trails in the Colinas del Valle area has been forwarded to the City's Community Development staff and should come before the Planning Commission some time in May. Shawn Cooper reported that Kathy Portner, Community Development's staff person, had asked him about Parks and Recreation's feelings about the project. He replied that they didn't have a problem with it. She also wanted to know if the Urban Trails Committee would be the sponsoring organization? If not, she wanted to know if Parks and Recreation would sponsor it. According to Shawn, Joe Stevens, the Parks and Recreation Director has expressed his desire to have the Trails Committee sponsor the project in order to maintain the impression that it is a citizen effort. The Committee's response was that they would like to wait until after the joint meeting with the Riverfront Commission that evening to make a definite decision on their sponsorship role.

## Subdivision Trails

Gerry Tucker reported that he had met with Tim Woodmansee about developing a map with a series of overlays showing where such amenities as streets, parks, public lands and the river are located in relation to each other. Tim has suggested dividing the valley into seven zones listed in order of priority as:

- **AREA #1** All of Redlands, Rosevale and Little Park, Old Spanish Trail area on Orchard Mesa.
- **AREA #2** North of the Colorado River, south of River Road, west of Redlands Parkway to Fruita.
- **AREA #3** North of G Road, south of I Road, west of Horizon Drive to Fruita.
- **AREA #4** North of the Colorado River, South of D Road, east of 15<sup>th</sup> Street to Palisade
- **AREA #5** North of I-70 Business Loop, south of I-70 east of 29 Road to Clifton.
- **AREA #6** Remainder of urbanized Grand Junction, Matchett property.
- **AREA #7** Bookcliff area north of I-70.

Gerry said that Kathy Portner is in support of the idea and has offered to set up a meeting with the County in order to involve them in the planning process. There were questions from Committee members about the order of the prioritization. Coordination with the Legacy Project and the County Land Use Master Plan was encouraged in order to work toward a county-wide trail plan. Concern was expressed that the plan relate to the river trails and the multi-modal plan. Shawn felt that that the Matchett property should have a higher ranking because of its future as a park site and proximity to the canal trail feasibility study area. Bob Cron asked what the time line would be for producing the map, but Gerry did not have an answer.

## G Road Right-of-Way

A meeting of the Grand Junction City Council was attended by Pat and Bob to answer for the Urban Trails Committee on the issue of the vacation of a right-of-way on G Road. The vacation request had been denied by the Planning Commission and appealed by the property owners. Pat explained that that section of G Road would be an ideal link to the canal feasibility study area and it is important to preserve public access. Pat pointed out that G Road is identified in the multi-modal study as a major bicycle route. The Council refused the vacation until February of 1997 in order to

allow time to complete the canal trail feasibility study. He has since taken time to visit with Carl Fitzpatrick, the initiator of the r-o-w vacation request, and to walk that area to see where other possible accesses to the canal might be located. The City has put up barricades to restrict vehicular traffic in the area which was a concern of residents in the area.

#### Grand Junction Beautification Council

Cindy Burke reported on a meeting of the Grand Valley Beautification Council that she had attended concerning the beautification of the "Broadway Memorial Parkway". She said that the City has designed the project which involves curbing, paving and tree plantings in the median. The group is holding a breakfast of February 16 where Mark Relph and Jim Thayer will present their construction drawings for the public to view. She said that realization of their dream will be some time from now because of the need to raise a large amount of money. The organization is currently trying to get people to donate time and materials for the project. It has a small grant from the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, but no other cash resources. The City Council has given its support in principle, but has refused to provide any funding. Cindy did not see how this project would impact the trails planned for that area, but she agreed to continue to monitor their progress and report back to the Committee.

#### **Public Comment**

Bill Prakken encouraged the group to keep up the good work.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion: Watson/Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Motion was passed.