

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
June 17, 2014

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm by Co-Chair. Those present from the Commission were:

Brad Taylor	Frank Watt	Bob Fuller	Cliff Sprinkle
Dr. Bill Findlay	Claudette Konola	Eric James	
Stacy Beaugh	Dr. Larry Copeland	Karen Jefferson	

Also present were Jeff Kuhr with UTC, Bennett Price with Town of Palisade, Town Board, Greg Linza, Mesa County, Pete Firmin, Colorado State Parks & Wildlife and Bennett Boeschstein, City of Grand Junction.

Approval – There were no changes to the minutes. Bob/Larry. Motion passed.

Announcements – Wrong Side of the Tracks Event – Thursday, July 3rd. Stacy, Claudette and Michele will man 2 tents, one for the Tamarisk Coalition and one for RFC. Karen stated that since this is an event sponsored by the Daily Sentinel, it is important that we have a presence. Booth set-up is at 5:30pm at Edgewater Brewery and there is 5K run at 6:00pm. Money raised benefits the Botanic Gardens.

Updates - Mesa County – Greg discussed the impacts from flooding. The 32 Road section did have a couple of feet of water on it with some debris left behind once the water receded. It held up well and performed as designed. In 2011, this section was underwater for 6 to 7 weeks. The duration this year was just a couple of weeks. Phase I of Monument View was coned off by Grand Junction Parks with flooding from the Parkway to United Companies. Greg was anxious to see how a product called Stabilize (sp?) performed through the floods. Phase III is 75 to 80% complete. Construction deadline is the end of July. Greg showed a series of really outstanding and illustrative photos. A little bit of flooding during high water but everything held up remarkably well including portions with sub-base alone. In two weeks, Greg should have a definite completion date. All bridges in the project are steel with poured in-place concrete decks. Persigo Wash Bridge was not yet set due to flooding. 95% of the trail along the Frontage Road is complete. Greg's goal is to get all the seeding done at once. The seed will be watered, 3x per day for 2 weeks. Fruita will mow and that's why Greg is watering heavily☺. All paths meet ADA with no more than a 5% slope. The block wall is 16 blocks high and has 8,077, 80# blocks. Rip rap in the narrows came in \$110,000 under budget. Greg explained how the welded wire basket wall worked and performed during high water. Greg talked about the "dry stack" pre-poured concrete crash barrier at the stem wall which was 1.5 weeks from completion. Total contract was for 240 days which gets final completion at the end of August.

City of Fruita – Bob stated that Clint and Michele have been talking about the date and time to hold the dedication of Phase II & III of the Monument Section. Bob wondered if we had numbers on the first concert. We did not, but everyone that was there thought it was well attended and that it had probably generated pretty good revenue.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. provided the following updates: The City will approve 3 Safe Routes to Schools projects that will utilize Community Development Block Grant monies. The Council's goal is to do some of these projects each year and that plan has wide support. City was still waiting to hear on the GOCO grant for Las Colonias but had gotten approval from DOLA for \$180,000 in funding for Design & Engineering. We discussed the various phases of the project and the involvement of the Grand Junction Lions Club. Bennett remarked that the newly constructed slew performed well in high water conditions.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. mentioned that the Bluegrass Festival had been very successful and that there were over 400 campers in the west end of Riverbend Park. There were folks out there playing music until 4:00 AM.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete talked about a habitat improvement project that required access through the Adobe Creek Golf Course. Tamarisk and Russian Olive removal would take place followed by re-vegetation. Project was due to start on the 24th of June. There was a little bit of flooding at Connected Lakes during high water. Some minor damage occurred in the area repaired after the 2011 event. The Ela Wildlife Area did fill a little bit which is good since it's been dry for some time. Pete discussed his concern with properties owned by the State for the purpose of creating bike paths that were currently closed and unused with no definite plan. Examples are the properties between 29 Road and 27 ½ Road and the Blanchard-Morris property southeast of the Adobe Creek Golf Course. If these and other properties are bypassed by the trail, should the State keep them? Open them to hunting? Define them as open space and open them to the public? Pete would like input from the RFC. Discussion was held on the length of river frontage available and ingress/egress issues. What is an appropriate length of time to hold a property? How does GOCO funding impact the situation? Does GOCO funding mean the there has to be public use? Bob emphasized the importance of maintaining trail easement as part of any development agreement. There was a motion by Bill, second by Bob to state from the RFC that Colorado Parks and Wildlife should not sell their riverfront properties. Pete also talked about funding available for interpretive signs along the trail and another round of bridge repair at Connected Lakes.

UTC – Jeff said that plans were being made for another bike summit in 2015. UTC presented Grand Junction City Council with its priority list. Proclamations were made by all local governments declaring June as Bike Month. 160 people were expected at the Mesa County breakfast supporting biking to work.

New Business –

Phase II & III Dedication – August 14th in conjunction with the concert that night was the agreed upon target date. Consideration of a run or a ride as part of the event and developing an email chain to track ideas and decisions. Suggested that the dedication take place at the Walter Walker

Wildlife Area for space for the ceremony and parking considerations. Very important that we pick a date that representatives from GOCO can make.

Budget – To be considered: Marketing/Porta-Potty rental/Tents/Food/Drink/Sound System/Platform

Volunteers – Make assignments at the July 15th meeting. Consider involving CMU

Update on Strategic Plan Presentation to GJ City Council – Brad, Stacy and Frank were present. Brad said he thought the presentation was well received. Both Stacy and Brad were brief in their presentations since Council had it on their I-Pads. We did distribute a couple of hard copies. Council seemed supportive and one question that was asked by Councilperson Doody did ask how many staff members we had. Brad stated that we have one, half time staff member. Brad suggested that we meet with Council on a more frequent basis. Brad made a similar presentation to the GJ Rotary the next day. Hoping to have the Strategic Plan on the website by the end of the month. Talked about making it easier to get a tax write-off for membership and the use of “squares” to accept credit cards at events like the concert series.

No discussion on rescheduling the IGA float trip.

There was no further new business.

Old Business:

Advertising - \$1,440 spent on ads with GJ Sentinel. \$500 with others.

Safety/Signage – Bids due on June 19th for trailhead signs.

TENS Program – Larry did take part, listening to lectures and going to the dinner. Estimated 80 to 100 teachers were there. He thought it was a great program. They did include Charter schools. He thought it was District 51 only.

Public Comment – There was no public present.

Adjournment – Motion by Stacy/Larry. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.