

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
August 19, 2014

Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair Frank Watt. Those present from the Commission were:

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

Also present were Bennett Price with Town of Palisade, Town Board, Scott Manuppella, public, Larry Ingram w/Monument Striders, Frank Whidden with Mesa County and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Bill/Bob. Motion approved.

Announcements – Trail dedication ceremony is Friday, September 5th at 11:30am at Walter Walker Wildlife area.

RFC office closed the week of September 15th.

September 16th RFC will be in Fruita to present the Strategic Plan.

Tour of the Moon, October 3rd and 4th. Michele will be emailing everyone the volunteer list tomorrow. Asked if interest in having a booth – Claudette said she would be happy to sit the booth if we could find one more volunteer. Michele said that probably won't need all the volunteers in the am – talked about the movie and the beer garden.

Updates -

Mesa County – Greg and Frank Whidden unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Bob talked about the email from Ture regarding the Kokopelli Trail and the City Council will be voting on it tonight. He talked about the small piece of property is about 200' which have to go through the Federal grant process and current value is about \$700 which has resulted in no response from the owner. Considering starting the “taking” process with hopes of getting a response from the owner. Bob said that the City can't go back and talk to the owner to make a better offer. Will hear more about what the City can and can't do. Concerned about the negative impact of this action. Brad feels that the RFF will be on board because it's a key connection heading west. Bob said the railroad issue is still slowly moving forward. Karen motioned to move forward with the RFF matching grant. Stacy second. Motion passed.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett said he's looking forward to the golden spike ceremony. He encouraged everyone to attend. City received three grants for Las Colonias, one for Phase I;

second, for the design and engineering for the amphitheater, third to expand the pollinator garden. Parcel on the river for sale. Randall Industries is one of the properties which is one of the most polluting industry along the river. Former trucking company property next to Edgewater is also for sale. Colorado Discoverability is looking to build a building on the property to store their equipment.

Town of Palisade – Peach Fest was this past weekend. Very well attended. Feast in the Field – all three sold out. Sunday market was packed. Purchased a property next to Taylor Elementary School for the kids to walk to school. One parcel has a good house and have a buyer.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete talked about the accident in late July and a couple of others. A Scout project with stripping areas of trail. Will be getting yield signs up.

UTC – Michele updated on the UTC September 9th meeting will be discussing the RTPO 2040 plan. UTC will be asking different members of the public to attend to give input into the plan. Michele asked everyone to put on their calendars.

New Business –

Striders Monument – Larry Ingram explained what the Monument 5K Downhill Run is and how it came about. Money prizes for age basis – kids aren't allowed to win cash prizes. This is a sanctioned run – CO Runner Magazine has put it as the State wide race with the highest marks. He talked about why he needs to give it up and that it does takes time for sponsors and prizes. RF has received money from Larry over the past seven years. He said Rocky Mountain Health Plans was interested and need to contact in November along with State Farm. Larry would like to work with one to four individuals to coordinate the event. He would help for the first year. Sponsors need to be contacted by first of May and by June need to pick up lesser drawing items, advertising – how much want to get the word out but depends on the budget. VCB was interested in the draw from the Front Range this year. Larry would continue to put it into all the runner websites. Precision Printing printed the registration forms and may do it again. Registration – would need someone with computer skills and taking in registration funds and mail in registrations. Larry would need list of registrants for the chip list and for ordering t-shirts. Larry said he'd be happy to come out on race day and be director. Striders made a donation of \$1,609.88 this year. Frank asked when Larry would like a decision from RFC, he said in early November. Stacy asked about budget - \$4,000 income, expenses \$2,400 with Larry donation's \$1050. He explained the money prizes. 162 runners registered with 159 completing the race. 115 pre-registered and the others were day of event.

Bennett asked about Striders bringing the Riverfront Run back. Larry said Striders would be happy to help but not take on the planning of the event. He said would get insurance through running organization.

Electric Bikes – Bill talked about the e-bikes and Scott talked about the pilot program in Boulder. He explained what an e-bike is and the federal regulations. Scott said municipalities are adopting rules on e-bikes that comply with the federal regulations (? cc, must be pedal power and can't go over 20 miles per hour and probably should be under 100 pounds). Claudette stated that what Scott passed around was more a consumer info and not where the e-bike can be. Pete

stated that he's concerned about opening a Pandora's Box. He was wondering if the info Scott was quoting was Federal or Department of Justice. Pete said that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife will not allow motorized on their trails. Stacy asked what other communities have done and an outline of studies as to what kind of recommendation RFC needs to make. Brad explained to Scott that the RFC is for promoting the riverfront trail a non-motorized trail. Brad said there is a history of illegal motorized use of the Riverfront Trail on the Parks and Wildlife sections.

Bennett stated that all the grants he wrote to GOCO were for non-motorized grants. It appears the Boulder map Scott passed around shows most of the Boulder trails allowing e-bikes are along bike lanes on streets. Frank believes that the RFC will need to advise the other government entities what they should approve/not approve. Pete stated that the RFC should facilitate with an open forum the issue with all the entities. Jason suggested that e-bikes are an evolving issue and more information is needed before a decision can be made and encourage more debate on the issue. Because of the grants used for a non-motorized use and will continue to support non-motorized use of the riverfront trail. Claudette said with the new strategic plan the RFC should give heads up to our partners about the issue. Jason is concerned about the riverfront trail being a transportation corridor. Frank suggested it is something to be aware of and to start thinking about it and that the RFC should advise the government entities.

Katie Trail – Larry thought it would be worthwhile to invite the gentleman who worked on the trail to come to talk with the RFC. Larry has spoken with him and he's interested but his is in his 80's. Bennett asked if there was a video or a PBS documentary that we could watch rather than bringing him out. Bennett talked about the rails to trails along the Roaring Forks trail and that it's great.

There was no further new business.

Old Business:

Advertising – Brad talked about the funds the RFF gave to the RFC. Have three opportunities to get out to the public again, the Winefest, Fall Fest and \$1,560 in Get Lucky Bucks for the Out and About. Will be promoting the dedication and Tour of the Moon movie. Brad would like a motion to continue to advertise and spend the money. Larry move/Eric second. Motioned passed.

Safety and Signage – Sign project if moving forward and hopefully will have something by the dedication.

Media and social – New website upgrade has launched. Claudette has been great in getting out e-newsletter and FaceBook posts. Michele showed the new banner and said the new flags are in and table drape. All were used at the last concert.

Brad added article in the Senior Beacon. Free Press will probably be contacting Frank tomorrow.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.