

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**683-4333**

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**October 21, 2014**

**Called to Order:**

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

Frank Watt	Brad Taylor	Claudette Konola
Dr. Bill Findlay	Dr. Larry Copeland	Eric James

Also present Julie Sabin with Urban Trail Committee (UTC), Steve Acquafresca, Mesa County Commissioner, Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bennett Boeschstein, City of GJ Council member and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval** of August minutes (no September minutes because RFC was before Fruita City Council to present Strategic Plan). Claudette/Frank. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Michele talked about CO Days and what need board members to do. (Brad/Claudette/Larry/Bill on the December 1<sup>st</sup>. Claudette 12/9).

**Updates -**

Mesa County – Greg Linza and Frank Whidden unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Bob Fuller unable to attend.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett updated on the wildlife areas along the river. He gave a history of these areas. He said the he hopes that it doesn't fit the US Fish and Wildlife's proposal and support wildlife and supports the Yellow Billed Cuckoo. The Riverfront trail connects people with nature so he hopes that the RFC will support the Yellow Billed Cuckoo.

Frank said that John Toolen's map has taken everything in the 100 year floodplain which is all of Riverbend Park. Frank will be making comments on behalf of Town of Palisade and the RFC and say please don't make it difficult for the Town and RFC to continue our missions of reclaiming, redeveloping and improving the habitat. Comment period has been extended until December 17<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be made online at USFW website.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. unable to attend. Franks said that the Town has entered into a MOU with CPW for the Cameo Plant. Have a grant application into DOLA for \$2 millions. CPW will manage the property and Frank said that trails will be part of the redevelopment of the property. Winefest was very successful, 6,000 people attended. Largest crowd ever. 38 Road

contract has been awarded to Dirtworks for \$2 millions. Still working on trail to Taylor Elementary. CDOT has agreed to put in a signalized light and the school will staff it. Will be much safer for the kids.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said that CPW comment on the Yellow Billed Cuckoo is that Colorado doesn't have any habitat for the Yellow Billed Cuckoo because it is more of a migratory/transition habitat (even though there has been one sighting at the Tilman Bishop Wildlife Area). CPW is working with the Tamarisk Coalition. Will be doing work in Fruita this winter. CDOT will be moving the social boat ramp to the west side of Hwy 340. Pete is concerned if the RF trail goes through there that will be going through the boat ramp. Will be using \$30,000 to fix the heaving problem at Corn Lake. Will have some heavy equipment on the trail next week. Someone pulled out one of the new bollard. Will need more concrete and heavy anchors to fix it.

UTC – Julie updated on the priority list and a Safe Routes to School priority list for the City Council. Working on 2015 Walking and Bicycle Summit. City Council has asked that UTC becomes a more formal board more in line with other City of Grand Junction volunteer boards. At the last meeting, the group reviewed draft Bylaws, made some changes and will be revising and getting things more formal for the group. Also working on an application for bicycle friendly community. RTPO has incorporated the updated Urban Trails Master Plan (minus the canal bank trails) in their plan.

Brad said he supports what Julie is proposing but would like to see the RFC and UTC still be involved with each other. Brad moves to allow Michele to work with Urban Trails to a time until she or the RFC board decides differently. Frank second. Motion passed.

#### **New Business –**

Steve spoke about the Mesa County budget process and that staff has presented the first draft to the board. Working on changes but doesn't expect significant changes when the budget will be adopted in mid-December. Steve wanted to let the RFC board know that there is no funds set aside for the riverfront trail project this year from Conservation Trust \$.

Steve is concerned that the riverfront project has been enjoying great momentum and he has concerns about losing momentum that it will take several years to get it back without funding. He also stated that there is no line item in the budget for RFC office again this year.

He said that the County will be hosting public input meetings and would like to see riverfront supporters attend and let the Commissioners know that trail projects are important. Not sure of dates and locations.

He said that Mesa Land Trust (MLT) will also not be getting any funding this year.

Steve thinks that efforts should be made to work on the two missing links from the east end of Los Colonias and 29 Road. He feels that the County could set aside funds to acquire easements along those two properties.

He would like to see some of the Conservation \$ set aside for opportunity of right-of-way or easement acquisition. The riverfront trail project is a decade's long project going on for nearly 30 years.

Bennett B. stated that the City of Grand Junction will be supporting the RFC again this year.

Thanked Steve for all his support over the years.

Brad asked if still interested in having a December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. A few members said yes.

Brad passed around photos of the Google mapping project and explained how the project worked. He said where they went and how they were able to get to areas and some of the issues incurred. Not sure when it will go live.

There was no further new business.

**Tour of the Moon** – Michele updated on the \$ amount raised by this event, the additional funds and proceeds from the movie.

Brad talked about wanting to go back to doing an Annual Report and wants everyone to think back to what events they have volunteered for and the amount of time spent. Please get the info to Michele so she can get the info to Brad.

### **Old Business:**

Advertising – Nothing to report.

Safety and Signage – Frank said he hasn't had much luck getting a hold of Angel Signs. City of Grand Junction has received their signs. Several sign have been installed but waiting on maps.

Media and social – Nothing to report.

Striders Run - tabled until November meeting.

**Public Comment** – Bennett said the Chevron is still interested in the Get Kids Outdoors Program. Eric James has volunteered to help with the project. Bennett thinks it might be something that CPW takes on.

There was no further public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7pm.