

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
683-4333

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**February 17, 2015**

**Called to Order:**

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

Frank Watt	Brad Taylor	Claudette Konola
Bob Fuller	Stacy Beaugh	Karen Jefferson
Dr. Larry Copeland		

Also present Bennett Price, Town of Palisade Board Member, Greg Linza and JoCarole Haxel with Mesa County, Bennett Price, Town of Palisade, Mike Vedanga, City of GJ Parks and Rec., Anne Landman, Scott Peterson, Dean Harris, public, and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval of Minutes** – Stacy/Claudette. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Walking and Biking Summit on March 13<sup>th</sup>. \$10 in advance, \$5 for students. Passed around volunteer sign-up sheets for Outdoor Heritage Days. Brad explained why it is important for RFC members to volunteer. Event is free to all attendees.

**Updates -**

Mesa County – Greg said that Kevin Williams has been working on a line to find the plugged up drainage on Phase III. He and Pete worked on getting signs up. He will be ordering three more signs.

City of Fruita – Bob talked about the article in the paper for trail connection to the Kokopelli. Will be applying for \$1 million GOCO Paths to Parks grant. Little Salt Wash Trail the City was unable to work out agreement with landowner so have decided to move trail north, will need a bridge. Redesigning the trail and have to go back to CDOT for approval, don't think will need to go back to the Railroad for approval. Will save some money by moving the trail for the tie in to the Kokopelli Trail. DOLA has given the City an extension. Riverfront Foundation (RFF) has given a cash match for the GOCO grant. The cost is estimated at about \$3 million.

City of Grand Junction – Mike updated on the section on the trail behind the ice rink. Have a new design and stabilization of that area. Will be putting out bid for asphalt repair. New signs have been placed and look great.

Las Colonias – Phase I bid is out and closes next Tuesday. Phase will have parking area, grass and picnic area and restrooms. Received a GOCO grant and Garden grant for work on Watson Island. Hope to have completed by May.

Greg asked Mike if he was made aware of the light pole that is dangerously close to falling into river.

Brad asked about moving the bronze and Michele said working on setting up a meeting time for all involved to find new location.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said working on the upgrade on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Work will begin on Main Street soon and should be completed by early June. Sign are up in Riverbend Park.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete unable to attend.

### **New Business –**

Retreat – Frank explained what the RFC is looking to do and how we fit in with all our partners and RFC brings value to projects along the river.

Stacy reminded the group of the Strategic Plan that was completed last year and need partners to implant the action plan collectively. Wants to make sure the right folks invited and outcomes want to arrive at the end of the retreat. Making sure groups like GJEP, DDA and area realtors be included to a different prospective.

Looking at using the annual IGA “float trip”/”bike trip” day for the retreat day (Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>). Would like to use the list developed at the retreat in Palisade, unfortunately didn’t have a strategic plan in place at the time.

Facilitator – Tim Sarmo was who has facilitated several RFC retreats, Chris Parsons with CMU was suggested from Claudette.

Karen suggested having a plan for topics list if inviting other stakeholders from the community.

Frank mentioned there is a capacity limit at the space in Palisade. He would like to make sure that the IGA partners are invited. Other suggestions made were CMU, Club 20, Grand Junction Drainage, trying to get Commissioners and Council Members, CDOT and clubs using the trail for fundraising, Incubator, Corps of Engineers and US Fish & Wildlife. Larry suggested service clubs. Karen suggested retail shops, bike shops and media.

Stacy will put together a list a topics and email it out to everyone to mull over before the next meeting.

Concern raised that inviting outside groups that don’t attend RFC meetings may require a great deal of time bringing up to speed at the retreat. Stacy said valid concern but believes need to ask attendees to do some work before attending the meeting like completing a survey and reading the strategic plan.

Brad challenged each RFC member to reread the Strategic Plan and pick four items that we can work on over the next year.

There was no further new business.

### **Old Business:**

Advertising – Brad said RFF granted RFC \$1,500 for advertising last year. This year they granted us \$2,500. Brad said old school advertising didn't really work. Want to engage people not using the trails. Karen said will look at targeted publications and gather more info from the attendees at the retreat. Greg said the ped counters are showing that the user numbers is far higher than the 300 to 500 users in the grants.

Safety and Signage – Mentioned in Mike V. and Greg's updates.

Media and Facebook – Karen said that Claudette has been doing a great job. Claudette asked if have a media ad, should she be put up as a Facebook post? Karen said she doesn't think use the Facebook for advertising boost post. Should use for events. Need to set down and think about how want to use boost post along with figure out how to fit it into the budget.

Jocarole suggested getting a bike shop to donate a bike and have people go out and take selfies at the trail heads to be entered into the drawing.

### **Public Comment –**

Anne talked about several sections along the trail being active hunting areas. She mentioned areas 30 to 31 Road and the Blue Heron area. She said both areas are favorite walking area for her, her husband and her dog. She said she sees some signs but she said they don't really give her much info of when hunting season dates. She feels that since the Colorado River is so long that there are other places better for the hunters to go than along the riverfront trail.

Greg said the section that Anne is speaking about – Monument View section is newly built by the County and the other section is managed by CO Parks and Wildlife. He stated that several years ago that Mesa County signed a planning document that states Mesa County is a Right to Shoot County. Everyone has the right to recreate and signage asked everyone to stay on the trail. He said that CO Parks and Wildlife were favorable for the trails being built because it gives hunters access to areas along the river they didn't have before.

Brad said Anne has been given some misinformation. Hunters are using shot guns not rifles, shells contain buckshot and the hunting blinds have the hunter's back to the trail.

Dean said he lives close to the blind by State Parks blind. He used to volunteer at Barr Lake where there is dual use like here in Mesa County.

Brad suggested the RFC talk to the entities to clean up the signage to aid trail users as to when active hunting use will be happening.

Brad said at the last meeting Greg asked the RFC to facilitate a meeting with all emergency services to access the trail. Brad said he's made initial contact.

Scott gave the group a quick update on what his skills are and he'd be happy to help with the Walking and Biking Summit if need his help. He worked on the Platte River trail, and he worked/studied the trails in Pueblo, Tempe, AZ, Salida, and Wichita.

He suggested everyone should go see the world class trail in Boulder and Salida.

The Pueblo trail was built by using a vendor fee. Convinced all the vendors to forgo the 3% to go into a special fund for the trail.

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.