

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
March 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
Stacy Beaugh	Karen Jefferson	Dr. Larry Copeland
Jason Bailey	Dr. Bill Findlay	Bob Fuller
Cliff Sprinkle		

Also present Bennett Price, Town of Palisade Board Member, Greg Linza and JoCarole Haxel with Mesa County, Mike Vedanga, City of GJ Parks and Rec., Dean Harris, public, Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks & Wildlife and Michele Rohrbach.

Jason mentioned he tried to attend last month but the ADA door was locked.
Need to remove “there was no public comment” from February meeting minutes.

Approval of Minutes – Jason/Stacy. Motion passed.

Announcements – Need two volunteers for Outdoor Heritage Days – Dr. Copeland said he could work afternoon shift. Still need one more.

Healthy Mesa County will be having an Active Communities meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 1:30pm to 3:00pm at the Main Library.

Stacy said the Desert River Collaborative next Thursday, March 26th - will be having a joint field day with folks from Utah.

Las Colonias ground breaking on March 25th at 10:00am.

Updates -

Mesa County – Greg talked about the trail counts along the new trail. He said CDOT was going to be installing counter along I-70. He said it is available for anyone to use just need a sign post to get a count. He will be pulling numbers from February 25th to now, will probably be much higher than the 6,215 reported from January 23rd to February 25th.

City of Fruita – Bob said the City will be approving a grant application for the Little Salt Wash/Kokopelli Trail connection. He stated that the trail has been shifted north since they were unable to reach an agreement with the landowner. Hoping to have the trail completed by the end

of the year. Hot Tomato had glowing things to say about the new trail connection and how their business has tripled on Saturdays. She did comment that there is a now a need for more bicycle parking.

Ride the Rockies will be coming through Fruita – Ture and Hot Tomato have been talking to get the ride to come through downtown.

City of Grand Junction – Mike said the section by the Glacier has been repaired and should withstand future flooding. On going trail repair. Las Colonias ground breaking next Wednesday the 25th at 10:00am east of the Botanic Gardens.

Mike talked about a group wanting to use Watson Island as an off leash dog park. Have talked with several other groups to get their opinion. Suggestion made to set up a fenced area someplace away from Watson Island until the dog park at the east end is built. Discussed conflict of various user groups and dogs off leash. Stacy said she's heard that there are places over on the Front Range where they have a dog park fee that is used to maintain the dog parks. Pete said Chatfield has a fee to use system. Mike said the groups he's talked with would prefer not to allow dogs off leash on the island.

Mike talked about the email from Bennett Boeschstein regarding vault toilets along the trail. Stacy said Bennett talked to her about it at the Walking & Biking Summit.

Town of Palisade – Frank passed around a map of the lay of the land from Palisade to the proposed shooting range. Frank said JT heard he got the funding today. Frank said Halliburton has told the Town that they will be willing to give them the land needed for the proposed trail. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife will lease the property from the Town at a very favorable rate and the Town will be at the table for the Shooting Range.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said Connected Lake's concrete is being repaired this week. Hydro seeding now. Corn Lake and the Wildlife Area repairs start tomorrow. Working on getting signage installed. Refurbishing the James M. Robb bronze signs and working on replacing other signage as funds are available.

Brad said he has been asked to commission a valid economic study to put a value on the trail.

Walking & Biking Update – Michele updated the group on the total number of registrations and attendees. Ralph Becker, Mayor of Salt Lake City was very well received as was Clark Anderson. Working on getting both their speeches uploaded to the Healthy Mesa County website. Comments in the Comment Box were all very positive. Looking at doing another one in 2017. Thinking about doing evening series in 2016 to get more general public attendance rather than the choir. Stacy talked about her take away from the wrap. She will get her notes to Michele to send out to the RFC members.

New Business –

Frank talked about his meeting with Scott Peterson who attending the last RFC meeting and his work on the Concept Plan Redevelopment of Railroad Yards in the Platte River area of Denver.

There will be a meeting on April 9th with Brad, Frank, Michele, and Kathy Portner with the City of Grand Junction and Harry Weiss with the Downtown Development Authority.

Brad talked about a meeting he attended a couple of years ago where the question was posed to the downtown business would they be in favor of growing downtown towards the Botanic Gardens. Brad said one of the business owners said yes they should.

Old Business:

Retreat – We will be meeting in the multi-purpose room downstairs. Social to follow that evening at the Bookcliff County Club.

Larry said Tillie needs to attract younger people to participate, need the economic impact, need to share user numbers with the public. Suggested doing a survey – could use the Healthy Mesa County to help with the survey and maybe use CMU students.

Claudette talked about all people on the invitee list and the process of who to keep the meeting from being a difficult process to achieve desired outcome. Stacy agrees with what Claudette said and perhaps send out a very detailed survey to help narrow down to one or two from each organization or entities so we can reach the desired outcomes.

Stacy feels need to ask everyone to do homework before the retreat so everyone is prepared when they get to the retreat.

Frank said we are rapidly reaching point where we can't celebrate new connections on the trail so we need to see how we fit in what we have in common with our partners and what they are working on to create a common message and communication to the public. Need the "Missing Links" done by Club 20 done in the late 90's.

Stacy said that the view by the public is "You build trails" but need to look at the bigger picture. She said could design the breakouts around the RFC strategic plan.

Karen said need to set the topics that all invitees will be interested in attending. She is worried that it can't be done in one day.

Larry recommended Carol Stuzzy from CMU to help with a survey. Claudette reminded the group that it's late in the year for a new student project. She also commented that there aren't any Environmental groups. She also mentioned the Sustainability Council.

Brad wants the group to think more on what was discussed tonight and the list.

Stacy proposes doing a broad base survey to the whole group to pair the group down. Karen asked what three topics will be sent out in the survey to develop the action plan. Brad said just take the three questions for the Strategic Plan. Jason said he'd help with the survey. Stacy said need a draft of the survey by next RFC meeting and proposed invitee list narrowed down. Survey only to the invitees. Send potential invitee list to Brad. Brad wants all things done by April 3rd at the latest. Save the Date will go out with the survey.

Advertising – Karen said an outline of an advertising plan has been put in place. In the Ride magazine and on a new Home folder – two year supply.

Safety and Signage – nothing new mentioned.

Media and Facebook – nothing new mentioned.

Public Comment –

Stacy said the Chip with the Verde Council is looking to approve their Charter which is similar to the RFC with regard to funding.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.