

**Grand Junction, Mesa County, City of Fruita, Town of Palisade
Riverfront Commission**

245-0045

Minutes

November 18, 1997

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Paul Nelson. Those present from the Commission were:

Jeanette Main-Goecke	Bill Prakken
Paul Nelson	Bill Findlay
Lenna Watson	Dusty Dunbar
Patrick Kennedy	Jim Baughman
Jack Yates	Earl Payne
Lynn James	

Also present were Elvis Guin, Bob Cron, Brad Taylor, Clayton Dause, Doug Cline, Sandy Stern, Mary Steinbach and Michele Bertron.

Approval of Minutes

J. Main-Goecke/L. Watson motioned to approved the minutes of the October meeting as submitted. Motion passed.

Announcements

Paul Nelson presented the El Pomar Award to the Riverfront Commission. Thanked Bill Prakken for driving and Michele Bertron and Bob Cron for attending luncheon. He gave brief history of the El Pomar Foundation and the \$ amount given to Colorado (only) non-profit organizations to date. It was noted that the El Pomar Foundation did a first class job and that a terrific group of people/organizations were at the luncheon. Video presentation will be mailed out to all organizations sometime after the first of the year.

Special thanks and recognition went to Sam Suplizio, Tillie Bishop and Stephanie Schmid. Sam and Tillie for nominating the Riverfront Commission and Stephanie for her hard work and efforts in handling all the paperwork and showing the El Pomar Foundation the riverfront project. Commission members were thanked for their time, efforts and for meeting monthly.

Dusty Dunbar motioned for sending a thank you letter to each of the above. J. Main-Goecke and L. Watson second. Motion passed.

Sandy Sterm - hand out was passed out regarding grant for trail signs. She's working with all the middle schools and some high schools. Students are researching and designing interpretative signs. Students did site visit with US Fish and Wildlife representative and Wade Johnson - BLM. Students were asked what questions they would ask if walking the trail and came up with a list of topics for signs. Students will learn how to make interpretative signs. Hope to have signs up by January. Will continue with next two school quarters. Will change out the three signs. Plans to hold dedication ceremony for each school, parents and kids. Riverfront will need to give approval for signs. Steve Yamashita - Division of Wildlife approves of project. City has approved the two locations. Working to have signs consistent with state park standards.

Bob Cron recommends Riverfront Commission approve placement of signs.

Jack Yates - Palisade, is interested in the eastern location yet to be determined.

L. Watson motioned. D. Dunbar second. Motion passed.

Group thanked Sandy.

Reminded everyone of the retreat, January 18th. All interested parties are invited. Still looking for topics, contact Paul, Bill or Michele if you have something for discussion. More information to follow.

Michele Bertron spoke of the Christmas Tree contest sponsored by KEKB and Norwest Banks. Three ways for non-profit organization to win. Organization would receive money from votes (donations) for group's decorated tree in Norwest's lobby. Second, the tree with the most votes wins an additional \$100. Lastly, an independent panel of judges will award \$100 for the most creatively decorated tree. Deadline is November 20th. No interest from group. Interested individual(s) contact Michele.

P. Nelson mentioned Athena Tacha - water sculptor, and her \$250,000 grant from the National Endowment of Arts. Asked if Riverfront Commission would be interested in our riverfront project being considered by her for her grant. Members unanimously agreed to sending her a letter and a brochure.

Old Business

Riverfront Foundation donation to City

Bill Prakken, Paul Nelson and Brian Mahoney will present to the city a check for \$62,000 from the Riverfront Foundation. Presentation will be Wednesday (November 19th) at the City Council meeting at 7:30pm.

New Business

December 16th Meeting/Social Hour

December meeting will be brief with social hour following. Social will be potluck (appetizers, snacks and desserts - beverages will be provided). Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a treat. Spouses are welcome. RSVP Michele at 245-0045. Questions, contact Michele.

Jarvis Property Status Report

Carl Zimmerman was not present. Bob Cron covered Carl's handout.

A diagram was drawn on board for group to refer to. The city has been meeting with Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Carl Zimmerman - Soil Conservation District and Bob Cron representing the Riverfront Commission. Proposal for pond (resulted from hazardous waste removal) located on Jarvis and in the 100 year flood plain to breach dike at lower end of pond, shape pond so it would drain in summertime, but so water could back into during flood periods. Would protect undeveloped city property and the Riverside Community. Also would provide habitat for several species of fish, vegetation and there would be a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) standard dike built behind the pond. Referred to handout, estimate of \$134,667.

Proposal not voted on by city. Scheduled for December 3rd for approval. Bill Prakken asked Earl Payne if the city was looking to Riverfront Commission to express opinion on what should be done. Earl felt it would help.

Bill Prakken stated that old dike is flimsy but would lend itself nicely to crusher fine trail. Earl expressed concern about liability - which would be responsibility of Riverfront Commission. Would be no stipulation that dike couldn't be used but complete maintenance would be up to Riverfront Commission.

Bill Prakken stated as long as Riverfront Commission gets trail, will be on board to city.

State Trails Grant Application

Bob Cron - referred to handout regarding criteria for State Trails Grant Application due December 5, 1997. Budget - figures from Shawn Cooper - City Parks.

Would leverage part of project (building dike) against trail money from State Trails to put in a 12' concrete trail starting at 5th and Struthers, down under the bridge, go across Core of Engineers constructed dike, drop underneath the railroad (need permission from the railroad), then up on the dike to be built. Need city's approval or can't move forward. At this point, would propose trail connect to Riverside Park Drive with a paved trail using

surplus city paving material. Also proposing connecting out with 8' wide concrete trail to a point for confluence viewing.

Grant application would be for \$74,000. It would be matched by money that's already in project except for last two items on handout. Paved connection, believes could be in-kind from city since they have materials and project administration which would be city's existing people. Will confirm figures.

Scope of project would give about 40% of the land from 5th Street to Blue Heron II. Would not be attached to Riverside but would have a paved connection.

Doug Cline was asked about on going work - stated slow going due to moist summer and petroleum problems. Could always marked it as "Designated Trail".

Earl Payne and Reford Theobald expressed at Budget Workshop (11/17) that they want connection to Riverside to 5th for '98. Feels 40% figure will help.

Issue of where road is going - Earl stated believes still going north along railroad, but not certain. It is in the Capital Improvement Plan for nine years out.

Bill Prakken asked if there was any way to close off portion of road to make trail. Doug Cline stated that Lawrence Avenue would probably be used, keep through traffic out of community all together. Won't happen before nine years. Earl Payne stated Riverfront Commission should continue planning for where the trail should go.

Bob Cron suggested talking with city to see if possibly putting in a paved/striped shoulder on side of road as temporary solution.

Bob Cron talked about who should apply for grant and the benefits and disadvantages. Non-profits are only eligible for two kinds of money where cities are available for all three. Bill Prakken thought that past applications were done through the city and feels Riverfront Commission should do in conjunction with the city. Dusty Dunbar felt it best if could get in all three pools of money.

Bob Cron will meet with Joe Stevens and Mark Relph and get a draft in their hands so they can get City Council on board. This has to happen quick. Underlying project approval is do on December 3rd. Application must be postmarked December 5th.

Bob then asked members for their help in getting letters of support for the project. Members are to have them addressed to Stuart Macdonald at State Trails. Letters are to be mailed to commission office or delivered to Michele. Letters will be part of packet mailed to State Trails.

Redlands Boat Boat Take-out Status Report

Bill Prakken - on brink of happening.

Grand Opening - Redlands Take-out

No one present to talk about it. Suggestion made that spring might be a better time.

Old Spanish Trail Status Report

No one present to talk about it.

Paul Nelson spoke about where the trail crosses the Orchard Mesa irrigation - it's coming along. Administrative of the county.

Bill Prakken mentioned that trail hasn't gotten much publicity and it's something to think about and start working to make more people aware of the trail. With some streets striped and the connection complete, it will be possible to ride all the way out there from Redlands or wherever. With more use, easier to make improvements.

Paul Nelson - Urban Trails Committee has identified route from Orchard Mesa Middle School area up/down Unawep and then up 28 ½ Road to where Old Spanish Trail has it's trailhead and parking area.

National Trails Day - Co-sponsor with City Parks & Rec. Department

Mary Steinbach - Recreation Superintendent, Grand Junction Parks & Recreation. Gave brief description of letter from Stuart Macdonald outlining National Trails Day for Colorado in 1998. Will be Saturday, June 6, 1998. Mary and Shawn Cooper thought it would be great to sponsor and co-organize an event with the Riverfront Commission. Would like to see activities and special events, getting more participation out on the trails. Perimeters are wide open.

Paul Nelson and Bill Prakken volunteered Judy Kennedy for this project. Asked if anyone else interested. Jeanette Main-Goecke volunteered.

Lenna Watson brought up Rural Net page and that events could be posted on web page.

Mary stated if planning done now, can make the annual event schedule.

Fruita Update

No one present. Paul Nelson stated that they are getting closer to getting land north of the river along the west side up to the Monument bought and transferred over to the state for use as a camp ground and state park facility.

Bob Cron reminded Paul about letter needing signed regarding the Brownfield EPA Grant - pertaining to refinery.

Palisade Update

Jack Yates updated group about bridge. Bridge should be taken out late February, early March and delivered (131 Pendelton Street) in town right next to the canal. Have initial incorporation from Grand Valley Canal.

Jack meeting with Americorp group representative on Friday. Didn't get for the fall, probably get in the spring. Lot of work and a lot of money towards the grant. Job Corp has finished about 600' of 10' wide concrete paths, getting at just about \$5 per foot because Job Corp is doing all work. Will go as far as \$10,000 in materials go.

Has had conversation with property owner whose property more or less splits the property through the east and west end. Has okay from Town Board to start negotiations. Has sent the appraisal and has title commitment, no real surprises. Land owner has agreed to being paid the appraisal price.

Bob Cron stated GOCO has agreed to move the money to this year from next year.

Lenna Watson asked when meetings are at Palisade and Fruita, if group could schedule an hour earlier to visit each of their sites. Bill Prakken and several members agreed this was a good idea since many don't get out to the east and west trails. Suggested waiting until spring before scheduling the meetings at Palisade/Fruita.

Dusty suggested bringing bikes.

Lenna Watson asked if Palisade could get a representative at safety meetings. Elvis Guin was invited.

Urban Trails

Pat Kennedy stated that Bob Cron put together a group of nine people to build a trail. Trail was built from Seasons Development to insect with the Liberty Cap Trail and go on into the Monument. Several were seasoned trail builders - many retired forest service people. Trail completed in about three hours.

Reviewed what was discussed at retreat. Took four hours to discuss three topics, first topic of discussion was a continuation of Bennett's Top Ten (top ten streets that Bennett Boeschstein brought to Urban Trails initially to strip and sign to indicate a network of trails going into the city). Accomplished first ten, looked at another group brought in, Judy Kliska's group had 14 opportunities, added another five in the county after reviewing her 14, total of 19 streets that should be striped and signed in the near future.

Top of the list is Monument Road and is also the biggest challenge. Aware of right of way problems and everything else and that it's a major throughfare for bicyclists coming from Monument - should be something addressed and addressed soon. Will start conversations with county.

Also looked at the underpass under the railroad at Riverside. With pressure to put trails into Riverside, need more connections. Pat Kennedy has spoken with Judy Kliska with some of his ideas about how to reconstruct the underpass to make it a little more bicycle and ADA friendly. Need to address issues and see what cost will be.

Very pleased with first hour of retreat. Next two hours were spent on canal bank issues and what Urban Trails actual position is on those canal banks and how UT wants to address issues. Developed a "mission statement" and action plans that will be involved and what can happen with the canals if the opportunities arise.

Last hour was spent on rising public image and public relation issues pertaining to UT Committee and how to get more exposure so people know that UT Committee is out there active, doing things. Some of the issues where press releases every time a street striped. Past, city has done a wonderful job of striping the streets and putting up the signs, but it was very quiet. Future would like communication from the city when project is completed so UT can issue a press release.

Bob Cron mentioned draft action plan for each of three subjects that will be reviewed at next meeting and finalizing the action plan on the three as to what group will do next couple of years.

Pat Kennedy stated that third year anniversary coming up in March - possible press release to say what has been done in past three years.

Legacy Update

Legacy meeting couple weeks ago - American Heritage Rivers, whether group wanted to apply or not. Decision was made not to apply.

Starting to see money come back from Legacy Projects. City should be getting about \$150,000 in early December. Palisade just got theirs.

Safety

Lenna Watson wasn't sure if city engineers have gone out to mark state park trails in the Audobon area - safety's pilot project. As soon as all are marked, going to start signs. Putting GIS #'s on signs for 911 purposes.

Now project, trail safety education - Helen Traylor and Paula Anderson - City Police are heading up. Got go ahead to get free, Rural Net, one page information sheet. Found programmer who will donate his time to the sheet.

Trail Maps

Lynda Boody no present.

Administration

Financial Report

No financial report due to just getting computer back. Computer's hard drive crashed second week Michele was here. Will take Michele sometime to recreate items not backed up.

Dusty Dunbar suggested taking a backup copy off premises. Michele stated she is already doing that.

Public Comment

Doug Cline reported progress over at Eagle Rim, post and cable up. He found some money in budget and doing parking lot, used recycled materials, just about done. Also stated that Carl Zimmerman, some of his (Doug's) people from City and group of volunteers, ran post and cable line down the block - this was done to keep cars/ATVs from going onto the bridge and into the park. Doug also reported on vandalism, someone had taken a baseball bat to one of the panel boxes causing a short in lights. Several of the lights have been broken with large rocks. Doug has replaced with high impact glass, if that doesn't work, looking at making custom fix Plexiglas. Hope with colder weather vandalism will stop. Still no protection with cars/ATVs entering bridge from north side. Suggestion made of removable posts to keep vehicles from going around.

Paul Nelson mentioned that every time there is a chance for the city to do something nice, they always do for the Riverfront Commission over and over again. Have demonstrated the spirit that exists. The Riverfront Commission sure appreciates it. Paul will mention at City Council meeting tomorrow.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.

