

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION

245-0045

MINUTES

December 16, 1997

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

Bill Prakken	Paul Nelson
Pat Kennedy	Carl Zimmerman
Dusty Dunbar	Lenna Watson
Linda Boody	Jeanette Main-Goecke
Kirk Rider	

Also present were Carlos Sauvage, Bob Cron, Lynne Greene, Barb Bowman, Brian Mahoney and Michele (Bertron) Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Dusty Dunbar motioned to approve the minutes of the November meeting as submitted. Lenna Watson second. Motion passed.

Announcements

The Colorado Riverfront Foundation received a \$25,000 donation for the Ruth P. Hutchins Charitable Lead Trust. There may be additional donations down the road.

Athena Tacha is interested in the riverfront project as a possibility for her \$250,000 grant. Grant is from a private family foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, state of Ohio rejected work for Lake Erie. A slide and video presentation is being prepared to send for her meeting with the foundation at the end of December. Bill Prakken asked members to think about sites for consideration. Carl Zimmerman suggested adding "Art on the Corner" brochure. Michele to talk with DDA to see what brochures are available.

Old Business

Redlands Boat Take-out

Paul Nelson asked Carlos Sauvage about the Redlands Boat Take-out. Carlos indicated that he signed paperwork today. There is a problem with a patent that needs to be released. Bill Prakken asked if it's a done deal. Carlos stated that they have their deed. Paul Nelson asked Kirk Rider what he knew. Kirk stated that all signed documents are in escrow at Abstract & Title. The deed to the Boat Take-out has been recorded, the Solicitor General for the BLM has to approve the title policy giving consent. Kirk believes consent will be given. Can't record the deed for the patent that runs to Redlands Water & Power and a few other documents until consent is given. Thinks things are in motion and will be wrapped up in the next week.

Paul Nelson thanked Carlos, Kirk and others for their efforts in helping get things done.

New Business

Paul Nelson and Bill Prakken discussed whether to hold retreat or not. Members were asked what they wanted to do.

Pat Kennedy asked if there was one pressing topic that would be discussed at retreat. Paul explained about what had been done in past. Things currently right on track. Past discussions were Urban Trails, Legacy, last year was prioritization process which included the Jarvis trail.

Dusty Dunbar asked in retreat had ever been done without a topic, more brainstorming, ideas about the organization and direction itself. Brian Mahoney stated that there were a few in the past.

Brian Mahoney stated that group might want to focus on canal banks issue. Bill Prakken stated that was one of the main topic at the Urban Trails retreat in November.

Bill Prakken also stated that retreat did not necessarily have to be held in January, it could be moved to a later date in the year.

Pat Kennedy suggested an abbreviated retreat. Paul Nelson said that meeting could be held in morning, do lunch and go.

Judy Kennedy suggested educational with speakers.

Paul Nelson brought up the reauthorization of the lottery. Concerns about the General Assembly wanting to use the money for their purpose rather than what it's being used for now.

Bob Cron mentioned Stuart MacDonald does an excellent slide presentation on canals and trails. Hold it in spring and making it more of a social event.

Kirk Rider stated that Dan Wilson spoke to the City on canal trails, he might be another good person for a speaker.

Carl Zimmerman asked about pictures and hosting an open house for a few hours. Brian Mahoney said there is a box of pictures in back storage area.

Bill Prakken asked if half day retreat would work.

Dusty Dunbar voiced concerns about “what if” Colorado does not reauthorize the lottery, then what? Also feels that many people do not understand quite how the organization works as well as it might. Believes there is a misconception on the part of some that it’s a government entity and yes in a way it is but no in a way it’s not. Effective marketing is a good idea.

Pat Kennedy stated that it would be good time to honor Tillie Bishop since he will be leaving office in 1998.

Open house idea with drawing good idea to discuss at retreat. Other ideas, please let Paul, Bill or Michele know.

Suggestion to bring Debbie Kovalik with the Visitor and Convention Bureau to help with marketing strategies.

Commission members agreed to hold a half day retreat on January 17, 1998. 8am to noon with lunch together and then group dismissed.

1998 Colorado Trails Symposium

Barb Bowman, Director of Sales with the Visitor and Convention Bureau briefed the group on what the VCB does to promote the Grand Valley. She stated that the riverfront is marketed as part of their proposals. She worked on the trail conference in 1992 with Bennett Boeschstein - she helped him do a proposal. She also has worked with Stuart MacDonald. Offer 16 different services, most of them free.

Bill Prakken asked what role the commission played in last conference. Barb said commission was more or less a host, organized activities, handled the hotels chosen by Stuart - attendees made own reservations. Commission also hosted a reception, dedication of Watson Island.

Joe Stevens with the City of Grand Junction stated interested in sponsoring. Jack Yates said Town of Palisade would also be interested. Will check with the City of Fruita.

Bob Cron stated that there could be as many as several hundred over Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Looking for opportunities to show various trail opportunities throughout the community.

Show of hands was unanimous to host Colorado Trails Symposium.

Committee will be put together at later date with City of Grand Junction, Town of Palisade, City of Fruita and John Martin.

Barb suggested proposal with planned events. Bob Cron and Michele Rohrbach will meet with VCB and get strategy for proposal. Group would like to see events hosted from one end of the valley to the other.

Honor Trail Hosts during National Trails Week

Need to honor Trail Hosts during National Trails Week. Judy Kennedy, Michele Rohrbach, Paula Anderson and Mary Steinbach will be organizing this event.

Committee Reports

Bill Prakken asked if anyone wanted to make a committee report.

Paul Nelson said to skip since no one wanted to make a report.

Public Comment

Bob Cron mentioned that with the Redlands Boat Take-out being completed, food for thought, a ceremony and press release would be nice.

Kirk Rider, there is a problem according to Carlos Sauvage with BLM, the US Fish and Wildlife Division is not at all happy with boat take-out. Kirk feels that there should not be any publicity until everything is signed and sealed, then go ahead and do press release, public announcement and ceremony including the US Fish and Wildlife. Kirk suggested having Brian Mahoney honored during ceremony for all his efforts in getting Redlands Power's cooperation. Riverfront Commission would love to host a ceremony.

Brian Mahoney gave brief history of Redlands Power. Left a copy of the First Annual Report of the Riverfront Commission for others to read so they could see how far the organization has come. Stated how they couldn't get anyone to do anything so he had a meeting at his office with Redlands Power & Water, the raft guys, water club, the BLM, the Bureau of Reclamation, some hunters and a couple people from the Riverfront, Tom Burke and Dukes Unlimited. Took a year before dialogue started going. Kirk Rider was asked to join to get him involved in that project and get things going. The canal issue is the perfect parallel to this situation. You just need to get all people involved together

and sit down and have an open dialogue to make things to happen. Most of those involved want things done since most live here and know it's a good thing. Brian stated he believes canal banks issue will be solved since most everyone wants it solved.

He also thanked all the commission members for serving and for their support.

Adjournment

Bill Prakken adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm, social began immediately after.