

RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045

Minutes of Meeting
February 18, 1998

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Paul Nelson at 7:30pm. Those present were:

Paul Nelson	Bill Prakken
Jeanette Main-Goecke	Judy Kennedy
Pat Kennedy	Lynda Boody
Lenna Watson	Carl Zimmerman
Bill Findlay	Dusty Dunbar
Jack Yates	Earl Payne

Also present were Bob Cron, Clayton Dause, Dave Soker, Carlos Sauvage, Brad Taylor, Don Hobbs, Doug Cline, Sue Gormley, Mel Mulder and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Nelson/Kennedy motioned to approve the minutes of the January Retreat. Lenna Watson second. Motioned passed.

Announcements

Paul Nelson encouraged all who had not read the letter from Athena Tacha to do so. Members did not agree with her comments of the Art on the Corner being "misguided". Paul read a letter received from Jil Anderson regarding Athena's letter. Bottom line is riverfront project and Art on the Corner are doing what the people of the community want us to do.

Bill Prakken announced that Lynda Boody has received a terrific promotion, she will be Area Manager and will be moving to Medford, Oregon. This will be her last meeting. Tonight also happens to be her birthday. Group sang "Happy Birthday". Lynda stated that invitations have been sent out to members to attend a going away party to be held at the Pinon Grill.

Bill then went onto say that with Lynda's departure and his term ending in June, as well as Carl's, Kirk's and Lenna's in June, there could be up to five vacancies depending on if the incumbents reup. Which is almost half of the commission. All members need to be thinking of good, qualified people interested in serving on the board.

Bill talked about the presentation made in Glenwood Springs on February 9th to the Colorado State Trails Committee for \$70,000 for constructing the trail on the Jarvis Property. Bill Prakken, Paul Nelson, Bob Cron, Michele Rohrbach, Joe Stevens and Shawn Cooper with the City were present at the meeting. Bill felt presentation went well and should hear within a few weeks. Stressed the point that the portion of this trail segment was not in the Legacy program, it was cut from Legacy because did not know how long it was going to take the EPA to get rid of the waste on the site. We did not stay, however, Bob Cron did and was part of Fruita's presentation for funding for the approach trail to the Old Fruita Bridge.

Bill said if the funding comes through, we're off to the races on the Jarvis Property.

Bob Cron stated the dike would be done in August and before that, they would be doing revegetation work.

Bill Prakken stated that if grant is denied, will have to think about doing some kind of funding raising effort through the Foundation. It is a major priority of the Commission for over a year. Bob Cron stated that perhaps a challenge or match grant with the City could be arranged.

Jeanette Main-Goeske announced that she is the new Director of the Western Colorado Botanical Society starting on Monday.

Bob Cron said still waiting to hear on the Colorado Trails Symposium to be held sometime in last August or September.

Old Business

Bill Prakken talked about No Thoroughfare Wash. Redlands Power and Water owns a 200 foot wide strip that goes down the gulch between the houses and they contacted the Riverfront Commission to see if would be interested in taking over ownership of that property. At the time there was a lot of border wars going on, boundaries are in question, things seem to have calmed down. RPW is still interested in going through with the deal as long as they can discharge their waste water down the gulch. Bill feels it makes sense to ultimately construct a trail that would come from the Broadway Bridge up to Monument Road and would hook in with Hidden Lake. The City and DOW are talking about acquiring that parcel of land. Discussed with the Foundation and they have said they are willing to accept ownership of that parcel. Bill is concerned with boundaries being question, spoke with Dan Wilson with the City, Dan didn't think discrepancies would be a problem when the Foundation transfers ownership to the City. Bill asked members if they wanted to recommend to the Foundation to accept title to the property.

Bob Cron spoke about the parcel that DOW is looking into (Hidden Lake) purchasing. The City would manage. Bill Prakken said Roger Moore with Storage Tank Technology

agreed to do an environmental assessment free gratis, it indicated that there is a fair amount of trash, the site appears to be clean.

Earl Payne asked about the liability. Bill stated he didn't think it would be a problem unless there was a flash flood. The Foundation is insured.

Bill asked if there was any opposition, there was none. Bill will relate to the Foundation to accept ownership on Thursday at their quarterly meeting.

New Business

Meeting Schedule for 1998 - Paul Nelson discussed the 1998 meeting schedule. May's meeting is in Fruita, June will be in Palisade. Will try to meet ahead of time to see what is happening in both areas.

Web Page Information - Michele and Paula Anderson have meeting with Chris Grier tomorrow. Chris has volunteered his time to design page and is looking for information on volunteer projects. The page will have photos, trail information, safety, e-mail address and a bulletin board that can be changed. Will be linked with VCB. Commission will have final say on what appears on page.

Ceremony for Redlands Boat Take-Out - Judy Kennedy spoke about National Trails Day and what has been planned. Friday will be bike, walk, blade to work day with bagels, coffee at Brach's Market, Blue Heron and by the bridge. Hope to have demos. On Saturday emphasis will be on opening this year's new trail and to honor the trail host volunteers. The trail opening this year will be the Gunnison River. Boat put in will be Whitewater. Carlos is rounding up boats, ride will be 12 miles long and take about 4 hours. Everyone is welcome to come. Planning a cookout behind the Botanic Gardens which Pat Kennedy is helping with. This will help take off some of the emphasis on the boat take-out.

Re-vegetation Grant for Jarvis Property - Carl Zimmerman reported that the Mesa County Soil Conservation had applied for a grant to revegetate after construction on the Jarvis back water project. Have been successful in first phase and will receive about \$39,000. The next two phases, the two following years would add up to about \$76,000. The \$39,000 is from the Central Utah Project and it's Bureau of Reclamation money along with the \$50,000 from the EPA and \$100,000 from the US Fish and Wildlife should complete that project by August. The City has hauled in a lot of fill. Carl has talked with the EPA about their \$50,000 grant and it is in Colorado, so just need a couple more things to finish that up. Everything is on schedule. The \$39,000 will be used for native materials, scrubs, grasses and native vegetation that they will establish through the summer. Trees (cottonwood and willow) poles will be planted next spring - will not be protected from beavers.

Bill Findlay went back to old business regarding Watson Island. Mentioned that there still are areas marked off with yellow and red tape and not cleaned up yet. Was wondering if there are plans to get that cleaned up.

Paul Nelson asked Don Hobbs about the status. Don said there is nonradioactive lead which is not subject to removal, no decision has been made as whether to cover it up with dirt and leave it be or remove it. City will be in charge of decision. Area is in flood plan so there will be nothing built there.

Vandalism on Bridge - Bill Prakken mentioned article in the newspaper regarding vandalism to the bridge. Doug Cline stated that as of today, the damage has been 18 of the 28 have been broken. Doug showed props and what they look like unbroken and what they look like broken. Each lens cover is \$70 a piece. Showed a grill guard that he demonstrated by dropping on the floor to show durability. Getting estimates for cost, which expect to be about \$100 a piece. Cost will be worth it if will save the \$70 fixture. The overhead lights are also being broken. Most damage is either coming from rocks on the overheads or being kicked out on the bridge. GJPD did a presentation to the middle school children to stress what can happen if caught. Police do patrol but can't be there all the time. Will not be replacing anymore fixtures until guards are designed. Cost since start of the year is about \$2,000 for replacement fixtures.

Carl Zimmerman proposed the Riverfront Commission write a letter to the GJPD to see if they can help resolve the situation. Bill Prakken and Paul Nelson said they would do a letter.

Several of the commission members volunteered to go down and keep an eye on the area at night.

Doug Cline stated that they have asked the GJPD to borrow their surveillance camera. Problem is putting it in a safe place so it doesn't get broken.

Dusty Dunbar asked if welding is taught at UTEC. Lenna Watson said she'd contact UTEC to see if they have a welding class that might be interested in doing the guards.

Earl Payne stated that Canyon View Park has been hit as well as some of the area parks.

Jack Yates stated that according to articles he's read, for the population of the valley, the vandalism rate is \$1,500 per night.

Colorado Recovery Program - Dave Sokor presented information regarding the endangered fish recovery program and starting a new project. Will talk with community, cities and county at their regular meetings. Will hold public meetings to discuss their environmental assessment next month.

The Colorado Recovery Program was formed as a cooperative effort to find a reasonable solution to bring the fish back.

Project proposing to do along the river, they would like work to with the Riverfront Commission and the local communities to do it the right way, to not interfere and get what's needed done with the least destruction and with the most positive effort they can.

Research shows two endangered fish need shallow wetlands along the river in order to survive. Would like to restore flooding along the river flood plain in order for the fish to survive. Three key areas that are doing this: most important is Green River in Utah up by Vernal, this is the last remaining viable wild river population of razorback suckers, there are only about 300 and they are in the 20 to 30 year old range. Will probably stop spawning soon due to age. Other two areas are: Colorado River from Rifle to the Utah border and on the Gunnison River from the North Fork of the Gunnison down to the Colorado. In Mesa County that includes both rivers. Areas looking to flood are the flat areas of the rivers. These are the areas which receive much use by people, must work carefully to avoid conflict.

Question is how to flood these areas with the least destruction to the community and not infringe on property rights?

Proposal is to buy the right to allow flooding along the rivers. Do not want to take it nor are there any discussions on breaking down dams. They want to do the opposite. They do not want to destroy. Will use limited easements instead of fee purchases whenever possible. Only buy what they need and leave it at that, this will have the least impact on the property where buying the easements. Private property would remain on tax rolls of Mesa County. Will only work with willing land owners in this program. They will not condemn any property.

Public access will not be included with the easements. Uses of the property that should be compatible with the easements, including grazing, hunting and recreation including trails and parks. Not only are these uses allowed but they are under the direct control of the land owner.

Indirect benefits will help prevent the development in these flood prone areas. New areas created for flooding will help in times of flood. It will slow the force of the flood by dissipating the power of the water. The whole river system will benefit as these natural areas restore. Flooding will only occur about three weeks out of the year, remainder of the time will be dry.

Mentioned open house on Wednesday, March 4th, 5pm-8pm at the new Ramada Inn.

Bill Prakken thanked Dave for the communications.

Pat Kennedy asked if parcels have been identified for their program. Concentrated on areas on the Green River since that is their highest priority. The Mesa County area, he wanted to go slow and a full out effort has not been done because the EA hasn't been done nor have they gotten public comment yet. He hopes to come back to the Commission with a list of properties.

Was asked how project fits in on the Jarvis Property. Dave's program is similar to the Jarvis Property but outside his perimeter.

Interruptive Signs - Paul Nelson stated that Dusty Dunbar would be presenting Sandy Stern's update on the Interruptive sign designed by the middle school students and installed upstream for the parking lot on River Road on the Blue Heron section of the trail. Passed around Sandy's photos. The wayside exhibit was dedicated two Monday's ago.

Dusty Dunbar mentioned that Sandy had written a grant to get a series of wayside panels (temporary) put up along the river. The panels will be rotated. It is designed to involve young people in the realm of interruption and conservation along the riverfront corridor. The photos going around the room are from Terry Lindhauer's class of middle school students. Wade Johnson from the BLM is working on this project with Sandy and Dusty is also participating, as is the DOW. The kids are learning how to do an interruptive display and how to pare down what they want to say and how to really interrupt a site. Work is now being done on one for the Old Mill Bridge - Orchard Mesa Middle School, Palisade High School is working on theirs. Kids decide what will go on the panel. A great deal of work goes into each of these signs.

Paul Nelson stated that the Riverfront Commission is giving to all of the kids who participate and the teacher a certificate (printed by Wade Johnson of BLM) signed by him or Bill with the Riverfront logo on it, saying thank you for participating in the project. Parents are invited at the time of the dedication.

Lenna Watson suggested that the kids be invited to activities put on by the Riverfront Commission.

Dusty said that the Orchard Mesa Middle School is working on a sign that will have a historical bend to, it will talk about why the Old Mill Bridge is named the Old Mill Bridge.

Question was asked if the media participated. Sandy is working on that. Not one media person attended the dedication, hopefully will have coverage at next one.

Suggestion made to have letter printed in newspaper with all the kids names.

Carl Zimmerman stated that next two weeks is a good time to pole plant cottonwood trees if anyone is interested. Lenna Watson agreed to spearhead this project for Saturday,

February 28th. Old Mill Bridge is a great site for this project. This will also be a good project to have volunteers participate in next year.

Paul Nelson announced that the Retreat Outcome will be tabled until next month.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Mel Mulder with the Fruita City Council updated the Commission regarding GOCO Legacy, will contribute to the Colorado River State Park at Fruita for land acquisition and development in the neighborhood of \$1 million dollars and \$2 million dollars total. State Parks will be making up the difference. Also included in the award are funds for other Fruita GOCO Legacy riverfront projects.

Riverfront open space inventory is complete.

Old Fruita Bridge and Dinosaur Hill Trail Grant was mentioned earlier tonight.

Brownfield Grant Application was denied and was suggested to reapply in March.

Refinery has presented a proposal to County Commission to dedicate as permanent open space of approximately 120 acres between the Refinery and the river as part of the Colorado River Greenway Project. This would be a large step forward in implementing Fruita/Kokopelli Trail. Bill Prakken said he's heard that this project has become somewhat rocky. Mel said yes, Fruita is not going to step right out and accept the wash, neither is the County.

Bill Prakken asked about the John Mansville deal. Mel stated that Mansville was willing to allow Fruita to have a 50 foot easement. Bill asked if trail could be put on it, Mel wasn't sure. Fruita wanted 100 feet plus the lake for the State Park.

Palisade Update - Jack Yates stated that Elvis Guin recently had back surgery and asked if Commission would sign a note to him.

Logan Street access - Jack has been dealing with the owners and think things are going well. What they would like to do is end the road at the end of Logan Street. Thinking is to put in a curb at the entrance and make that the entrance to the park and plaza area which will still allow for emergency vehicles. Will plant lots of trees and paint street lights and add few new victorian lights, one at the corner and one at the entrance to the park. Hoping this plan will please the neighbors.

The bridge - took bids on the 10th. Didn't have permit, spent last three months working on it, awarding of the bids is contingent upon getting the permit. Do have a license and 17 points, they said the reason writing a new agreement was because of the trails question, one being the canal. Most of the points were stringent but okay except for 17

which was that either side could stop the agreement with six months notice and improvements removed. In the end it was an easement rather than a license.

Will have a trails day ceremony on National Trails Day to get people down to the new park.

Palisade High School made a presentation primarily by the teachers for a conservation easement for 27 acres. The reason being it has been discussed to put ball fields in that area, it's a perfect area drainage wise and topography wise (it's the old driving range). There are pros and cons to the idea. Somehow have it developed into the park, by fencing or some type of measure either physical or psychological. The east end will get developed and the west, probably along the construction property, would be trails for years. No decision was made about the conservation easement.

Definite delivery date on the bridge will be the first week in May. Hope to have in soon after delivery. Will need to have parking lot in and figure out the entrance.

Urban Trails Committee - Pat Kennedy started by showing an area on the map called Colinas del Valle (Pink Water Towers per Paul Nelson). It's bounded by South Camp Road, Monument Road and South Broadway on one end. It's essentially seven square miles of undeveloped property. 35 acres of the 700 acres in BLM land. Three large property owners were identified, (1) Genie, Inc., (2) Temple Rock, and (3) Dave Fletcher. Showed Dave Fletcher's property on the map, the Temple Rock property is behind the Ridges and showed where Genie was located on the map. Temple Rock area was planned as a golf course years ago. The major landowner has changed hands recently, a group from Aspen has taken over and looking at the golf course again. Hale Irwin was in Pat's restaurant on Friday along with Thompson Langford Engineers and Civoanne and Associates.

Fletcher has started the process of what he wants to do with his property on the north side of Monument Road with the City. Fletcher isn't wild about doing trails and group will have to talk with him about. Believe Bob Cron will be best person since he lives in one of Fletcher's neighborhoods.

Pat Kennedy has a meeting scheduled with Tim Woodmansee and others on Friday to look at the Colinas del Valle maps and see where going to be with the developers from Aspen. Evidentially they are keeping an open mind. Pat said it is a wonderful area for mountain biking and hiking. Group appears to have the money do what the City wants.

Another issue Urban Trails has been dealing with has been the canal bank issue. Gerry Tucker a member of UTC has drafted a letter in response to the Canal Companies' letter sent the landowners asking for the exclusive easement. Letter is in development stage, Janet Terry has asked that it not be sent but have ready to send.

Bob Cron has authored a “white paper” or a position paper where he has taken the issues from the feasibility study of September, 1996 and condensed it into a two page document. Should be ready by March and can be circulated and it also states that they have the ultimate respect for the land ownership and they under the liability issues and they do understand the crime/vandalism, everything involved so Urban Trails can get their point of view across that this could be a win-win situation.

Also working on a county trail map with Cliff Davidson through the MPO. Will be similar to what they have with the Urban Trails Master Plan. The MPO has some funding and may be able to develop some sort of county wide trail map plan.

Been looking at their top 18, this is through Doug Cline and Jody Kliska who have faithfully attending the Urban Trails meetings and giving a great deal of input to what UTC is trying to do. Doug has come up with a couple of bridges that will be installed, one will be behind the tanning salon on Patterson Road between 7th and 12th. Looking at a free spanning bridge. The other one will be spanning Indian Wash, essentially where Gunnison would hit Indian Wash, would have a pedestrian bridge. If development happens to the south side of Kmart they will have something there to bring things across. Believe there is another bridge going in on G Road, at 25 ¼ Road on the north side of G Road.

Doug Cline added that the bridge over off Little Bookcliff (behind tanning salon) will probably be on hold until next year, reason being the City needs the funds to buy additional right of way on G Road. The good news is that St. Mary’s Hospital is willing to participate in the cost of the bridge, they are not in the position to fund it right now. They would be within the year.

Question was asked regarding G Road. Doug stated that their goal is to try and complete most if it with a tie in at 25 Road along with the bridge and complete it hopeful to 7th Street, certainly to 1st Street this year. There are some physical problems, mainly Leech Creek. Most work will be on the north side for two way traffic, not sure will work on south side. Doug is working with Shawn Cooper on this.

Legacy Update - Bob Cron stated that most of the items have already been discussed. Mesa County has now acquired the Department of Energy site in Whitewater. State Parks has been working on Island Acres within the improvements about 85% done, should be finishing up this spring. Will be working at Corn Lake. They are also doing about a half of mile of trail from 30 ½ to 30, should be available later this summer. Closed on the Corn property out on the Fruita riverfront.

The Department of Wildlife had a request for proposals in the newspaper regarding land acquisition. This process make it so they don’t have to go through the Legislature. They are seeking property owners interested in selling properties with wildlife value along the Colorado River. Proposals are due by 3/13. One of the proposals in with regard to

Hidden Lakes. They are also mailing to some of the people identified in the Fruita inventory along the river.

Bob also mentioned that Fruita received \$100,000 Historic Grant for the old Fruita Bridge.

Another request for Legacy proposals, they have about \$12.2 million dollars available. Bob said one project was submitted as a Legacy Four Amendment. Were allow to participate if had a project that might go away or disappear in a years time. Fruita has one parcel of land which is for sale on Little Salt Wash, was submitted for possible funding.

Grand Junction as well as the Jarvis trail application, they are working on Las Colonias Master Plan and they are also working on getting water to Junior Service League park this spring and summer.

Mesa County Land Conservancy, not a Legacy Project, did apply for a large open space grant for properties up in Glade Park.

Botanical Society did receive \$30,000 from the County Lottery towards the parking lot that is needed down there, will also provide access to the riverfront trail.

Safety Committee Update - Lenna Watson said the GSI nails are in, off side numbers are hopefully still remaining up. 911 has received communication that they are up.

Paula Anderson is now going to have trail hosts attend safety meetings.

Safety is redirecting goals.

Got go ahead from trails to put signs up with the names of the trails and approximate mileage.

Asked for show hands of those that will be there Saturday, 2/28.

Trails Map Committee Update - Judy Kennedy passed around a draft of trail map. Map is in color, however, it is too cost prohibitive to produce in color. One side of the map will be Fruita, Palisade - the whole stretch. Solid lines are existing trails, dotted lines are proposed trails. It needs a lot of cleaning up. Back side will have detail maps of main trails. When folded up will have Riverfront logo and introduction. County GSI has been helping Judy. One side will be available for donor.

The map will be black and white and river will be blue, will have all participating logos, etiquette and legend. Will be size that people can still in their pocket.

Cost will run about \$1,600 to \$2,200 for 10,000 maps.

Dusty Dunbar suggested that if folded and can survive being in a pocket and still be usable, having a drop off box after being used.

Any suggestions, let Judy know.

Question asked, how much more for color, wasn't sure.

Administration

Financial Reports - Michele Rohrbach passed out the reports and said due to late hour to review later and call her with any questions.

Paul Nelson stated that the printer died and a new one was purchased for under \$400. It's a Hewlett Packard LaserJet 6L.

Public Comment

Lenna Watson stated that there is a member on the Riverfront Commission interested in a PR Committee. Dusty Dunbar has volunteered, Lenna made a motion, Judy Kennedy second. Motion passed.

Paul Nelson again, thanked Lynda Boody for being on the Commission. Lynda reminded everyone of the going away party on March 12th at 6:30pm, it is RSVP.

Intergovernmental meeting is Thursday, March 5th, 7am at the BLM office. Joe Stevens with the City will sponsor.

Earl Payne commented on the quickness of the tree planting and suggested that the media should be notified.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.