

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
March 17, 1998
Corrected April 22, 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
Judy Kennedy	Kirk Rider
Pat Kennedy	Jim Baughman
Lenna Watson	Carl Zimmerman
Bill Findlay	Earl Payne
Jack Yates	

Also present were Bob Cron, Joe Stevens, Clayton Dause, Brad Taylor, Kurt Mill, Doug Cline, Paula Anderson, Dr. Lynn James and Michele Rohrbach.

Paul Nelson passed around two cards for group to sign. One was a goodbye card for Lynda Boody and the second a sympathy card for Stephanie Schmid, her husband passed away last week.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Kennedy motioned to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Lenna Watson second. Motioned passed.

Announcements

Paul Nelson stated that tomorrow at 1pm at Watson Island and at 8am in Palisade on Thursday are two separate interpretative sign dedications. These are the signs being done by area middle school students.

Bill Prakken talked about the Saturday, February 28th pole planting. Special thanks went out to Doug and his crew who volunteered their time to come down and run the backhoes. Doug stated that one of the volunteers was from Joe Stevens, City Parks crew. Another thanks to Carl Zimmerman for the idea and for getting the poles.

Carl stated that there are a few buds on the poles that had limbs left on them. The others will take a while before they bud.

Paul Nelson passed around an article stating that AG Engineering received an award for the Old Mill Bridge design.

Bob Cron announced that the State Trails Symposium will be held here in Grand Junction, October 15th through 17th.

Paul Nelson announced that Paul Anderson had a well attended trail host training/orientation seminar. There are now 50 trail hosts. Paul stated that the new hosts are on the Orchard Mesa section of trail. Weekends aren't covered yet, but the week day shifts are filling up.

Pat Kennedy read the letter from Bob Ferrante with Colorado National Bank regarding the name change to U.S. Bank and the ceremony being held on Monday, March 30th, 11:45am to 12:15pm at 422 White Avenue.

Old Business

Retreat Outcome - Paul Nelson reminded everyone of the emerging issues from the retreat. The number one issue was the need for more community awareness. Paul said he wished Dusty Dunbar was at the meeting, she has a lot of experience in that area. Paul then continued to read off the retreat minutes list of issues. Paul opened the floor to hear what the members were thinking and develop the list in more detail.

Jack Yates mentioned the video tape and how one should be done about the riverfront and riverfront activities. Could be done by the area high schools video and video production classes.

Paula Anderson wondered if there was a way of collaborating with School District 51 to do some science classes for a target grade. Thinks a lot of kids don't get to experience the trails because their families don't use the trails.

Mentioned that web page should be linked to the VCB's. They have one of the greatest web site pages. It's won several awards.

Lenna Watson stated that Dusty Dunbar was interested in doing the Community Awareness. Paul Nelson stated that one of Dusty's goals when she became a paid staff member of the Colorado National Monument Association was to have community outreach. Her program and budget is similar to what the Riverfront Commission is trying to accomplish.

Bill Prakken stated that he is frequently asked by service groups as to what they can do to assist in the riverfront development. Generally, he hasn't had a answer for them. Would like to generate a series of scheduled projects (Pat Kennedy said something like every

second Saturday) for the groups to work on. Bill feels this would heighten awareness within the community.

Lenna Watson stated that it seems that the poor City and County employees get those jobs that the Riverfront more or less creates. She thinks we need to help the City and County with the employees on needed projects. Perhaps a running list in both offices that can be crossed off when completed and give credit.

Bill Prakken stated that one of the problems with projects in the past is that it requires the City or County employees expertise. Bill would like to see it where we don't have to drag their employees down to our projects on Saturdays but that we coordinate with them and if the employees want to volunteer fine but won't be necessary.

Pat Kennedy suggested setting up a committee to handling since it is a long range, constant position. Thought perhaps it could be an assignment for one of the new members.

Joe Stevens with the City said that when you're talking about heavy equipment, due to the liability factor, that Grand Junction is a lot more liberal in allowing certain things to happen. The City is constantly be contacted too by groups wanting to volunteer, Joe stated that the City probably doesn't do a very good about conveying back to the Riverfront about these contacts.

Joe stated that it isn't an inconvenience for the City to help on the riverfront projects since they have an obligation to maintain the trails as do the other jurisdictions.

Paul Nelson asked Kurt Mill and Brad Taylor with State Parks if there was anything that volunteers could do with the state parks. Brad stated that he is trying to create self sustaining projects within the state parks, like adopt a portion of the trail.

Bill Prakken asked if the other entities feel the Riverfront Commission has a role to play in terms and coordinate among County, City and State Parks for these kinds of activities.

Doug Cline suggested that the Riverfront Commission might want to think about a program similar to the Adopt a Street Program since there are so many groups looking for activities. Could apply to the riverfront with adopt sections of trails.

Paula Anderson stated that the web page will have the capability to list activities for volunteers. There appears to more volunteers than projects. She also stated that their are volunteers out there that can do more than cleanup. There are many volunteers out there with technical expertise.

Bob Cron suggested a two part approach, start utilizing Michele's capabilities more by having her contact the 12 partners once a month for a list of projects. Phase two would be the committee that Pat Kennedy's talked about, that committee could look at the list

and see what projects they want to take on and recruit volunteers and take on a couple of the projects. Meanwhile if Michele is getting calls and there's a need for a project that matches her list, she can refer them to the proper person.

Carl Zimmerman stated that there isn't a shortage of projects, it's that you need someone to coordinate the project once one has been chosen and that it's done correctly for the people who are going to maintain it.

The new Committee would help coordinate so that projects are maintained on an on going basis, not just for the first summer.

Someone suggested a paid coordinator from another organization. Members felt it should be a commission member. Carl Zimmerman said that it would be better to make each member responsible for a section of trail otherwise it would be too big for one person to handle. Bill Prakken said that the coordinator could contact each member to coordinate one activity on a section of the trail.

Kirk Rider asked if the emerging issues was just an internal document - answer yes. One item on the list he's not eager to take up, the motorized river travel. Bill Prakken said that was something that Katherine Robertson with the BLM has brought to the retreats. Riverfront Commission prefers to not make it an issue.

Bill Prakken was wondering aloud where the group goes from here. He's hearing as a way of creating more community awareness is to have a much more active volunteer program and a volunteer coordination program and a committee established to do that. Asked if that was the sense of the organization - answer yes.

Reiterated that the video tape is a slick idea, school district programs and the web sites are all good ideas. Asked if there were any other ideas beyond the volunteer program concept in terms of what the Riverfront can do to create more community awareness about what the Riverfront Commission is doing.

Paula Anderson suggested trying to get employer more involved to encourage their employees to walk, ride or blade to work as a way to get more people out on the trails.

Bill Prakken said it's a good idea just not sure how to go about making it work.

Paula then suggested having volunteers on the committee to bring in a different perspective. Thought Char Schoffner with District 51 would be a good choice.

Carl Zimmerman thought a Grand Junction Commuting to Work Day would be a great idea. Suggested getting water bottles and passing them out to people on the trail. Would need to get a sponsor to help with that.

Paula Anderson said an incentive for her to ride to work would be for her employer to allow her to come to work a half an hour later and leave a half an hour early. She said she's do it.

The water bottle was agreed easier to sell to the employer and the Chamber of Commerce.

Paula then suggested a water bottle and a tee shirt. Carl said no limit as long as enough sponsors could be found. Could make a contest out of it. Get the media involved and get the visibility out there.

Paula said it could be like the United Way, which employer has the most participation.

Bob Cron suggested that Paula and Carl should sit down with Dusty and go over their ideas. Bill Prakken said that the committee will probably take more than one or two people to organize.

Bill Prakken and Paul Nelson will sit down with Dusty before next months meeting and formulate more specific plans.

Paul Nelson asked Michele if the meeting is on the road next month, she said not until May, it will be in Palisade. Lenna Watson asked if those interested could arrive about an hour before the meeting to see the latest and greatest happenings in Palisade. Jack Yates said that would be fine. Paul Nelson suggested a cookout. Lenna said let's make it a brown bag dinner.

No Thoroughfare Wash - Bill Prakken stated that there isn't much happening, still waiting to get the deed from Redlands Water and Power. Once the deed is received, should be thinking about an organized cleanup activity.

New Business

Paul Nelson reminded everyone about Bill Prakken retiring from the co-chairmanship at the end of June. Paul has asked Pat Kennedy to assume the duties of co-chairman with the members permission. Paul asked for a ratification of Pat Kennedy as co-chair from the commission members. Bill Prakken motioned, Lenna Watson second. Motioned passed.

Bill Prakken spoke about the appointment of an Urban Trails representative. The Riverfront Commission designates representatives to the Urban Trails Committee and Pat Kennedy and Bob Cron are easing back from that somewhat so the commission needs to appoint another member, the choice being, Bill Findlay. Bill Findlay agreed to serve on the Riverfront Commission and on the Urban Trails. Bill stated he'd like to nominate Bill Findlay for the position. Judy Kennedy second. Motion passed.

Michele Rohrbach reminded Paul Nelson that the Botanic Society is looking for a used computer. The Riverfront Commission happens to have a 386 computer we no longer use, they would use it as part of the educational displays at the Botanic Gardens. Paul asked for permission and ratification of the members to donate the computer to the Botanic Society. Pat Kennedy motioned. Lenna Watson second. Motioned passed.

Earl Payne mentioned the five vacancies coming up in June to the Riverfront Commission. It's time to get Stephanie Nye notified to run the ads in the paper. Letters must be received by May. Palisade and Fruita will be notified too.

Jim Baughman asked if the County should advise also. Paul Nelson said he thought it was a good idea.

Paul Nelson mentioned the meeting yesterday at the Orchard Mesa Middle School to talk about vandalism and what could be done about it. Several members of the police department were there as well as Doug Cline, Greg Linza with the County (had very helpful suggestions), Paula Anderson, Carl Zimmerman, Bill Prakken and Paul Nelson. Several good ideas were put forth, number one being that they're in the process of putting heavy duty grids over the lights that keep being kicked in (28 out of 30 have been broken). Hoping this will work. If not, the police department has lent the City a motion detector, it looks like a camera.

Doug Cline mentioned that 19 of the grids have been installed as of today.

Carl Zimmerman stated that Doug Cline and his staff need a commendation for all their work and effort done at the bridge.

Other problems mentioned at the meeting was drinking and empty bottles left under the south side of the bridge and hikers and bikers taking shortcuts up the hill. Paul has talked with Joe Stevens with the City regarding fencing or a barrier to curb people from using anything other than the trail.

Police Department stated at the meeting that it is easier to stop the problem by making it harder for people to destroy, therefore, barriers and grids are a very good place to start.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Bennett was not here. Bill Prakken talked a little bit about State Parks getting access to the property next to the refinery. It looks like that log jam may have been broke, thanks to Kurt and some other people. Things are starting to happen, far from a done deal.

Kirk Rider mentioned the John Mansville deal and that Fruita has been negotiating getting a 50' strip along the south side of that property which is north of I-70. This is an

essential connector for their Greenway Project to tie into the trails. Thinks there is a deal but paperwork not all signed.

Bill Prakken asked if that connects to the refinery property. Kurt Mill said that there is about two other properties between it.

Palisade Update - Jack Yates said the abutments for the bridge are in place. All they need are the girders to go across, scheduled for next week. Applied for their Fishing is Fun Grant for shaping up the pond and restrooms which will be a nice addition, thinks they have a good chance on that. Wildlife came to them and asked to apply and helped fill out the application, went down and scouted out the site. Same thing for WHIP, Wildlife Habitat, popular project in Palisade. What they plan to do is fence along with vegetation at the labor camp area where cows have been getting around (could be said the farmer has been pushing the cows around to get them onto Palisades 105 acres so they can graze there) it's about \$10,000.

The Town of Palisade is going to be placing the girders on the bridge. Will be getting some engineering help, but the Town can do most of the work. Got a formal bid for \$50,000, Jack worked with the Public Works crew and an engineer and came up with a bid of \$24,000. Intent is to have the bridge and parking lot completed in about four months. Hopes to open the park in July.

State Parks - Paul Nelson asked Kurt about the half mile trail being built out at 30 1/2 to 30 Road. Kurt said it should be completed in next couple of months. Will be half mile closer in from Corn Lake.

Bill Prakken stated that there should be some kind of ceremony when that gets done. Kurt said they would like to have a lot more done before they celebrate.

Paul Nelson asked about the camping spaces at Island Acres. 20 more to compliment the existing 20 from last year, making a total of 80. There is a new campers' services building and a new park visitor office that you will come into before entering in the park.

Kurt said they have closed on the Corn site in Fruita and in the final negotiations of the agreement with WCCI to accommodate the tractor museum and some potential community activities that may take place out there. Hope to have agreement done in next month or so. Have the letter requesting from Riverfront Commission regarding the old Fruita Refinery and the County has been great to work with on that, really appreciate what they've been doing on that.

Urban Trails Committee - Pat Kennedy reminded everyone about Colinas del Valle. He had a meeting with Tim Woodmansee, City of Grand Junction, Craig Roberts, Ciavonne & Associates and Doug Theisse, Thompson Langford. Looked at aerial photographs of the area, looked at some areas designated as critical trail linkages and then pulled at the maps that Craig and Doug had to see what they were thinking about as far as golf course

and house development. Very productive meeting, everyone at the table seemed pro trail, part of the trails will be lost in golf course, if in deed they do a golf course, but again there may be some new trail opportunities that arise. Positive footing as far as this section of Colinas del Valle goes.

Still in the process of go/no go on the golf course. A lot of decisions still need to be made because of the size of the project.

Bob Cron had a discussion with Dave Fletcher about what he's proposing on the other end of Colinas del Valle just north of South Camp Road. Bob was disappointed in their conversation, Mr. Fletcher is not for trails in that particular area, some expense involved that his leery of. Pat asked anyone that knows Mr. Fletcher to let him know that the Riverfront is pro trail and see that he might rethink his position.

Bob Cron has authored a white paper on canal bank issue. Condensed the feasibility study into a two page document. Just about ready for release but still an internal document that Urban Trails is working on and will probably be released early next month.

Gerry Tucker has authored a letter in response to some of the letters sent out by the Canal Representatives about the proposal to the exclusive easements. Gerry's letter will be about $\frac{3}{4}$ of page, something that highlights what those issues are from an objective point of view.

Urban Trails also has a Community Awareness Committee, Jamie Lummis is charge of that committee. Looking at issue of community awareness, publicity, things that Urban Trails can do to let people know that they're there and what they're up to.

Paul Teal set up a meeting with Pete Baier and Carl White of the County Public Works Department. Pete is the new Director of Public Works for the County. Wanted to sit down with these guys and kind of show them what the Urban Trails plan is. Set down and showed them what their plans where and how it relates to the multimodal plan. Pat's biggest concern is that there is continuity in what they're doing with street striping and other trail issues with the County. Within the City limits have a pretty good idea of what they're doing but once out into the County they don't want to lose the continuity, want same type of striping, same type of symbols, want to be on the same side of the street. Becoming more aware of the situation with the County where they have a much larger area to deal with than the City, also budget issues. City has much larger street right of ways where in the County, that right of way isn't there, sometimes they just don't have the space to do certain things. Trying to get on a better footing with the County so doing the same thing City and County wise.

Showed them part of their top list of projects that wanted to attention placed on. These are certain trail connections that have been identified on Urban Trails as things that will blend in the whole process.

One issue that came up is that Carl White, street striping for the County does not have the same philosophy about street striping as the City does, he doesn't believe street striping is appropriate in certain situations where the City is 180 degrees out. Trying to figure out how to get Carl White and City Public Works on the same page.

Legacy Update - Bob Cron talked about the Mesa County Whitewater dedication ceremony on June 6th which is National Trails Day. Sue Gormley told Bob that Public Service had not gotten the deed to them on the site out on the Audobon, supposedly on it way.

DOW issued a request for proposals including a mailing to the properties identified through the efforts in Fruita, including the Hidden Lakes property. Those were due last Friday, Bob will be meeting them on Thursday to see what the responses were.

Fruita did an amendment to the fourth round of Legacy, request came out allowing existing Legacy grantees to apply emergency type funds. Fruita had a property that was for sale on Little Salt Wash that is a key parcel. Put in an amendment request for a couple hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of that property. It has gone through the initial sieve and is still in the running. Decision will be in April. There is also a buyer for the property.

Did not get the Brownfield grant so they could do some planning for the industrial site.

Bureau of Reclamation has finished the fish ladder in Palisade.

Jarvis project, thanks to Carl Zimmerman, another \$38,000 was received to do vegetative planting. If you've gone by the area, you'll have noticed the City has been hauling in materials, that is the material to be used for the dike. Bureau of Reclamation is on board with some of the area construction contractors who will be available this summer to do the construction work. Have a request in to State Trails for \$74,000 and the decision will come sometime in mid April.

In researching the easements possibilities there, Mark Relph found back in 1989 when the railroad wanted to do some kind of approval for sale of sites, a quid pro thing was worked out where they would give the City an easement under the railroad bridge. Already have the easement. Mark said that Kathy is looking for it and thinks she found it. Will get it to Tim and he'll take it from there.

If the Commission does not get the grant, the group is committed to going out and finding the money. Would be best if the trail can be built this summer while the work on the dike is taking place, then the replanting can happen in the fall and won't have to disturb again.

Reauthorization of the Lottery - apparently that has passed both the House and Senate, with slightly different versions regarding the length of time of reauthorization. House ten years, Senate 15 years, will go to conference for resolution - means it will probably pass.

Paul Nelson asked Bob about what other construction will be happening this summer. Bob reminded him about Palisade, some planning going on, Joe Stevens is in the process of Los Colonias' Master Plan, City will be developing a final Master Plan for Eagle Rim and may be started in late fall or early spring. Additional things happening at the Botanical Gardens outdoor gardens.

Asked if anyone knows the owner of the property next to the Botanical Gardens, the situation still needs to be addressed.

Wildlife viewing area out at the Bureau of Reclamation site that Mesa County Land Conservancy manages at the Gunnison and Colorado junction on the west side should be constructed this summer.

There will be some additional improvements out at Corn Lake.

Safety Committee Update - Lenna Watson mentioned that Pat Clearly with the Daily Sentinel attended last meeting. Wanted it out that the GIS markers are up, an article was in the paper about it. One of the things talked about was giving the trail hosts a map with the GIS markers indicated on the trail so that they have it in their hands in case of an emergency.

Decided that the name of the trail and mileage is not really an issue for safety, so will be dropping it from the agenda.

Group is re-evaluating where going from here. Have accomplished some goals and now onto new and bigger things. If anyone has an idea, please let Lenna know.

Informed the group of the number one complaint on the trails is dogs without leashes and what they leave behind and the number two complaint is the speed at which activities are taking place. Trail hosts within the City will warn individual first time, second time will be given a flyer stating breaking the City Ordinance and third time Animal Control will be called. State Parks hosts will file report with the park officials. State Parks hosts are only there to education, not to enforce policies.

Bill Findlay commented on soft paths along side trails, asked about them. Bob Cron stated that is the next frontier.

Doug Cline said he has had several requests for equestrian use on the trails, looking for soft trails for the horses. Judy Kennedy said to send them out to the Old Spanish Trail.

National Trails Day and Trails Map Committee Update - Judy Kennedy reminded everyone that National Trails Day will be two days, June 5th and 6th. Thanked Parks and Recs for including the information in their new brochure. Desperate for a couple of things on June 6th, need a bus, will ask the County for a tent. Jim Baughman said he

would ask about it the tent. Jim asked where Judy wanted it erected, she said at the Whitewater put-in at 11am, will be used for speeches and picnic. Committee decided to move picnic before hand since float trip will be several hours long.

Earl Payne recommended that the Sheriff's department be contacted because of the high water and the difficulty with the take-out. There isn't a lot a room for error.

Judy had good news regarding the maps. The benefactor is City Market and they are printing all 10,000 maps and they are doing them in color. There will be an advertisement on the map. Hopefully she'll have available to review at next meeting. Will need to have Michele send thank you notes to Tony Pinstler and Barbara Marcom with City Market and County GIS, Rick Corsey.

Judy reminded everyone about invitations and if there is someone wish to invite, please get their name and address to Michele.

Public Comment

Doug Cline commented on Carlos with BLM needing \$9,000 of gravel at the IGA meeting, well he doesn't anymore. Doug said the City can provide a by product of asphalt recycling and will use it at the Whitewater site. The by product doesn't have any costs in. Carlos, Doug and Greg Linza with County met at the site (the County will be doing some earth moving) and discussed what was needed. The BLM will find a way to load it at the City site and move to Whitewater.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.