

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
May 19, 1998**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Paul Nelson at 7:50pm. Those present were:

Paul Nelson	Bill Prakken
Pat Kennedy	Jeanette Main-Goecke
Bill Findlay	Carl Zimmerman
Dusty Dunbar	Lenna Watson

Also present were Clayton Dause, Brad Taylor, Doug Cline, Jim Baughman, Elvis Guin, Suzan Bernhard, ? and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Paul asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Bill Prakken requested that the minutes be condensed from now on. That being said, Lenna Watson second motion.

Motion passed.

Announcements

Paul reminded the group that if they are going to participate in the float trip for National Trails Day, June 6th, need to get their RSVP to Michele by May 21st.

Group asked about the float trip on the 12th. Michele said she hasn't heard anything from Carlos, so not sure what is happening with it. Said she would call Catherine Robertson with BLM tomorrow to see what was going on. Will then get information to anyone.

Paul reminded everyone that the June meeting will be in Fruita. Haven't made arrangements with Bennett yet but Michele will include the time and where in with the mailing for next month.

There will be another interpretive sign dedication on Wednesday, May 27th at 9:45am at the River Road location. Park at Blue Heron lot and go to your left.

Michele said that Mary Ceveny with Hilltop called and was wondering if anyone would have a need for youth services. Hilltop pays the kids (ranging in ages from 14 to 18, mostly 14 to 15). They are looking to give the kids work experience. Several ideas were mentioned where the youths could be used. Michele will give Mary's number to those who were interested.

Carl presented a plaque from the Rocky Mountain Chapter American Concrete Institute awarded to RG Consulting Engineers, Inc. for their work on the Old Mill Pedestrian Bridge. RG Consulting asked Carl to present the award at the Riverfront Commission meeting. The group thanked Carl for all his work on the bridge and agreed to hang the plaque at the Riverfront office.

Dusty stated that she will now be helping Stuart Macdonald with the Colorado Trail Symposium in October. This will be a paid position for her. She passed around a form from Stuart for anyone interested in being a part of the symposium and asked if anyone has ideas, topics and speakers to get in touch with her at home. They can also call the Riverfront office.

Paul asked if there were anymore announcements, there were none.

Old Business

Carl informed the group that they are still working on getting the Jarvis project ready to go by mid summer. Have hit a few bumps but hopeful that they can be worked out, several grants are all hinged on getting the approval to move ahead. He will keep the group posted. He also agreed to keep working on this project even though his terms expires in June. Commission members thanked him for doing this.

Paul asked if there was anymore old business, there was none.

New Business

Bill Prakken talked about the conservation easements the Foundation agreed to except about a year ago with regards to the Summerville Ranch. He went on to explain that the Colorado Trans Pipeline's attorney has contacted the Foundation about vacating those easements. Bill said the Foundation will be discussing what to do at it's meeting on Thursday, May 21st. He felt that the Foundation would be willing to vacate the easements in order to go back later and get trail placed over the pipeline. Wants to remain in the good graces of Colorado Trans Pipeline.

Paul asked if there was anymore new business, there was none.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Bennett was not here. Dusty said that they were still working on the Little Salt Wash property. Should be hearing soon on the funding. Work is proceeding on the bridge, as well as the new State Park.

Brad Taylor said that they are still trying to acquire more land. Would like about 100 acres so that they can do really nice things with the park but will have to keep working on acquiring a parcel at a time.

The Grand Valley Music Festival has been moved from the new park to Reed Park in Fruita for this summer. A schedule was passed around for everyone to see the dates and who will be performing on each date.

Dusty had nothing further.

Palisade Update - Jack wasn't here. Elvis Guin said that he really wasn't able to update the group because he hadn't updated himself yet. He did express his disappointment in the lack of Palisade representation at the meeting. He realizes that there was a conflict with two meetings being scheduled for the same day, however, he felt there still should have been more representatives there.

Dusty added that it would be nice to see more representation from Fruita and Palisade on the Riverfront Commission. Asked Michele if there had been much interest. She said she hadn't heard from Stephanie Nye yet, however, the closing date for those interested was May 15th. Jim Baughman said he heard there hadn't been much interest. Michele added that Stephanie has sent over three or four letters for replacements on the Urban Trails Committee. Urban Trails was disappointed in the low interest too.

It was discussed that if need be, next year the day could be moved to accommodate the conflict. Someone also suggested holding it in April. This year it was moved to May so more of the park was ready for everyone to see before the meeting.

Elvis also read a list of wildlife he has seen in the new park. He expressed his desire to see the park kept more for wildlife rather than recreational use. Does not feel a softball field will be in the best interest of the wildlife.

Paul stated that the park was Palisade's and that the people of Palisade must decide what they want to the park to be, the Riverfront Commission has no say.

Urban Trails Committee - Pat stated that at the last UTC meeting, Ken Simms, Transportation Planner with the Grand Junction/Mesa County Metropolitan Planning Organization brought in a draft map that showed only existing trails on it. He showed the map to the group and explained that UTC decided that the panel containing the City need to be enlarged.

Dusty suggested that there could be some interpretive information on the back of the map. She also suggested that rather than giving the maps away, they should be sold for \$.25 or even \$.50. Feels that if the maps have a value placed on them, people will be less likely to just take and then throw away after they take it.

Someone suggested selling them for a \$1 to help defray future reprinting costs. Several agreed \$1 wasn't an outrageous amount to ask.

Legacy Update - Pat read Bob's Legacy Update. A letter has been sent to the GOCO Board regarding the Legacy Partners' thoughts on methodology-procedure-process for reauthorizing the existing Legacy Project. The letter was reviewed by the partners prior to sending.

Jarvis fish habitat - revegetation project, agreement being reviewed by attorneys.

Jarvis trail project, received \$59,000 award from State Trails. Ted Ciavonne is completing preliminary design for Corps of Engineers permit and easements under railroad and Hwy 50.

Fruita - Little Salt Wash, 23 acres, still in running for emergency funding in May. Fruita City Council approved signing option on the property. Appraiser ready to go once hear from GOCO.

Received \$60,000 from State Trails for the Old Fruita Bridge.

Dedicated another interpretive sign at the pedestrian bridge. The sign was done by Orchard Mesa Middle School students.

Hidden Lakes - sold to a private party who plans a single family residence and a boat and RV storage business on the 15 acre property. There will be no public hearing since proposal doesn't require Mesa County Planning Commission review.

Los Colonias - conceptual master plan accepted by City Council. Cost is about \$8 million. Need to find the money for at least the first phase.

Safety Committee Update - Lenna said that the Safety Committee met at Connected Lakes on May 4th. Sally Porter with Animal Control was there to discuss ways of handling the dogs off leash problem. The Daily Sentinel was to interview Fred Bohlman with State Parks for an article.

Helen then gave the group an audobon tour of the trail.

The June meeting will be held at 6:30am on June 5th at the Butterfly House of the Bontanic Gardens. The Safety Committee will be helping the Urban Trails Committee

and the City of Grand Junction with the Bike, Blade, Walk to Work Day by passing out bagels, juice and coffee as well as some informational flyers.

National Trails Day and Trails Map Committee Update - Judy wasn't here. Michele informed the group that there will be a Trails Day Committee meeting on Friday, May 21st to finalize the plans for the float trip, to get a count on box lunches needed and to see what the City needs with regards to their activities planned. Pat asked Michele to have Judy get in touch with Steve at the restaurant as soon as possible regarding the lunches.

Michele said that she got a clearer logo to Judy for the map and that Judy had picked out a new design for the front of the map. Judy said everything was now with the printer. Michele wasn't sure when the maps would be ready.

Public Comment

Doug said that the bridge is starting to settle and move away from the abutment. They have ground down the sidewalks to help keep the rollerbladers from hitting the difference and falling. They have filled the cracks and are keeping an eye on the problem.

They will be installing the new guards over the overhead lights. The cost is about \$200 per light. Colorado Bridge and Iron are doing it at their cost - no mark up at all.

Haven't had anymore problems with the lights built into the bridge. The guards are doing their job.

Jeanette stated that the parking situation on the Botanic Gardens really needs to be resolved, especially when the Jarvis connection is completed. Doug said that there are a few City owned properties in the area that would work for parking, mentioned one that has been recently cleaned up and is very close to the trail. Paul and Pat agreed to set up a meeting with Tim Woodmansee to see what can be worked out.

Michele added that she needs commission members comments on the Web page. She would really like to get the changes to Chris so the page can go on line to the public. Group commented that they liked what they saw, however, there were a few changes.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.