

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
July 21, 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
Pat Kennedy	Jeanette Main-Goecke
Bill Findlay	Carl Zimmerman
Dusty Dunbar	Lenna Watson
Judy Kennedy	

Also present were Brad Taylor, Joe Stevens, Bob Cron, Elvis Guin, Monica Atkinson, Jerry Nolan, Dennis Settles, Hazelle Gantor, Bob Puck and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Kennedy had a correction to the June minutes, under the Legacy Update, it should read \$4.5 million rather than \$4.5.

Jeanette added that the sentence reading “the Botanic Gardens is putting up wrought iron fence” - the fence is not to keep trail users out, it’s to keep the users from cutting across the gardens to get to the trail.

Dusty Dunbar motions to approve the minutes, Lenna Watson second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Paul talked about his meeting with Joe Stevens this afternoon regarding the parking at the Botanic Gardens. He also said Mark Relph told him they will start moving dirt on the Jarvis Property tomorrow.

The September meeting will be held at the Botanic Gardens with a tour of the gardens and butterfly house before the meeting. Everyone will need to bring a chair to the meeting.

Paul talked about the roller dam up from Palisade and the W.A.T.E.R. Club letter. Jerry Nolan then spoke about the letter and the club’s idea for a white water park. The

Riverfront Commission agreed to send a letter to Bob Norman with the Bureau of Reclamation requesting that the scoping document include all alternatives/options for exploration. Dusty motioned, Lenna second. Motion passed.

Old Business

There is no old business.

New Business

Project Tamarisk - Paul suggested starting a group of volunteers to rid sections of the river trail of tamarisk. Commission members thought it was a good idea, especially to get more volunteer projects going. Project needs to be done at the right time of year and must use the appropriate chemicals. Will bring up at quarterly intergovernmental meeting for ideas, suggestions and solutions.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Dusty spoke on behalf of Fruita since Bennett was unable to attend. Progress is being made on the Old Fruita Bridge. Hoping to close on the Little Salt Wash parcel in August. Some dialogue on the Snooks Bottom Gravel Pit parcel, too soon to tell if anything will come of it. Riverfront Commission will attend the Council meeting to present the \$10,000 check to the City.

Palisade Update - Paul thanked Elvis Guin regarding the letter on the formation of the Friends of Riverbend Park. Elvis briefed the group on the July 4th bridge dedication and read the FRP mission statement.

Urban Trails Committee - Bill Findlay talked about Dave Fletcher's subdivision South Camp. Mr. Fletcher appears to have agreed to widen South Camp to 36 feet - wide enough to accommodate a bike lane but not as wide (44 feet) as UTC wanted. There will be no path along the interior streets, however, there will be the bike lane along the road and the detached path for walking plus land to the north for future connections.

Also talked about the canal that runs above the Old Mill Bridge and the Orchard Mesa Middle School in the Lamplight Subdivision. There is a developer that is willing to donate an easement to the City that would create a loop from the subdivision to the 5th Street Bridge. There is one landowner that is against any kind of trail and a portion of the canal still belongs to the canal company, so there are a few problems to work out.

Pat Kennedy added that the RFP has gone out for the ad hoc committee with regard to the survey on canal bank uses.

Bob Cron reminded everyone of the two new UTC members, John Paxson and Birgit Bostelman.

Legacy Update - Bob Cron talked about the Smart Growth Grant recently received by Mesa County (\$17,000). The grant will be used for an inventory for preservation of agricultural land and open space between the communities.

Reminded those looking for money that the Lottery grant process with the County begins in August.

Palisade is getting close to the purchase of the Francis Property. Jack informed Bob that there is a local group that has raised about half the cost of a pavilion.

Botanic Society is working on getting some temporary parking. Paul showed the group what was discussed with Joe Stevens today on the wall maps.

Mesa County transferred the Old Fruita Bridge to the City of Fruita. They did not transfer the easement access on the north side, they have agreed conceptual to allow the trail to come down on that side. There is also an effort to provide new parking at Dinosaur Hill. Fruita was turned down once again on the Brownfield Grant.

State Parks has had increased visitation at Island Acres. Construction work is done at Corn Lake. Plans for the Fruita park are ongoing.

Work should begin on Eagle Rim sometime this year.

Department of Wildlife received three property bids for their RFPs. Should be in final phase of appraisals. Will then start negotiations based on priorities and funds.

Have started working on the habitat project at Jarvis. Survey for trail should be done this week, will allow to get easements and permits. Shawn Cooper with the City thought the design should be ready in a couple of weeks. Project is still short on funds.

Safety Committee Update - Lenna informed the group that Safety met at Corn Lake and will be traveling for a few more meetings. Fred Bohlmann introduced Mat Garhart an Environmental Education Interpretative Instructor at Corn Lake. Mat gave the group a guided tour. He was looking for an idea to get people to Corn Lake, suggestion made to sponsor a walk or run there so people know what is there.

Lenna asked anyone with further suggestions for the web page to get with Michele, trying to get it up and on line.

Still getting comment cards. Lenna personally contacts everyone who puts a name and/or telephone number on it. Most common comments are about fast bicycles, fast rollers bladders and no place for trash.

Safety was asked to participate in a Pedestrian/Safety Road Show. Information was passed onto Dusty for the Trail Symposium. Dusty and Safety will be looking into it. Lenna also told Dusty that Mesa County Safety Council may be interested in participating.

Jeanette added that the trail hosts have been wonderful and thanked Safety for finding such nice hosts.

Colorado State Trails Symposium - Dusty Dunbar told the group that she has agreed to help Stuart MacDonald with the planning the symposium planned for October 8th to October 10th at the Holiday Inn. Still working on details. She had been in contact with the Parks Department since the symposium will overlap the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association Conference that will also be held here in Grand Junction.

Public Comment

Guest Hazelle Gantor stated she enjoyed the trails and was interested in being a trail host. Michele had already gotten her the necessary information of who to contact.

Joe Stevens with the City said pertaining to UTC, tomorrow morning at 6:30am there is a meeting regarding the Redlands Mesa development. Developer is hoping to break ground in October. If anyone is interested they are welcome to attend.

Guest Bob Puck said he would fax the Riverfront Commission information on the National Water Trails Conference this fall if anyone is interested.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.