

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
August 18, 1998**

Call to Order

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

Paul Nelson	John Heideman
Pat Kennedy	Mark Gardener
Bill Findlay	Paul Jones
Dusty Dunbar	Russ Walker
Judy Kennedy	Jack Yates
Lenna Watson	Jim Baughman

Also present were Brad Taylor, Joe Stevens, Elvis Guin, Clayton Dause, Jody Kliska, Paul Teal and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Lenna motioned to approve the minutes, Dusty second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Co-chairs introduced themselves to the four new members of the Riverfront Commission. The group then introduced themselves, the new members introduced themselves and told the group why they wanted to be on the Riverfront.

Paul reminded everyone about the Urban Trails Committee picnic on September 23rd, 6pm at Hawthorne Park. Paul Teal briefly spoke about why the UTC was doing the picnic and that they would be honoring several individuals for their work. It is a potluck, UTC will provide entrees and beverages, attendees will be asked to provide side dishes and desserts.

Paul passed around a "Get Well" card for Jeanette Main-Goecke. Everyone was asked to sign so Michele can send to her at St. Lukes.

Paul also reminded the members that the September meeting will be at the Botanic Gardens. Members will need to bring a chair. There will be a tour before the meeting at 6:30pm, meeting will start at 7:30pm.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Judy told the group about the American Discovery Trails runner (Brian Stark) coming through Grand Junction on Friday and Saturday. He left the coast in Delaware in March and hopes to be in California by mid-November. He will be staying at the lodge in Mesa tomorrow night, Thursday will be staying at the Country Inn and at the Super 8 in Fruita on Saturday night. Still trying to find a place for him to stay on Friday. Judy said she and Dave will put him up if a room can't be found.

There was no more new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Dusty spoke on behalf of Fruita, Bennett was unable to attend. Fruita closed on the 23 acre parcel along Little Salt Wash. Passed around the newspaper picture of Paul presenting the \$10,000 check to Fruita. Work is being done on the Old Fruita Bridge. Working on access across Public Service property on the old road right-of-way. Negotiating some purchases/management agreements to deal with other important project properties to get Little Salt Wash to the river, the Kokopelli Trail along the north side of I-70, a little bit of Little Salt Wash through town and a property south of the river.

Palisade Update - Jack gave a brief history to the new members of how Palisade got its new bridge at Riverbend Park. Will be getting a neighborhood sign for Logan street and planting trees for compatibility with the entrance into the park. The canal company didn't want a cable across the canal road, so far it appears to be working. Received a WHIP grant, it will allow them to put a fence at the western end of the park along the river to keep the cows out. Fishing is Fun Grant will allow to make wetland areas along the pond. Renaissance Fair will be a park this weekend. There is a group that has raised enough money to build a pavilion. Haven't closed on the Francis property. Prep work being done on an application for a Trails Grant.

Urban Trails Committee - Paul Teal updated the group on UTC. Objective is to get inner city trails connected to the riverfront trails. Have two new members, John Paxson and Birgit Bostelman. Jamie Lummis is the new co-chair. Have been working on new subdivisions, mainly, Monument Valley Filing #6 to keep trails and bike paths in each new subdivision. Developing a logo for UTC. Tackling canal bank issues, Jamie is working with Janet Terry. Working on priority list items within the City and County. Have completed 11 of the 17 items within the City. Not as successful on County projects. Will be on a rotating schedule for Riverfront Commission meetings, a different UTC member will attend each month to give the update - that way Riverfront members get to meet UTC members and vice versa.

Legacy Update - Pat read Bob's notes since he was out of town. Agreement is complete on the Jarvis fish habitat/vegetation project. Construction on dike has started. Pond area will be shaped, the old dike breached and revegetation completed. Project should be completed in September. (Grant money is coming from Exxon Valdez settlement).

The survey is completed for the Jarvis trail, will make possible plat for use in acquiring easements under the 5th Street Bridge and the RR and a Corps of Engineers 404 permit. Joe Stevens heard from Stuart MacDonald with State Trails that the full grant of \$74,000 will be given for the project. The grant contract goes to City Council for approval tomorrow night.

Palisade - Francis property. The final package has gone to GOCO. Expect closing end of August. \$1,710 of purchase price will come from the Redlands Take-out surplus.

DOW wildlife habitat acquisition, the three parcels received in response to the RFP are appraised. Negotiations are underway to acquire the first priority. The priority will use the available money.

State Parks, design of Fruita State Park are moving ahead with plans to advertise contract in September. State Parks closed on 88 acres of Fruita Monument and Management Land (Refinery) on July 23. Acquisition will provide a little over a mile of connection between Fruita and Loma Parking lot.

Safety Committee Update - Safety has updated a few signs. Pilot project around Blue Heron and Audobon/State Park consist of GSI markers and the markers are on file with 911. Looking for ways to improve safety on the trails. Received free Rural Net web page. Getting comments from Comment Boxes, Lenna contacts those that put name and telephone number on them. Safety will be involved in the Pedestrian Safety Conference. Talked about a sign on OM Bridge regarding the hill and what kind of sign to use. Will be glad to help with the Tamerisk project. She suggested that Paul contact the Board of Realtors for a group to help cut them down. A new goal is to mark Watson Island with GSI markers and get access for emergency vehicles onto the trails. Briefed group on the volunteer trail hosts programs. Ask if anyone will be attending the Citizens Policy Academy Safety Council conference - Lenna will be attending.

Colorado State Trails Symposium - Dusty said a request has been made to hold mobile workshops about the riverfront trails, one each day for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Working on where everything will be held. Host hotel in the Holiday Inn. Dusty will be putting together the workshops and she would like to host one in Palisade, Grand Junction and Fruita. Groups of 20 to 40 can travel along with knowledgeable people informing on the background, obstacles and successes. She said she will need some expert help with individuals who can talk at each section of the trail's workshop. She said if anyone has thoughts or suggestions, please call her.

Public Comment

Elvis mentioned the incident out at Palisade where a jet ski caused an accident, he wanted to know who has jurisdiction over the river. Paul said that the State Legislator will probably will have to enter into solving the problem in the near future.

Dusty added that as part of finishing her Masters, she has developed an Internet page on land exchanges, conservation easements, and etc. It is written for the agricultural or conservation landowner. It talks about how to keep the “family” in family land. It can be found at www.gj.net/~dusty. Lenna suggested linking to the Riverfront’s web page.

Joe Stevens said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board elected not replace Lynn James on the Riverfront Commission. Similar as City Council will no longer be sending everyone to all the meetings.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.