

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
April 20, 1999**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Paul Nelson at 7:30pm. He stated that it was with great sadness (the Columbine shootings) and he wished we could have canceled the meeting like the Rockies and Avs did. Those present were:

Paul Nelson	Judy Kennedy
Pat Kennedy	Mark Gardener
Paul Jones	Jeanette Main-Goecke
Russ Walker	Dusty Dunbar
Bill Findlay	

Also present were Birgit Bostelman, Brad Taylor, Peter Winn, Clayton Dause, Joe Stevens, Gary Lacy, Jerry Noland and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanette motioned to approve the minutes from February. Judy second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Paul announced that the GOCO tour has been tentatively rescheduled for May 7th. Joe mentioned the possibility of sponsoring a breakfast per Janet Terry. Paul said great idea, provided that we can get everyone here the night before. GOCO has asked that we keep tour very businesslike - no dog and pony show.

The May meeting will be held in Palisade at Veterans Memorial Center. The June meeting will be held in Fruita - possibly at the Old Fruita Bridge site. Michele will let everyone know when she mails the agendas.

The intergovernmental meeting for the quarter has been scheduled for May 13th, 7am at the BLM office.

Old Business

Gary Lacy updated the group on the whitewater park. He had a meeting with Ute Water today and they had some suggestions that he believes could be another workable solution, he has agreed to prepare another set of drawings using Ute Water's ideas, leaving the dam as is and building structures down stream. Ute Water said they would go to bat and support the RFC and WC and it could be build it tomorrow. He will prepare new drawings and figures at no additional cost to the Riverfront Commission or the WATER Club.

Paul thanked Gary for all his work on the study. Everyone truly appreciates what he is doing.

Pat briefed everyone on the canal bank issue, the history and survey. Survey company was in Grand Junction yesterday with their preliminary findings. Pat said final draft will be out shortly. It will be presented in several ways, a joint meeting of the City Council, Urban Trails Committee and the Riverfront Commission. They will also do presentation to the Canal Companies and other interested parties. Pat was pleased with the findings and will get in touch with everyone probably in June.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Paul asked members if they are interested in doing a summer raft trip. Friday, June 11th was discussed. Paul will contact the BLM to make arrangements. Russ said he can sign rafts out at the college.

Paul also asked everyone to hold onto their Grand Valley Music Festival schedule. The Foundation is spending a great deal of money on these concerts.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Work progresses on the bridge. Some discussion about moving the trail that connects across the bridge to the Dinosaur Hill Trailhead to come around the backside of the power plant instead of the front. BLM has been doing a lot of work at the Dinosaur Hill area. The Lions Club has donated money for a picnic shelter. Working on trail acquisitions to connect other trails. Scheduled for a event on National Trails Day.

Palisade Update - There was no representation from Palisade. No report given.

Urban Trails Committee - Dr. Ken Scissors has replaced Kelley Burford. Had second Walks and Stroll, better attendance for this one. Will start being out earlier and members will work in shifts. Next one is May 15th at Riverside. Will be participating in an information fair on May 22nd. Robert Traylor summarized the liability law - issue of the Canal Companies, bottom line, they are covered. Country Crossing Subdivision plans being reviewed. Master Plan Committee still working on understanding of City and County policies and procedures.

Pat asked Joe on the status of Jarvis. Joe said contract has been awarded. If not successful with Legacy Grant, will have to dip into the City's Contingency Fund to fund the shortfall. Still no resolution on the railroad easement.

Russ stated that trees were planted on the Jarvis property. Jeanette added that there is work being done at the 5th Street bridge.

Legacy Update - May 7th GOCO trip still up in the air.

USF&WS is working on four easements for endangered fish habitat and a lease for a grow out pond.

Fruita is going to contract for the trail from Dinomation to the Old Fruita Bridge. Final stage of receiving donation of Kingsview Bottom - 37 acres due west of 340 bridge.

Palisade will have Volunteers of Colorado on May 15-16, they will provide 150 people to work placing gravel on interior trails and other projects in Riverbend Park. If you would like to work one or both days, call Lila Drake at 464-5602 by April 27th.

Botanical Society is planning for a fence around their facility. Have a donor for the rose garden.

Audubon Society has received a \$10,000 grant from the LaSalle Foundation toward site reclamation work. Mark added that it looks like United will be donating some property (just before the State Park booth on Dike Road) to the Audubon Society for their educational center.

Mesa County has received a harsh letter from Redlands Water and Power concerning plans for parking at the acquired Public Service site on the Audubon Trail. Paul has a copy for those interested.

The Colorado River Alliance and the Local Water Club are sponsoring a river awareness float May 19th to celebrate National River Clean-up Week. Paul and Bob plan to participate.

Per Gary's report, he now is in a position to move swiftly ahead to complete the analysis. We need it to officially submit to the BOR and support in the environmental analysis process.

Brad updated everyone on Fruita. Still hasn't gone to bid, hoping will be finalized in next few weeks. Possibly break ground in July. State Legislature cut the two full time positions at the park - were successful in getting them back with help from Gayle Berry. Could still be cut. Looking at four other properties in the process of environmental assessment, one near 30 Road, some are county properties, some private. There is also one east side of 32 Road, may be working on a trail easement through one of the properties - it's situation where they can't look the other way - not something their Director wants them to pursue at this time.

Safety Committee - Dusty is new chairperson. Gave a brief make up of partners on the committee. Group will meet on as needed basis. People are favorable about volunteer trail host program and bike patrol. Still more work to be done with the GIS marking. Jeanette added that they are keeping the cell phones for the host at the Botanic Gardens gift shop.

Public Comment

Clayton said KCNC - Channel 4's Colorado Getaways were over and did a piece on the Botanic Gardens. It aired this past Saturday. There also is an article in the current issue of Sunset magazine about the "Greatest Birdhouse in the World". Will also be part of a feature on butterfly houses in the summer. Jeanette added they have 31 school tours for this month. Gift shop - Botanica is becoming very successful. Sales have tripled from last year. Jeanette thanked Dusty for all her hard work. The month of May they have about 50 school tours. Have received several grants, \$5,000 from the Riverfront Foundation for the amphitheater; \$1,000 for City Market; \$1,500 from Target - they also had employees there for the Good Neighbor Day and they worked in the amphitheater area and also donated small tools; the Women's Health Care donated \$1,750 for one month's supply for butterflies; and \$1,000 from the Lions Club. Selling ten foot section of rod iron fencing for \$200 with a plaque for family name, business name or in memory of. Also selling paver tile for \$50. Career Center donated \$100 from class project of floral arrangements students made and sold at gift shop. Have already logged over 4,000 volunteer hours.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.