

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
August 17, 1999**

Call to Order

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

Pat Kennedy	Lenna Watson
Paul Nelson	Mark Gardener
Paul Jones	Dusty Dunbar
Bill Findlay	Judy Kennedy

Also present were Brad Taylor, Bob Cron, Catherine Robertson, Jamie Loomis, Clayton Dause, Jim Baughman and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Jack Yates informed Michele that she inadvertently in last months minutes stated the west end of the park when it was to be the east end of the park.

Paul motioned to approve. Mark seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements

The Canal Bank Study is completed and ready for presentation. It will be on Monday, August 30th at a City Council workshop. Pat would really like everyone to try and make it. It will be at 7pm at Two Rivers. Date is still tentative - will let everyone know if date changes.

There will be an Intergovernmental meeting on Thursday, September 16th at 7am. Lenna encourages members to attend to find out what's going on with other agencies and it's great networking.

Paul mentioned he did a presentation to the Rotary Club and many people there were unaware of what's happening with the riverfront project.

The Riverfront office will be closed September 2nd through September 7th.

Pat added that tomorrow he will be attending a meeting with Catherine Robertson, Sheriff Claussen, Brad Taylor, Steve Yamashita, all three State Legislators and other members of the community in reference to use of the river with motorized craft at BLM office at 2pm.

Old Business

Dusty had several tee shirts left over from Fruita's bridge dedication, see Michele if you'd like one.

Pat asked Judy about the Year of the River - she has brought Michele a disk with a letter to send to all members and Intergovernmental members to attend a brown bag lunch on Thursday, September 28th at 12 noon here to gather ideas.

There was no further old business.

New Business

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Bennett was unable to attend. Dusty said she spoke with Bennett last week and they are still moving along on all they're working on.

Palisade Update - Jack was unable to attend.

Urban Trails Committee - Jamie stated they are excited about the Canal Bank Study results. One of the subcommittees is Recreational Use of Canal Banks. Will begin process after hearing results of the study. Committee is working on outreach of what the UTC is, what force is in terms of trying to create a Master Plan and trails system within the urbanizing area and working on getting canal banks open. Have done some public speaking and will continue to meet with service groups to better educate the public. Jamie asked if anyone has service group looking for a speaker, call him or Michele.

Have had a meeting with a local foundation that is considering a project that will help get them recognition. May possibly provide fund for mediation between the Canal Companies and the City of Grand Junction through a committee like UTC. Foundation's goal is to find solutions to committee issues.

There is also a big development being considered in Mesa County across the road from Deer Park which is out by the trailhead to Independence Monument. Will be meeting with developer tomorrow to make some recommendations for some internal pathways.

Lastly, trying to fill four spots on the committee. If anyone knows someone, please get names to Jamie or Michele.

Jamie informed members that Jim Hofman with the County will now be attending UTC meetings. Really appreciate him attending the meeting and look forward to his input.

Pat asked if anyone knew about the new line (sewer?) on the bluff of the pink water towers. Paul and Bob stated it's a new water line. Pat asked if they will be putting trail back in on canal banks. Bob recommended that Pat contact Shawn and remind him about that.

Jim Baughman asked Jamie what will happen at the presentation of the canal bank study. Jamie said he wasn't sure, then Pat briefed Jim on how the survey was done and what type of questions were asked.

Legacy Update - Bob is expecting amendment to Legacy contract that will extend it until 2002 and it will change the dollar amount to reflect recent additional \$2.9 million.

Contracts for Eagle Rim Park will be opened tomorrow and that is for both phases.

Bob will be meeting with WATER Club and some other folks tomorrow - have a group interested in doing a partial water park at Watson Island (south side).

DOW closed on property on south side of the river opposite of Riverbend Park in Palisade. Bob has also met Ron Valardy(?) new resource director for DOW and gave him a tour of the riverfront project. Ron stated they need to stay involved with the Legacy project.

Also closed on 14 acres out at Grand Junction Wildlife Area. It was a BOR purchase in conjunction with Mesa County Land Conservancy and will be managed by the MCLC. Bounded on three sides by existing wildlife area.

BLM is working to contract an appraisal on Pavaliks(?) property west of Kingsview over near the first trailhead overlook that goes down to Horsethief. Hoping to use same appraiser to appraise Snooks Bottom.

State Parks - contractor is working on new Fruita State Park.

Botanic Gardens is working on design of amphitheater and children's' garden and sensory garden.

Mesa County has pulled plans for the Public Service parking area on the Audubon Trail. Applications for Mesa County Lottery money will be available soon.

Bob spoke about his visitors over the weekend and how they were interested in our Legacy Greenway project to apply to similar projects in their areas.

Safety Committee - Dusty said committee recently met to set goals for upcoming year. Some of ideas were to continue with GPS mapping and marking for other sections of trail. Deal with signage challenges. Continue with comment cards. Had lively discussion about volunteers, talked about volunteers approaching group and how to best use them, when and where. Dusty was asked to bring back to the commission and find out what to do about volunteers - would like to have one volunteer effort per year (not just cleaning up trash and after dogs). Dusty also asked safety members if they were interested in taking on a more public relations role - members weren't really interested in doing though they felt it was important and that perhaps Riverfront would like to set up another committee to handle that task. Last thing they asked Dusty to bring to RFC was user conflicts.

Lenna commented that Mesa County has a jail inmate work release program that might be a group to do cleanup work. Dusty needs to talk with Lt. Miller. Mark commented that the RFC could put together a real good volunteer program that volunteer groups would want such as adopt a section of trail. Maintenance is all the RFC could probably offer. Bill wondered aloud if soft surface trails would be a good volunteer project as long a heavy equipment wasn't needed.

Lenna suggested combining the PR program and adopt a trail program into one.

Another idea was getting groups to take on projects for fund raising for us. One comment that comes up on comment cards is lack of restrooms along trails. Portable toilets are expensive and City isn't planning on placing more along the trails. Next meeting is October 21st at 2pm at Riverfront conference room.

Lenna asked Mark if anything has been done on soft trail. Mark said he still needs to get together with Bob and will report at Wednesday lunch meeting.

Public Comment

Mark asked about the brown bag lunch with the City on 8/23. Lenna said she still hasn't heard yet and it will probably be in September.

Group welcomed Clayton back to the meeting. Clayton told the group about a pilot project they are trying at Botanic Gardens - they will be bringing in goats from Mack on Sunday morning between 8am/8:30am to see if they will eat the weeds. Apparently several other cities and communities are trying goats to help with the increasing weed problems.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.