

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**September 21, 1999**

**Call to Order**

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

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

Also present were Clayton Dause, Brad Taylor, Don Hobbs, John Paxson and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jeanette stated that there was a correction to last months minutes - Jim Hofman with the County should be Jeff Hofman.

Judy motioned to approve. Paul seconded. Motion passed.

**Announcements**

Canal Bank Study survey was presented on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Three things that were significant to Pat - 1) surveyed residents of the City of Grand Junction with a scientific survey, 2) surveyed as many landowners as they possibly could along the canal banks - 43% of landowners responded which is unheard of , 3) surveyed certain people within the community that were canal company managers, Urban Trails members, Riverfront Commission members to get feedback. They also checked with other communities in Colorado that had canals and were using them for recreational use. 33% of residents surveyed are currently using the canal banks. The biggest reason for not using them was it's illegal - if it were legal 50% would be using them. 24% of the landowners said no to any kind of recreational use, however, 65% of the landowners said under certain circumstances they would allow recreational use of the canal banks. Pat will be meeting with Janet Terry and Jamie Lummis tomorrow morning to work on an operating plan. Jamie has a copy of the legislation regarding liability. Also have a "White Paper" that

Bob Cron prepared with UTC's mission in regard to canal banks. Canal companies are taking the results to their boards and Janet Terry has been in contact with Greg Hoskin.

Judy reminded everyone about the Celebration of the River for 2000 brown bag lunch on September 28<sup>th</sup> at noon here at the Riverfront office.

Judy also briefed the group on what she's doing with the Old Spanish Trail. She's applying for money from the County lottery funds for work on the trail. Partners kids will be doing work on the trails, need some signage and a little fencing. Most money is needed from tools and transportation of the kids to the site. Delta is working on coming up from their direction to connect the trail.

Lenna reminded everyone about the breakfast meeting with the City and County on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at Two Rivers. Michele will need an RSVP for anyone planning on attending. The items for discussion on the agenda are: Proclamation for the Year of the River; Jarvis Land; Little Park Preserve; Signs along Confluence Trail; Canal Bank Study; Rendering Plant; direction for the Riverfront

Jeanette mentioned that they've gotten the numbers of people who have visited the gardens at January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> was 18,202. Believes 50% to 75% of those visitors used the trails. 71.3% were local, 12.87% from Colorado in general, 14.8% other states, .8% foreign visitors. Numbers for September has put them will over 19,000.

December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, Paul, Pat and Lenna want to invite everyone to the Pinon Grill for a brief meeting and then a social hour. Spouses are invited.

Had a visit from a couple of El Pomar Foundation staff last week. They came to see how we spent the \$10,000 award. \$6,000 was spend on the Confluence Trail and the remainder was spend on the waterpark study. Gave them a tour of the Confluence trail and a mini tour of the Botanic Gardens.

Mark talked about the soft trail around Blue Heron Lake that starts at Jr. Service League and loop around the lake. Bob felt that money would not be a problem. Felt it would be a great project for volunteers. It would be a single trail and detached - there would be a few places were it could be contiguous and the soft path would have to use the same bridge. Will talk with Russ about rejuvenating the ponds. Dusty thought would be a great project for Year of the River.

## **Old Business**

At recent Foundation meeting talked about county withdrawing plans for the parking area by Redlands Power and Water. Ken Nesbitt brought up that the Audubon is looking at land down around there for there new nature center and it was thought that area would be a good place for a trailhead. Mark didn't think it would be a problem for them. Would need to talk with State Parks - Brad said that the letter of support State Parks gave

Audubon stated that was something that needed to be worked out. Lenna organized a bike/hike on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Botanic Gardens at 9am, spouses are invited.

Also discussed at the Foundation meeting, per last RFC meeting about donating the Old Spanish Trail maps and report to the museum. Members agreed to donate to the museum.

There was no further old business.

### **New Business**

Bill passed around a letter he wrote and an article of from Rails-to-Trails. He then talked about what was in the article and his letter. Pat said everyone has to look at the big picture 100 years down the road. Believes that will have to come back and retro fit what has been done, i.e. pocket parks along the trails, amphitheater at botanic gardens and beautification.

Dusty also mentioned the Rails-to-Trails workshop being held in Grand Junction on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was no further new business.

### **Committee Reports**

Fruita Update - Brad talked about the new State Park in Fruita. Work is progressing. Have been able to use the stockpiled dirt from the dog track for berms and continuing with earthwork. Foundation for the visitors center and the campers' services building and maintenance shop have been completed. Work being done on the boat ramp. Brad believes they are currently ahead of schedule.

Dusty said they are working on the trails section by the bridge around to the bottom of the hill.

Palisade Update - Jack was unable to attend. Pat informed everyone if they didn't know, Jack is leaving and going back to Arkansas. His last day will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. Members suggested a letter be written to the Mayor expressing RFC's desire to continue to foster and encourage partnership. Group decided to give him a rock.

Urban Trails Committee - John said they discussed the canal bank study and UTC is pleased with results. Talked about areas that would work for demonstration projects and developed a rating system of each trail with pros and cons. Community Awareness has had new bike map and has submitted map to US West for the phone book. Working on a list of groups to go to and explain what Urban Trails is all about. The professor of media and television at Mesa State has agreed to work on a 15 minute video for Urban Trails. Looking at breaking into segments. Have four openings and will be interviewing shortly.

Legacy Update - Pat read Bob's legacy report. Eagle Rim park contract awarded to Mesa Contract for entire park. Audubon Society has received a \$10,000 grant for wetlands improvement on the nature center site. Mark, Bill and Bob met and identified site for soft path (Mark spoke about earlier). Blue Heron I and II need a large amount of brush removal. Great volunteer project.

Paul added that he received a phone call from a realtor about the property Hardey was wanting to close off (Blue Heron Trail) - it's been sold. The new owners are wanting to work with RFC on keeping the trail open. Brian is working on this since he was involved with it from the beginning.

Safety Committee - Dusty thanked Parks and Rec for doing much needed maintenance along Redlands Park, they are also putting effort into stripping the parking lots. Also thanks to Parks and Rec for closing gates at Confluence Trail to keep trucks off the trails. Jeanette thanked Dusty for efforts in resolving bike/traffic/parking at Botanic Gardens.

### **Public Comment**

Mark said that CCA - Colorado Contractors Association had a seminar on reclamation and Paul Nelson gave a history of the riverfront and how they partnered with State Parks, County and United Companies in the Connected Lakes area. Then Kurt Mill took it from there with and talked about what State Parks has done and who they've partnered with. Mark said both did a great job.

Russ talked about last fish killed at Blue Heron. Russ said at that time they started to study the water and problem - project and progress has been slow and results never completed. Russ said that it appears the time has come to started the study again, especially with talk of a new soft path. He will start the efforts again.

Brad stated they have added two new employees out at the Fruita State Park. Both are being transferring in from other areas in the state. One has been with State Parks for 23 years and the other 12 to 15 years. One will start October 1<sup>st</sup> and the other will start January 1<sup>st</sup>. One is coming from Denver, the other from Rifle. They are excited about both coming to work for them.

There was no further public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.