

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
November 16, 1999**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Pat Kennedy at 7:35pm. Those present were:

Pat Kennedy	Lenna Watson
Paul Nelson	Mark Gardner
Paul Jones	Dusty Dunbar
Bill Findlay	John Heideman
Judy Kennedy	

Also present were Elvis Guin, Jim Baughman, Birgit Bostelman and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Lenna motioned to approve minutes. Judy second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Harding Larson still has some small and medium tee shirts available. They are leftover from the October 30th run. They are \$10. If unable to sell, will donate the remainder to an area elementary school for the kids to have.

Michele stated that the run raised \$373 for the Foundation. There were 55 runners considering the newspaper said the run was at Corn Lake rather than Connected Lakes.

Pat spoke about June Woods and how she came into the restaurant this past weekend with a blue card from the music festival and gave him a check for \$100. She is thrilled with the concerts.

Next Colorado Riverfest 2000 meeting is scheduled for December 7th at noon - brown bag lunch. Judy added that there will be tentative schedule included with the outgoing notice of the meeting. She stated that there is a real need for money.

December 21st meeting will be at the Pinon Grill. Spouse or guest is welcome. RSVP's are required by December 17th. Pat, Lenna and Paul are sponsoring the social.

Pat said he and Lenna met with Chris Thomlinson and Laurie Cumpston of the paper. They spent an hour with them down on the Confluence Trail and gave them a history of the Riverfront Commission and riverfront project.

Old Business

Redlands Power and Water Canal proposal - Pat gave everyone a brief history of what has happened since the survey was completed. Redlands Power and Water came to UTC with a proposal and a sample operating plan last week. It looks very promising. Today, Jamie Lummis, Pat Kennedy, Gerry Tucker, Janet Terry and Dan Wilson met to discuss the document. The idea is to get it back to Redlands Power as soon as possible so they can take it back to their board in December if possible. Janet will be meeting with Bob McCormick tomorrow.

Paul Jones updated the group on the Rendering Plant. There was a meeting yesterday morning which was attended by J.J. Johnston, Bill Frye, attorney from the Sever family, Thea Chase, Tim Woodmansee, Paul Jones, Pat, Lenna, Paul and Bob to discuss what the family really wanted. It was a fact finding meeting. Bill Frye will be getting back with the family to see what they want and they move forward with a task force. Several options were discussed, 1) bring plant up to current EPA standards or 2) move to new location (not necessarily in Mesa County), would be important to keep on the west slope side since this is the only plant available on this side of the mountain.

Mark stated that there was a meeting with the City of Grand Junction regarding the soft path around Blue Heron Lake. Walked away with some good ideas of what the City would like to see done and what they don't want. They really do not want to participate, they would like to find a sponsor for the trail that would include maintenance of the trail. Bob was going to contact the Redlands Lion Club to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the trail. City also brought up that local materials compact and become really hard. Mark is working on coming up with some new materials that won't compact. He will also explore grant money that is available.

Mark also met with Dan Roberts (Mayes Concrete), there is a portion that runs through their property. There is a 20' easement on top of the bank there, Mark would want to get approval from them and to work with them. There are a few stretches where the paved trail may have to be moved over a little.

Lenna added that GSI markers could be added to this trail.

The City also stated they didn't feel comfortable contacting City Market so Paul Nelson will be meeting with them regarding the section needing an easement. All that is needed then is a draft plan with costs submitted to City.

Pat also added that there was a section of Blue Heron Trail that was owned by John Hardesty and it has been sold and new owners want to donate easement. Pat has spoken with Brian Mahoney and Brian has spoken with the new owners about the donation.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Discussion had about what group wanted to do in the form of a retreat. Bob recommended a forum with the County Commissioners and City Council. Further discussion was had about what people wanted. It was decided that the direction of the Riverfront was what was needed. Date will be January 22nd, place to be determined later. Michele will call Tim Sarmo.

Pat said the Mountain Bike Summit on Saturday went very well. About 40 people attended. The Daily Sentinel reporter stayed for the entire meeting. Pat said that the mountain bike community is very fractured and each has been doing their own thing. Meeting helped to get everyone on the same page and to work together to preserve the single track in this area which is very unique. Group decided they want to be bike trail specific with no motorized trails. COPMOBA has stepped up to spearhead this new group.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Dusty met with Bennett and he updated her - still working on bridge, new state park and land acquisition. Have had some setbacks on Little Salt Wash land acquisitions. They are interested in sponsoring things for the year of the river. They have some interruptive things they'd like to start working. Worried about committing money in the Snooks Bottom parcel area - appraisal is being done and don't want to give back Legacy money.

Palisade Update - There was no representative for Palisade at the meeting. Elvis stated that they are still looking for a new Town Manager. Work on the pavilion is still continuing.

Urban Trails Committee - Birgit said they have four new members, Diana Cort, Robb Reece, Clark Reives and John Halverson. Robert has gotten maps from the county showing ownership along the Highline Canal. Ken is still working on getting permanent signs up for the Tour of the Valley and she and John still meeting with the professor from Mesa State over Thanksgiving for the video. Shawn Cooper added that he is working on finding a way to do a rails-to-trails connection to Fruita.

Legacy Update - Pat read Bob's Legacy update. Fruita has completed off street path from the Trading Post south to the mobile home park along Hwy. 340. Fruita has contracted with Wayne Cumo to complete the appraisal of Snooks Bottom property. State Parks is making great progress on the Fruita site.

Blue Heron soft path, Mark, Bill and Bob had successful meeting with City's Park Dept. City's concern is how to maintain the path after construction. Bob has contacted the Redlands Lions to determine their willingness to adopt and maintain this project. They will discuss at next meeting.

Eagle Rim Park is progressing rapidly.

Has placed the remaining open sections of the riverfront trail on the state 20 year transportation plan, Corn Lake to Palisade and 24 to Loma. This may help get funding from sources such as federal gas tax revenues.

Pat sent a letter to the BOR advocating their building a portage at the Highline Canal roller dam as part of their fish passage program. Price Stubbs dam fish passage is on hold until the FERC power license is resolved. Fish passage will probably be a large pipe through one bay of the roller dam.

Pat read letter from Brad Taylor regarding Colorado River State Park update. November is a transition month for outgoing and incoming personnel. Fred Bohlmann has been promoted to Park Manager at Stage Coach State Park near Steamboat Springs. His replacement is Jason Trujillo, Jason will be moving here this month and should be in place December 3rd. Jim Regal and Larry McKay will start at the Fruita section. These new positions will bring the staff to six - just seven years ago it was one. Construction of the Fruita section is approximately 30% completed. Design Engineer, David Fox reports on schedule. The visitors' center and campers service building and maintenance buildings have been erected. Work on the group picnic area is on going. Still refining work on river access. Boundary security fence has been put up in several sections to keep out curious visitors after hours and on weekends. Colorado Division of Parks honored West Region Manager Kurt Mill last week. Kurt received the prestigious Most Valuable Player Award for his nonstop efforts on the Western Slope, the work at Fruita sited as one example of his hard work and his dedication.

Safety Committee - Intending to meet and identify a couple more projects to work. Likes the GSI on Blue Heron and over hanging growth on trails.

Colorado Riverfest 2000 Committee - Judy said she has spoken with the DDA about including in the Art & Jazz Festival a section that has any type of media doing river scenery and offer a prize. Harding Larson is interested in doing another run next year. Still trying to contact Water Club about doing something next year. Is waiting on the paperwork for an El Pomar Grant and is working with Dan at the Extension Agency with the Ag Water to tie together into a booth or kiosk for the Southwest Fest and the Fair.

Paul is working on a river cleanup in the spring. Russ has contacted Dave Fishell and Dave is excited about doing seminars down on the river and explaining its importance to the valley. Dusty has agreed to take Proclamation to the City of Fruita for signature, will also be in charge of the “Peak of the Spring Runoff” which will award a prize.

Dusty added that the City of Grand Junction is doing a redo of 3rd and Main Street by removing the street lights. Dusty said there has been talk about doing some kind of three dimension ornamentation in the pavement with something to do with the year of the river. Perhaps a contest, a memo has gone out to appropriate groups.

Judy added that she has been talking with Mike Heaston about an Adventure Run out near Fruita. Mike doesn’t anticipate it to draw locals but rather people from Front Range, etc. and wants to hold it where the trail name is known.

Volunteer Trail Maintenance - John has been working on a volunteer group for trail maintenance. He has spoken with Don Hobbs and he is very open to the idea. Don suggested John contact the other entities. John has contacted them and scheduled a meeting to further discuss this issue. One item that has kept coming up is an Adopt-a-Trail program.

Pat added that he has been contacted by Fid Braffett with the Foundation. He works with the Dolphin Swim Team and they are looking for a project that is similar to the Adopt-A-Road program but he doesn’t want the kids on the roadways. Brad Taylor thought they might be able to handle piling the cut brush for removal.

Public Comment

Jim Baughman spoke about a recent meeting he attended with area City and Town managers. He said that Wendell Holland, Mayor with the Town of DeBeque is interested in trying to do some kind of riverfront trail system in the DeBeque area. Jim asked if someone from the Riverfront Commission could contact him. Pat said he would give him a call.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.