

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
February 15, 2000**

Call to Order

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

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

Also present were Bob Cron, Birgit Bostelman, Clayton Dause, Brad Taylor, Kim Mariner, Brian Brown, Steve Smith, Jim Baughman, Elvis Guin, Jim Weibel, Jason Trujillo and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes of December meeting. Motion second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Pat informed the group about the Walkable Communities Workshop being held on April 6th and 7th. Jody Kliska with the City will waive the fee for any Riverfront Commission member and Urban Trails member wanting to attend.

Pat talked about his call from Catherine Robertson with BLM regarding the meeting with Bruce Babbitt on Thursday on the expansion of the Colorado National Monument. He then went around the table and asked each member what their thinking was on the topic.

Old Business

Retreat Update - felt it was a great retreat. Pat review Tim's notes and further discussed long range planning (15/20 years down the road).

New Business

Committee Realignment - Pat and Lenna have been talking to members to see where their interest lies. Would like to find out where members are and if they are interested in being on a committee rather than being assigned. Judy stated that her term will be up at the end of June as is Paul N., neither will be re-upping. Dusty and Jeanette's terms are also up. Pat suggested that members should think about open positions - Safety and Volunteers. Dusty is interested in Marketing, Education and Community Involvement. Russ would be happy to work on Riverfest. Safety still is lacking a leader and Lenna said she will talk with Urban Trails to see if they would like to take this committee under their wing.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - There was no representative for Fruita at the meeting.

Palisade Update - Elvis said they have received some kind of grant for tamarisk removal in Riverbend Park. High school have rehab plan for their eight acres, will start as soon as they receive grant funds. Still working on the replacement for Town Manager.

Urban Trails Committee - Had retreat last week. Have decided to continue focus on 19 and 32 Road. Will talk with Fruita and Palisade to see what their plans are with regard to connection to Grand Junction. Will be working on the Urban Trails Master Plan, prioritize what would like to get down - with concentration on safe ways for kids to get to the schools. Thinking about setting up workshop for kids so they can learn how to use the trails safely. Have decided to not do subcommittees this time around, will let members work on projects they want to work on.

Legacy Update - Pat, Lenna and Bob met with Wendell Holland of the Town of DeBeque for a tour. He is interested in joining the Legacy Steering Committee. Audubon Society has an agreement to lease the property from Mesa County for the Nature Center. This will allow the Audubon Society to move ahead with fund raising for the center. They also have done a very detailed analysis of community support last month and will have results soon. The AS has been working on tamarisk removal on the Lucy Ferrell Ela site across the way from the Nature Center site, have about 1/3 of the site cleared. Botanic Society is under construction on their children's garden and library. Fruita State Park hope to have some camping sites opened over Memorial Day. Continuing dialogue on whitewater park at Connected Lakes and the Redlands Tail Race. DOW has received a \$50,000 grant to vegetation and habitat improvement on the Smith property in Palisade. Also seeking improved access to the site, currently not very good. Toilets have been installed at the Grand Junction Wildlife Viewing Area. Working on parking lot and trail improvement. Fruita has a set back on the Old Fruita Bridge with a structural problem. They will be moving some of the Legacy funds for trails to complete the bridge. BLM has completed the trailhead at Dinosaur Hill. Price Stubbs - BOR has consulted with USFW the application on the FERC license held by private owner. Mesa County recently completed East Valley Recreation Plan. Some overlap on riverfront project. Shows

several neighborhood parks, etc. Price tag was very large. Mesa County and others are going for Open Space Grant for community separators. Bob added that the City is working on completing the last section of trail connecting Riverside to downtown and should be done this spring.

Safety Committee - Dusty had nothing to report.

Soft Path - Mark had meeting with Randy Snyder with Corp of Engineers to get idea of Wetlands Designation and to see what permitting is required. Area behind Mayes until you reach Leech Creek will have to wait until high water and see what ground water is. Doesn't feel there will be a problem if permit is required, should take 60 to 90 days. There is no concern around the lake. Paul N. has met with City Market regarding section need an easement across. Paul stated that City Market will grant easement as long as it can be revocable and the easement be held not by the City of Grand Junction but by the Riverfront Foundation. Still checking into form of Indemnity from the Riverfront Foundation. Money is a problem. City wants the Riverfront to apply for 75% grant on reimbursement of rubber. Rubber products will cost approximately \$3,400 to \$4,200. RFF has agreed to front money for reimbursement on rubber. Shawn Cooper estimated that it would be about \$1.50 per square foot and it's a little over 60,000 square feet (1.8 miles). Cost (if the City were to say they would do it) would be about \$90,000. If go after cost split similar to rubber deal, it will still cost the Riverfront \$22,000 (Mark thinks he's high). Lots of volunteer work but heavy work should be done by professionals. Discussed different types of grants could apply for during 2000 cycle. Lenna asked Mark to put together a proposal on costs.

Rendering Plant - Paul said no much happening. He has spoken with Bill Frye who said that owners would like to stay on site. Paul is still doing research and making contact with individuals and groups. Bill Frye has revised the \$ amount of relocating the plant to \$2.7 million which is major decline. Paul's goal is to help control the odor and in return receive an easement from the rendering plant an easement along the riverfront. Russ talked about new technologies being used and will get information together for Paul.

Tamarisk Coalition - Have had three meetings and appears the group wishes to form a Tamarisk Coalition which is a different direction than what purpose the committee originally was for - Volunteers and Trail Maintenance. Group is working on getting project underway with involvement from State Parks, Audubon, Botanic Gardens, Partners, DOW, USFW, Eagle and Garfield Counties, Mesa County, CSU, Palisade and concerned citizens. John will continue to spearhead this group but is unable to handle both. John has gotten a job description of what the City of Grand Junction uses for volunteer projects. Dusty has agreed to step up and handle the volunteer group.

Colorado Riverfest 2000 Committee - Riverfront Foundation has approved a new brochure that includes all Riverfest 2000 info, volunteer mail-in form, trailheads are listed and it is in color. Minor problem with the Bluegrass concert - Botanic Gardens does not

think amphitheater will be ready by July so Judy is looking for new location that has power.

Public Comment

Kim Mariner with the Soil Conservation talked about needing volunteers to help on the Mesa County Land Code document - was wondering if anyone from the Riverfront Commission would be interested in working on the project. Pat and Lenna asked him to get dates to Michele for upcoming meetings.

Brad introduced Jason Trujillo (Fred's replacement), Senior Ranger to the east end of Colorado State Park to the east end of Connected Lakes and Jim Wiebel will run Connected Lakes west, primary duties include Fruita. Things are still moving forward at the Fruita State Park. Rainy weather has slowed things down a little. Setbacks on water quality and working on resolving them. Governor has announced this is the year of Colorado State Parks. Brad not sure what this really means other than a new logo to their shirts and some festive things they will try to do for the year 2000. Looking at having half the camp sites opened for Memorial Weekend and will keep the camp ground half closed and it gets established. The Parks Board will be at the site in September so Brad would like to see if the Governor to see if he can schedule to be here at same time. Brad said he'd be willing to organize a group tour.

Steve Smith is with the City of Grand Junction and is a GIS analysis and is interested in be involved.

Brian Brown from Silt talked about why he was here and what his group is trying to accomplish, trails through Silt, New Castle, Rifle, Glenwood Springs and Parachute. He was looking to gather information from the Riverfront Commission on their riverfront trails and working partnerships with the different entities. Pat said the RFC would be more than happy to help their group in anyway they can.

Clayton said will be putting stucco on the children's library tomorrow and have Partners working on the tamarisk. Amphitheater has been cleared by school children a couple of week ago.

Jim Baughman asked if the Grand Junction Drainage District had been contacted about the Tamarisk Coalition. John said he'd contact them.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.