

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
March 21, 2000**

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	Paul Jones
Russ Walker	Mark Gardner
Bill Findlay	John Heideman
Dusty Dunbar	

Also present were Bob Cron, Elvis Guin, Jim Weibel, Diana Cort, Joe Stevens and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Mark motioned to approve minutes. Pat second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Lenna noted that a timed agenda is now in place to help keep the meeting on course. She explained that would like to keep each committee report to no more than five minutes (if possible).

Michele passed along the following information from Dave Fishell, he is working on funding. He will try and make next month's meeting. Dave is still working on gathering information on the Watson Island family and Michele will schedule him to come talk to the group when he has completed his fact finding. Lenna suggested doing it around a big campfire.

Michele will be out of the office on April 6th and 7th to attend the Walkable Communities seminar. Dusty encouraged others to attend and that there are still spaces available. Michele also commented that the UTC will be having a private dinner with Dan Burden on the 6th. Pat and Lenna are invited.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Pat has a question for Joe regarding a “dog” park. He has been approached by individuals to see if there are any plans for one along the riverfront trail. Joe commented that he felt there are other places more appropriate. Best to talk to the Parks Advisory Board about the subject. Pat stated that the individuals that talked to him are interested in water so their dogs can play in the water. Elvis stated that the Riverbend Park in Palisade has an area where dogs are allowed off leash. Bob said that the Mesa County Fair Grounds Master Plan does have an area for that purpose.

Joe also added that some of the members had be invited to participate in the focus group discussion for the parks system update. Also, opportunity for public input week from Thursday at Two Rivers. Joe encourages everyone to attend.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Bridge is still on hold. Basically been busy hiring new staff. Have a new Engineer, Public Works Director and a new Planning Technician (Dusty).

Palisade Update - Elvis said they are waiting for new Town Manager, John Alder to arrive. Should be here sometime around April 5th.

Urban Trails Committee - Diana said they are still following up on their retreat. On the Master Plan each committee member will be taking a region of the City and their part to review development plans. Several trail segments and connections that have been identified that need to be done and will be meeting with Jody to see what the City’s plans are for those segments. Lenna added that she emailed the UTC members about the Safety Committee to see if a UTC member would be interested in taken over this committee. Still working on canals. Talked about the article in the paper and then the next days editorial.

Legacy Update - Things are still on going. Fruita State Park is planning on opening some parts of the part on Memorial Day. There will be an official dedication sometime in the fall. Work with Mesa County and Audubon to acquire the site if moving along, the County has in principal agreed to lease the site to the Audubon Society at Connected Lakes. Work is continuing at the Botanic Gardens, mainly the Children’s Library. Eagle Rim is moving along and dedication is July 1st. Bob informed everyone that Mesa County is applying for a large open space grant for the community separators (area between Palisade and Grand Junction and Grand Junction and Fruita). They want to maintain those areas in their agriculture state. The Town of Palisade, City of Grand Junction and City of Fruita and Mesa County has signed intergovernmental agreements to

that effect. Will go to GOCO by the 31th. Bob said group should be thinking about doing a spring field trip - possibility of Palisade to DeBeque.

Soft Path - Lenna and Mark went to Jr. Service League and presented the idea of the soft path. They were excited with the idea. Will apply for a grant during their next grant cycle. Most grants are coming up are for the fall. Dusty suggested that plan the grant so it falls over several grant years. Does have map to get back to City Market with for easement. Bob added that he did some homework on the possibility of grants for Mark to consider. Redlands Lions have decided not to take on the project.

Rendering Plant - Paul had nothing to report. Russ is still waiting for information on the odor issue.

Tamarisk Coalition - Have a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, 1:30pm at Baird Brown's Law Office on Sherwood Drive. Everyone is invited. Currently there are 24 members. Tim Sarmo will be facilitating the meeting. Will be trying for grants this year and try for appropriations next year. Tamarisk project going on at DOW property in Palisade. Need volunteers to stack and clear tamarisk. Looking for someone who can write grants and list of who to contact.

Colorado Riverfest 2000 Committee - Judy was unable to attend but Michele updated the group on the Bluegrass Festival being held at Eagle Rim Park. Still working on getting sponsor(s) for the event. Russ added that Dave Fishell has been working on script and funding. Still working on venue. He has applied for permit for the ribbon cutting ceremony on Riverside Trail. Has spoken with roller blade club and Red Rock Riders Club. Will work on advertising. Will also contact Suzie Shaw with Riverside Community Association about their group doing something at the park this day. Will also contact Kathy Portner and Keith Fife. Dusty had no update on lottery. Paul had no update on Fresh as a Dazy clean up.

Volunteer Committee - Dusty met with mark and Paula Anderson - very good meeting. Paula gave forms of how to match jobs with volunteers. Would like to put blurb in paper. Hoping to meet again in next few weeks. Looking to centralize information. Paula is looking to ask City if City staff can volunteer during working hours. Dusty will bring in sign up sheet for GVMF concerts.

Pat talked about house falling off side of the mountain off Redlands Parkway. Another property fell into the Redlands canal - lots of old stuff pulled out of canal. Greg Linza cut tree branch that was out on the trail.

Public Comment

Jim said Fruita is cruising. Visitor center is painted. Working on interiors and group picnic area. Pouring concrete at swim beach. Weather slowing down concrete work.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.