

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
July 18, 2000**

Call to Order

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

Pat Kennedy	Lenna Watson
Russ Walker	Dusty Dunbar
Paul Jones	

Also present were Bob Cron, Elvis Gum, Jim Baughman, Brad Taylor and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Russ motioned to approve minutes. Paul second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Dusty asked for volunteers for the GVMF concerts and the Bluegrass Festival.

Pat introduced Susan and Pete from the Colorado Wilderness Coalition. They spoke briefly and then did slide presentation. After the presentation they told the group to feel free to contact them if anyone had questions. They also left literature for anyone and everyone to take.

Old Business

Pat updated the group on No Thoroughfare Wash - the Foundation does have a deed for an easement, there are numerous encroachments on and along the easement. Pat has spoken with Robert Traylor, Robb Reece and Bill Prakken about the situation. Pat will have Robert and Robb contact Bill.

Pat talked about Jack Nelson and his work on the Old Spanish Trail. Jack gave him a copy of the feasibility study from the Parks Service on the Old Spanish Trail. It details three options. Pat will leave the study with Michele for anyone who would like to read it. Bob asked if the Riverfront Commission would be interested in taking a position on this issue. He volunteered to go through the document for the necessary information for the letter. Lenna said she, Pat and Bob will work on letter.

New Business

There was no new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update - Dusty deferred to Bob.

Palisade Update - There was no representative present for Palisade.

Urban Trails Committee - Robb Reece was unavailable to attend tonight. Pat told the group about the ride/picnic that UTC had last week and how much he enjoyed getting out and being on the trail with Lenna, Bob and the UTC members. He commented that so much time is spent in meetings working on getting trails done, he liked to be able to do more activities like that with members of the RFC. Michele added that they are setting up interviews for new members. Pat commented that RFC would be holding interviews for new members next week. He is unable to attend but Lenna will be there.

Legacy Update - Fruita has received Snooks Bottom appraisal, waiting for BLM to say appraisal is okay. Bob has spoken with the landowner. Audubon has received another \$4,500 grant from LaSalle Adams. They are continuing their fund raising. Bureau of Reclamation has been active in the Horsethief Wildlife area; they have created four new shallow ponds/wetlands. One large and three small. On the Grand Junction Wildlife area, they are done with building four endangered fish grow out ponds. The Audubon Society will use the house on the property as an office. The Corp of Engineers has given the Botanic Social approval for the amphitheater, they have building permit and will build this winter, should be ready by next spring. They are starting work on the children's garden. They also received another GOCO grant for \$10,000 for their native garden. The Division of Wildlife and the Audubon Society are cooperating and providing the major interpretative facility on the Lucy Ferrill Ela and the leased property from Mesa County. There will be a kiosk on both sides for the two and two wildlife viewing blinds. Should be done by September 30th. Money from DOW was in the original Legacy grant for Watchable Wildlife. This will complete their contributions from that particular grant. There is a small grant in phase 2 from Legacy for the Audubon Society for interpretative facilities and they combined those together. BLM has recently finished installing a picnic shelter at Dinosaur Hill and interpretation kiosk. Have also restored the washed out trail areas with help from volunteers. State Parks has been active; they recently purchased 32 acres up river from the Hunt Club in Fruita. They've recently completed a fence on the refinery property. Elvis commented that there needs to be more PR out of the Legacy project so the public becomes more aware of where lotteries funds are doing for the Grand Valley. Dusty suggested making a statement at each GVMF event. Bob will bring up at next Legacy meeting; perhaps the paper could feature a section on the trail each month.

There was no further old business.

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Soft Path - Mark was unable to attend, Pat read his e-mail update. He is continuing work on the soft path. He has two grant applications in and he has talked to Bill Prakken about the easement and expects to hear back from Bill this week and will get the information over to Paul Nelson. Will be doing testing on crumb rubber with local materials to see how it will act. Still working on other grants.

Rendering Plant - Paul has spoken with Tim Woodmansee and Alan Workman. Tim led Paul to believe that the situation is right back to where we started. Was unable to pin him down on the option. Alan told Paul that Mel, Sr. had passed away and the siblings are wanting to do something - feels they think they are going to get lots of money out of the deal. Paul will continue to follow up. Bob asked Paul if he thought the RFC might need to write a letter to the City to get a follow up from them.

Tamarisk Coalition - John was unable to attend, he did speak with Pat last week to update him on the project. John wanted to know if the RFC was willing to be lead in the organization. Pat said RFC would; however, they will not be offering Michele's services, more like the conduit for the organization. Group is in process of interviewing possible coordinators. Bob clarified the actual role they are asking of the RFC - which would be the holder of the funds that the partners will be contributing for their coordinator and then pay the coordinator. They understand that RFC would not be the organization applying for their grants since they have members that are better and more qualified to receive these grants.

Colorado Riverfest 2000 Committee - Russ said next event is GVMF concert on Saturday and then the next big event will be the Bluegrass Festival on July 30th. Jerry Nolan organized the canoe race, which had about 12 participants, many from Front Range. Everyone had a great time and Jerry said he'd like to do again next year. Russ stated that while he was at the June 24th concert, his daughter Katherine took her first steps. He said he hasn't seen much advertising for the July 30th concert. Michele said she has received many inquiries via the phone and e-mail. There is a meeting at 8am tomorrow to finalize the details for the event. Dusty asked again for volunteers, looking for two people per two-hour shifts.

Volunteer Committee - Dusty stated still need volunteers for the GVMF concerts and the July 30th event. Jerry Nolan has volunteered for the adventure race, which will help. Dusty commented that it's really nice to have Lenna and Pat give a brief talk before each concert. It is so well received. She said the City of Fruita looks forward to having the concerts there. Lenna suggested that she and Pat go before the Fruita City Council and thank them for allowing the GVMF being held in Fruita. Bob mentioned the number of people at each concert, which are about 1,500 to 2,000 per concert. Bob wondered if the new Fruita State Park would be able to handle the large number of people, especially parking. Brad Taylor mentioned that would have to be looked at and the possibility of busing concertgoers to event - perhaps using FMHS for parking and bus pick up/drop off. Further discussed having big draw groups at Reed Park and smaller draw groups at

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the new State Park. Bob said this is something that needs to be reviewed on an annual process. Everyone commented that getting people here to ride the bus would be very difficult to change their thinking.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.