

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
March 20, 2001**

Call to Order

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

Lenna Watson
Mark Gardner
Jim Majors
Dusty Dunbar

Patrick Kennedy
Paul Jones
Gabe DeGabriele
Bill Findlay

Also present were Elvis Guin, Bob Cron, Janet Hollingsworth and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Gabe motioned to approve the minutes. Paul second. Motion passed.

Announcements

There will be a meeting on March 26th at 4pm at the Federal Building with regard to the Old Spanish Trail. Pat is planning on attending.

Brad Taylor will host a reunion on April 11th for Bookcliff Middle School (students in 1989) that participated in trail work at Connected Lakes. Everyone is invited.

Lenna thanked Bob with regard to the BOR ceremony.

Old Business

Lenna highlighted points from the retreat summary – where the Riverfront Commission is going and what the Riverfront Commission wants to accomplish. Main goal is to build trails; followed by trail amenities. Jim stated he didn't agree with "comment" on land uses adjacent to Riverfront. He believes it should have a higher priority. Mark added Riverfront Commission doesn't want to be a review agency. Dusty believes group should advocate positive comments that pertain to trails. Lenna reminded everyone that the Commission must be sensitive to all partners at the table.

Pat gave history to new members of meeting that took place about a year ago on motorized use of the river.

Advocacy will continue on an individual item – same as in past.

Dusty stated she feels that there never seems to be any follow through on projects and tasks.

Bill stated he felt acquiring land should have been further up on the list. Tille Bishop has landowner needing to talk with State Parks.

There was no further old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Committee Reports

Lenna stated that the Safety Committee still needs a chairperson. She also stated that if new members have interest in someone else's committee, let Pat or her know.

Fruita Update – Dusty said she would put the Riverfront Commission on the monthly report. Will be holding “Freshen Up Fruita” on April 7th. Partners will be working on Little Salt Wash. Fruita is beginning work on a park plan for future – similar to Reed Park. Looking at group pavilion and possible trail. Also looking at band shell in either Reed Park or at Little Salt Wash open space area. Bob recommended Bennett should develop Master Plan for area that can be part of next round of Legacy.

Palisade Update – Elvis said a Frisbee club has asked to put in a nine hole course in Riverbend Park. Town has agreed to allow it in the park. A new picnic pavilion will be built by the recently completed restroom at the park.

Urban Trails Committee – Janet updated the group on UTC wrapping up review of Master Plan. April will be the river corridor. After next month's meeting, will bring a new map to the Riverfront Commission in June or July. Bill added that City has recommended eight foot concrete trail on canal bank. Robert Traylor is writing letter to make recommendation with regard to this trail.

Legacy Update – Grand Junction Wildlife is now open. Received phone call from Third Sector with regard to Aspinall Park. Bob asked if the group wants to become partner, Bob told them would be interested if Riverfront can put trail thorough park.

Garfield County has put together a group called LLOV, which received a GOCO grant and will use it for a feasibility study.

Wetlands Initiative is part of a National Organization including Canada set up to protect wetlands for migratory birds. John Toolan is the new person who wishes to bring to the Colorado River. Working on possible \$1 million grant for conservation easements. Can use as match money used in Legacy project within last two years and what plan to spend. May need a few thousand dollars, would Riverfront Foundation be willing to contribute? Bob will encourage group to do proposal to Foundation.

Soft Path – Mark stated the Riverfront Foundation agreed to give \$5,000 to complete the project. Will not be using crum rubber. Appears will clear trail in late summer or early fall. City Park's crew will do the prep work. Mark has spoken with Mayes (and they'd agreed to) about the trail and storing materials on their property. They will also provide some equipment to set trail. Still working with City Market on signed easement.

Soft Path II – Bill is working on new single trail path from new Albertsons to Promontory Point. Brad Taylor has group who will be doing work for State Parks. Greg Linza will have prison crew do clearing. Will put either sawdust or wood chips on the trail.

Rendering Plant - Paul said he still hasn't heard from Tim Woodmansee. Alan Workman is frustrated and ready to sell to the best offer. Tim informed Pat that the City is waiting for timing – they are waiting for the family to state publicly that they want to close the business so it doesn't appear the City put them out of business. Pat will give Tim a call and get everyone together. Bob will call Joe to have him talk to Tim.

Tamarisk Coalition - John was unable to attend.

Volunteer Committee – Dusty has been trying to connect with Bruce Welder. Still working with Brad Taylor for GVMF. Has had two groups interested in doing projects but both found other projects to work on. Will be running ad under volunteer heading of the newspaper. Looking to get core group put together. Gabe stated Elderhostel might be coming back. Hottest program with group in past has been service projects.

Blue Heron Lake – Russ was unable to attend.

Educational Committee – Gabe stated the symposium on March 2nd was well attended. Partnership with School District 51 and Mesa State. Focus should be tremendous opportunity to bring programs to riverfront. Need to get group to meet on a more regular meeting schedule. Need to keep politics out of program. Has spoken to Brad Taylor and he'd like to initiate educational opportunities at low or no cost to participants. State Parks can provide buses. (School of Natural Sciences and District 51).

Public Comment

Dusty said Wade Johnson unveiled a new sign at Watson Island completed by 30 Bookcliff students. Dusty thinks RFC should write grant for Wade's project so he doesn't have to use his own money.

Jim added comments about the Black Ridge Wilderness Study Area and mountain biking advocates starting a new group called the Quiet Use Coalition. Goal is to get input from all users.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.