

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
April 17, 2001**

Call to Order

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

Lenna Watson	Patrick Kennedy
Mark Gardner	Paul Jones
Gabe DeGabriele	Walid Bou-Matar
Dusty Dunbar	Bill Findlay
John Heideman	Russ Walker

Also present were Elvis Guin, Bob Cron, Birgit Bostleman, Joe Stevens, Brad Taylor, Jason Holtman and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Walid motioned to approve the minutes. Lenna second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Introduced Jason with Partners to the group. Jason presented Partners' plan to have a bicycle maintenance program on the trail at one of these sites: Jr. Service League parking area, Blue Heron trail and Botanic Gardens. He's not sure if they will need one or two parking spaces for their portable workbench. Plan is to offer on a ½ day every two weeks (May through September). They would provide information and fee bike tune-ups, check chains, lube and change flats. Will also have cell phones. Liability will be covered by Partners. They would like to put up sandwich boards on the trail and will have aprons instead of uniforms.

John proposed to accept the plan. Motion passed.

Jason also stated Partners "Work Release Program" is looking for more challenging projects. They generally charge \$25/hour for an eight-person crew. If anyone is interested, contact Juanita at Partners (245-5555).

Pat talked about the Old Spanish Trail meeting he attended. It was pretty positive.

Michele will be at a conference on April 25th through April 27th.

Mark updated group on possible plan for Price Stubbs dam. Not like Gary Lecy's project. This would backfill rather than place items in the river. Bob reminded everyone that this idea would need to be incorporated in BOR's report and study.

Bob gave a project update on Legacy projects and their status. Gave info on how project is broken into four quadrants. He also explained initial grant and additional grant. Bill asked about Los Colinas project in 2002. Joe said it's still being decided on. It was also noted that they're having a transient problem in that area.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update – Lenna read from Bennett's faxed update. She also stated June meeting will be Fruita.

Palisade Update – No update was received from Palisade.

Urban Trails Committee – Birgit stated work on UTC Master Plan is ready to put into new map form. UTC will be hosting an open house at their June 12th meeting.

Legacy Update – Tamarisk received grant for \$78,000 - which will be used for six projects. Mark received a State Trails Grant. Bob has submitted a small grant for the Wetlands Initiative - going into statewide application. Mesa County Soil Conservation District is sponsoring. Colorado Canyons is putting together advisory board.

Soft Path – Mark stated he received \$10,000 grant from State Trails. Joe with the City has set dates in September for City crews to clear area. Now can plan for volunteers. Mayes Concrete has volunteered storage space and equipment/man hours on weekends. Still working on easement with City Market.

Soft Path II – Bill briefed everyone on his soft path on both sides of the Audubon Trail to Promontory Point. Greg with the County has started clearing work on first part of the trail and will be done in May. Brad said his volunteer crew would be working on State Park section in April.

Rendering Plant – There was meeting with Judy Workman (family), Tim Woodmansee, Pat, Lenna, Bob and Paul. The Workmans would like to sell at fair market value. Next

meeting was with Tim Woodmansee and accountant to discuss tax ramifications. City currently isn't in the position to purchase. Still interested but want to wait until purchase price lower.

Tamarisk Coalition - John stated they've re-organized the Steering Team and now have four committees. He said Kacey has resigned. Next meeting is in June in Hotchkiss. Coalition is continuing to grow - have all weed control managers on Western Slope on board. Still have \$100,000+ grant application out to the EPA. Should be hearing on it fairly soon. Reviewed letter written to Dr. Rodney Foil. Russ added to John's update on idea in proposal to implement and seek long term funding to sustain the project on an on going basis. Looking at asking for half a million dollars. Proposal must be post marked by Friday. Looking to break into 10 – 12 districts.

Volunteer Committee – Dusty still hasn't connected with Bruce. Working on staffing needs for June 9th concert. Currently needing about nine volunteers. Will regroup after first concert to redefine the number of volunteers needed. Will touch base with Paul Nelson.

Blue Heron Lake – Russ stated nothing new to report.

Educational Committee – Gabe said he is taking baby steps. He met with State Parks this morning. There is a classroom opportunity at Island Acres. State Parks has money through GOCO to fund transportation. Will develop guides that teachers can use and not spend time developing plans. Looking at getting private schools and home schooled kids to the program. Wanting to set up scholarship program to reimburse entrance fee of \$4 per bus. Would the Riverfront Foundation be interested in holding the money?

Public Comment

Elvis thanked John for his work on the tamarisk project.

Brad said Laurie Matthews has resigned. June 20th will be her last day.

Dusty said Fruita had a successful cleanup of Little Salt Wash on the 7th. Hauled away three trucks full of trash. City crew then went in and removed large items.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.