

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
July 17, 2001**

Call to Order

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

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

Also present – no were no guests.

Approval of Minutes

Correction needs to be made that Gabe was at the last meeting. Gabe motioned to approve the minutes. ? second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Pat encouraged all members to attend the Legacy meeting tomorrow night at 7pm with the new GOCO Board. Stressed the importance of making new Board understand how critical it is to continue the Legacy multi-year, multi-project funding.

Pat showed group the editorial that was in Sunday's paper regarding the upcoming GOCO Legacy meeting and how DOW is using their GOCO funds.

Discussed the history of the Lottery program and the new Powerball game and how the funds have been diverted in the past for other programs than what the program was intended.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Paul Jones brought up at the last meeting about changing the time of the Riverfront meetings, 7:30pm seems a little late. Pat asked if 7pm would be okay. Gabe stated he'd like it to start even earlier. Paul moved to move the meeting time to 7pm and adjourn time to 8:30pm. Bill second. Motion passed.

Lenna commented that UTC, City and State Parks would need to be reminded of the time change.

Had only two applicants for the two openings. Stephanie Nye has asked the co-chairs to see if they can encourage others to apply. Those interested need to contact Stephanie ASAP at 244-1511 to get an application. Lenna commented that Stephanie had said that the terms are being changed to a 1 ½ year term. Pat and Lenna are going to be looking into it.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update – Dusty stated that Fruita is trying to restructure the GOCO money earmarked for the Old Fruita Bridge. GOCO is asking for it back. Bennett is trying to figure a way to keep it in “our” partner’s pot rather than returning it back to the overall GOCO pot.

There is a dialogue on the Masterson property to try and get under the Interstate. They are getting the clue that the property isn't a high value commercial property as those along 340; they do think that it does have a value for gravel.

Dusty added that there is talk at the City about upcoming Capital Projects that trails can be incorporated into budgets for the upcoming years.

She said the City's Public Works person is leaving and hoping that the new person will be open to a dialogue on canals within the core of the City.

Palisade Update – no one from Palisade. (Lenna added that RFC has asked both entities to email their updates to Michele – if anyone knows anyone in either community that would be a good member, please have them apply).

Urban Trails Committee – Bill stated that he missed last week's meetings so he was unable to update the group. Bill did talk about the canal out by Desert Hills and someone he spoke with regard to an easement for a trail. Would not be opposed to the easement if didn't have to pay taxes on the easement and if the City will put up a fence.

Legacy Update – Bob was unable to attend so Pat read his update. The Legacy Project annual report is done. He also has reached an agreement with GOCO on a reimbursement schedule by quarter over the next year. They agreed to the schedule put together by the Legacy Steering Team and Bob last February. Both records of how much has been reimbursed also match.

The castle in the Children's Garden at the Botanic Gardens now has its exterior cover.

Only July 7th, Pat and Bob participated in a Mesa Land Trust field trip to the Glade Park area. They had the privilege of visiting conservation easement locations not normally open to the public. Mesa Land Trust is making great progress in protecting a lot of superb wildlife habitat.

Bob reminded the group to attend the GOCO Board and GOCO staff meeting tomorrow night. The Board and staff are beginning the process of revising their strategic plan. One issue they are weighing is whether to continue the Legacy grant program.

Soft Path – Mark has made some contact. Still need to walk the trail with Joe so everyone can see what needs to be done and what getting into. Has spoken with Home Depot about volunteers and Partners to see if they have crews available. Mark thinks he can get some contractors to run the heavy equipment on the weekends. Mark asked Dusty if she has any ideas for volunteers for the end of September. She reminded him that the Adventure Race is on the 28th. Volunteers of Outdoor Colorado will be on the Grand Mesa in early September and Dusty will contact them to see if they would be interested in Mark's project as a backup in case they get weathered out. Dusty will contact the Honor Students Program and see if they have any interest.

Soft Path II – Bill said State Parks volunteers would be working on other projects. Bill just received a call from Greg Linza and the prison work crew isn't available. So Bill contacted Partners and they will be available to start next week. State Parks area looks good, could just put in the crusher fines, however Brad Taylor stated that they are going to be putting in a new dike, which will be a year or two down the road. The segment from the new Albertsons to the State Parks is really overgrown. It's difficult to get the Partners crew to start work until the County clears the brush. Needs to talk to Greg to see if the Partners crew can do the clearing or if County is still planning on doing it. Issue of money and funding came up. Bill said he thinks that Mark may have some funds available. Pat added that the RFF might have funds available and that Bob has mentioned that they still are some Legacy funds available from a previous project. Bill asked if leveling is part of what RFC is looking for. Pat stated Bill should ask for what he wants on the soft path and he should set up a meeting with Joe Higgins, Greg Linza, Brad Taylor, Mark and Pat and Lenna. Mark said he thinks he will have some money left over, especially if the State Trails Grant isn't reduced by the amount requested for the crum rubber. Mark is still waiting to talk with the State Trails people about that issue.

Rendering Plant – Paul told the group about Jeanette Main-Goecke. He called the rendering plant yesterday hoping to talk to Judy Workman but spoke with Mel instead. The probate has not been completed and not sure when it will be done. Mel told Paul that he is planning to continue working and the property is worth \$1.2 million. The property in Delta County was contaminated. So will continue to play the waiting game.

Volunteer Committee – Had an interesting challenge at the last concert – bus didn't show up. Hit capacity and did the best they could, did have some complaints from late arrivals but overall things did work out considering the problem. Rex will be renting road sign that will be able to convey message to concertgoers.

Educational Committee – Gabe emailed Elderhostel after the July meeting and still has not heard back from them. He is trying to get them to send information about their service programs.

Trail Maps – Jim was unable to attend.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.