

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
September 18, 2001**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Pat Kennedy at 7:05pm. Those present were:

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| Patrick Kennedy | Gabe DeGabriele |
| Paul Jones | Bill Findlay |
| Dusty Dunbar | |

Also present were Elvis Guin, Ken Scissors, Russ Walker, Brad Taylor, John Heideman, and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Paul motioned to pass minutes. Gabe second. Motion passed.

Announcements

Pat reminded everyone about the Tamarisk Symposium on September 26th and 27th, cost is \$50 plus \$10 for lunch.

Pat presented a rock and certificate to Russ and John, thanking them for their work. Russ updated the group on the grant he helped write – still hadn't heard anything but will keep the group posted on the grant and work on Blue Heron Lake. John updated the group on what has been going on with the Tamarisk Coalition. John said they would be presenting a proposal at the October meeting to form a non-profit and to hire an Executive Director. Will be setting up a due program to help fund director position. Also have had an office with equipment donated. If recommendation is accepted to become a 501 3 (c), then will draft bylaws, policy and procedures, employee manual, etc. Currently there are 122 members extending all along Western Colorado and eastern Utah. Reminded everyone about the symposium next week. Also talked about \$78,000 grant received. He stated the RFC would need to think about funding coalition for next five years. Pat thanked John. Elvis commended John for all of his efforts on the Coalition. John gave Michele a hard copy of what he updated the group on.

Old Business

Pat updated the group on what the Urban Trails Master Plan is all about and how it came about and what Urban Trails has been working on for the past several months. Next step will be for UTC to take to the staff planners and then to council and commissioners. Ken then explained how the map works with the City and how it's handled differently for the County. UTC is an "unofficial" review committee for the City and County. Ken told group how UTC went about gathering the information for the update. George Miller in Jody Kliska's office has been doing the revision of the map. Ken explained that they have changed to a new and more specific legend. He talked about sidewalk bike trails and problems with having them. He showed old map vs. new map. Stated that there were more additions, however, there were some deletions. Talked about how get trails to riverfront and future riverfront trail. Pat asked about "red lettering" on old map. Ken said County "canal" wording would be on the new map. Pat said he'd like to go to the meeting when it goes before the City.

Dusty said Redlands Transportation meeting in October would be beneficial for UTC members to attend. Ken said they were planning on being there.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Pat talked about the retreat and the possibility of doing a tour. Group liked the idea. Retreat wouldn't happen until late February or March. Dusty raised concern about never following through on what's been discussed at prior retreats. Will place on agenda for next month so everyone can think about what they would like to see.

Pat talked about December social and how co-chairs would like to have meeting earlier and then have "guests" arrive later. Group likes the idea. Time discussed was 6pm for the meeting with social starting at 6:30pm.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update – Pat read Bennett's update stating that State Parks may have some news about a major acquisition on the riverfront in Fruita. Brad said no.

Palisade Update – John was not present nor did we receive an update. Pat told group about the ribbon cutting ceremony a few weeks ago.

Urban Trails Committee – Ken presented earlier.

Legacy Update –Pat read Bob’s update: Palisade dedicated their pavilion in River Bend Park on Saturday, 9/7. They plan to connect the parking area, pavilion, restrooms and fishing pier with a surfaced trail later this fall or early next spring.

The Mesa County Soil Conservation District plans to control tamarisk on the Confluence habitat project area in the next several weeks.

Initial reports on Power Ball revenues show they are substantial without significant impact on Colorado’s Lottery program. Will have to wait and see if this continues or if there will be a drop off as the newness wears off.

Soft Path – Mark said City is doing some work, however, it’s not visible work. Shawn will be taking some readings tomorrow. City doesn’t want to use one of the materials because it’s too sandy. Hopes to hear back from Shawn in a week or so. Will work on getting prices and finding replacement materials for fill.

Soft Path II – Bill updated the group on what’s going on. Partners group is still working on clearing. Greg Linza said County defers to what Shawn wants for materials. Will be on hold with materials until City makes decision. Mileage markers may have to be moved. Bill asked about storage units going in along trail. Bob/Lenna and Pat met with Rob Blanchard on it. Rob will be overseeing landscape.

Rendering Plant – Paul said nothing to update. Paul did say he would be attending the Tamarisk Symposium. Botanic Gardens recently sprayed “Garland” on the tamarisk and it seems to have affected some of the cottonwood trees.

Volunteer Committee – Dusty thanked State Parks for their efforts and work on all the GVMF concerts. Had very dedicated volunteers and she will be sending thanks along with t-shirts and some other goodies given by Brad. Still need a couple of volunteers for Kokopelli Adventure Race. Fruita Fall Festival is same weekend. Chamber will be having a raffle.

Educational Committee – Gabe said next Education Committee meeting will be on September 24th in the am at Mesa State. Asked what group thought about Elderhostel. Paul said doesn’t believe it’s RFC jurisdiction, more Mesa State. The local contact person would work with Elderhostel attendees. Would take about a year to get off the ground – so would need to identify projects – bring to next meeting. Gabe asked if could bring to November meeting instead. Gabe has tickets for Homeless event at St. Kathryn’s on Saturday.

Trail Maps – Jim was unable to attend.

Public Comment

Pat informed group about virus alert from RFC but not coming from RFC office.
Michele said when she sends emails – the subject line is very specific, if it isn't, delete immediately.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.