

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
January 15, 2002**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, Lenna Watson at 7:00pm. Those present were:

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

Also present were Bob Cron, Jennifer Ely, Juanita Trujillo (Partners), Sgt. Frey, Birgit Bostelman, Robert Traylor, Bev Taylor, Jim Baughman and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

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

Announcements

Office will be closed on January 23rd, 24th and 25th.

Sgt. Frey talked about letter received regarding no shoot zone on the river within the City limits (23 ³/₄ to Redlands Parkway and then picks up again in Fruita). Trying to have it changed to go from Fruita to 32 Road. This will take a resolution by the County Commissioners. There are some issues with hunters as to what is legal. Process won't happen over night but will post with conspicuous signs at 29 Road and Watson Island. Lenna told Sgt. Frey that RFC is working on getting member on safety concerns again. Brad said State Parks is mindful of the hunters and has been approached about putting up signs. Jim talked about problems and boundaries. Lenna asked Sgt. Frey to keep the RFC informed. Was given the name of Larry Bowlerd with the Sheriff's department.

Gabe stated he'd be interested in co-chairing Safety. Lenna explained who all was involved with Safety.

Steve Yamashita was unable to attend.

Old Business

Pat told the group what happened at No Thoroughfare Wash last week. RFF granted \$3,000 for fencing to help keep the area Partners and neighbors cleaned up clean. There was a problem with some individuals pushing over Taylor Fence's set fence posts. (285' were reset and then McKeon pulled them out).

Jennifer explained that the McKeons have known since 1997 where their boundaries are. Jennifer stated she gave Jim a copy of the letter presented to the McKeons in the past. She said there has been an on going problem for many years.

Robert talked about some of the legal ramifications. Jennifer stated they didn't complain while the cleanup was going on. Juanita said that there were 65 tons of mulch and tons of trash removed from the site. Very disappointed by the McKeons' action of moving junk cars onto the cleaned up area. She hopes civic leaders will step up and help resolve the issue. She will have crews on both ends of the trail this weekend. Lenna asked her to add her comments to Jennifer's list.

Jim explained how he was involved in this. Jennifer stated that the boundary of 50' came about because of the wire fence placed four years ago – this was done for safety reasons but McKeon knew this was not on the true boundary.

Reviewed dates for retreat – February 16th at 9am, will be doing bus tour from Palisade to DeBeque. Will probably take three to four hours, bus will leave from Lincoln Park Barn. Bring own sack lunch.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Reminded group about the City Appreciation Lunch on February 1st.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Fruita Update – Bennett wanted to remind everyone about Fruita Greenway Business Park. \$600,000 Energy Impact Grant that's been applied for. Energy Impact Study being worked on. Working on grants - partly cleanup for trails and light/clean industries for area. Jim said Mesa County has been working with Fruita. Working on tamarisk removal. Still having problems with Old Fruita Bridge – someone talking legal action to use bridge to access island.

Palisade Update – John was not present nor did we receive an update prior to the meeting. Pat stated he and Bob met with John last week. Asked them to send representative to meetings. Fruita is getting their share and wants Palisade to get their share.

Urban Trails Committee – Birgit said working on retreat in either April or May. Will be meeting with County Planning staff to go over old map and new map and then review each of their concerns. Clark met with Beautification Committee last week. Clark will continue to participate.

Legacy Update – Audubon has submitted request for reimbursement on tamarisk removal and ? There is a first round grant on March 4th, not sure of the \$ amount. Will be one round of Legacy this year. Will start out with step program – would hear back by October. Fishing Is Fun is due in Steve's office by March 1st. Bob encourages all partners to apply for individual grants. 12 of 14 partners are done. Bob has agreed to stay through Legacy process (October).

Soft Path – Mark updated group on confusion between City and him. Mark will be taking someone out to get a quote on fill work – Mark thinks he might be able to get someone out there next week. Wants to get Partners crew out there after heavy work is done.

Soft Path II – Bill said Dowd Construction is continuing to work. Project is taking longer than usual. Hopes to be done tomorrow. Partners will be out there this weekend. Stuff isn't compacting very well. Need to find out what to do – Mark said a sod roller would work. Paper will write article.

Bob asked Bill and Mark for documentation on in-kind for projects.

Rendering Plant – Paul said he has Lions Club tickets. He has spoken with Alan Workman. Latest is will auction everything off per Judge. Paul has been appointed to the Botanic Gardens Board.

Tamarisk Coalition – Walid said good turn out at meeting. Voted on Bylaws and nine board members. Pat noted that No Thoroughfare Wash tamarisk wasn't treated. Will need to re-cut and treat.

Volunteer Committee – Dusty stated she is rep on Redlands study. Was pleased to see bike paths were highly desired along 340 to Fruita. Service group (500 young people) looking at project March 2nd, 8am to 12noon. Dusty hasn't had time to determine what kinds of projects for them to work on since she just found out this morning. Paul said Botanic Gardens might be able to use some of them. Bob stated Fairgrounds might be a place for clean up work. Dusty asked if RFC wants to participate – would provide trash bags, truck, etc. Will RFC people be there?

Educational Committee – Gabe said semester just started. District 51 is getting towards the end of theirs.

Trail Maps – Jim was unable to attend. He did inform Michele that there was nothing new to report. He had another meeting with BLM regarding 18 Road.

Public Comment

Brad wanted to know what the “beef” was with the Christmas trees on the river. He explained why State Parks does this and that it’s to improve the fish habitat. Dick asked about pitch and tar – Brad said it’s not a problem.

Work being done by surveyor for dike.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.