

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
February 17, 2004**

Call to Order

Co-Chair, Mark Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Those present were:

Mark Gardner	Paul Jones	John Gormley
Dick Gerhardt	Lenna Watson	Dennis Devore
Michael Kuzminski	Dani Weigand Knopp	Dusty Dunbar
Dan McClean		

Also present were John McConnell, Brad Taylor, Steve Moore, TommyCollins, Tillie Bishop, John Swartout, Diane Gansaur and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Lenna/Paul. Motion passed.

Announcements

Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th, 9:00am to 1:00pm, will be touring Fruita area.

There were no further announcements.

Old Business

Tommy Collins brought everyone up to date on whitewater park. Town Board will sponsor GOCO grant application in fall. Jacobsen has made offer to convey property to the Town. CDOT has issues.

Elections are on April 6th.

Proposed asking for \$10,000 to extend trail in Riverbend Park west. Five foot pathway that is ADA compliant. Town will provide 100% with Job Corp doing the work.

Thanked Tommy for attending.

There was no further old business.

New Business

John McConnell, volunteer with the Math and Science Center at New Emerson (Program was started when Columbus was still at school but not outdoor program) gave a brief presentation on

what the center does. Have see over 30,000 kids over the years from over a 160-mile radius of Grand Junction.

Showed pictures of what has been done in outdoor classroom. Talked about contents of backpacks provided to students. Over Christmas holiday, someone destroyed stairs down to the river. Working on notebooks with plants, trees and animals. School has received grant for two-way radios.

Michael added that he/Wade/John have met. Ideas of way to get more kids (elementary and middle school) to program. Educating teachers in the summer. Compile materials already in use from teachers in District 51 who have put information together.

Thanked John for coming.

Michele explained the memorial bench program and how it is need of revision. She is looking for interested members to help update and revise the plan. Brad added his thoughts.

Tillie introduced the new director of GOCO, John Swartout and Diane Gansauer, assistant director. Introductions made around the room. John then talked about Legacy Program and vision. He also talked about his experience. Mark told them that the Legacy Program has been very beneficial to communities like the Grand Valley.

John then told group about issues with bonding program.

RFC updated John and Diane on what our project still needs to accomplish to complete our Legacy Project. Steve added more on critical linkages needed to complete connections.

Our project ultimately could go from Utah/Colorado state line to Garfield County and from Mesa County to Delta County.

John asked if anyone on RFC is on State Trails Committee. Suggested contacting State Trails office for information on getting on the board.

Thanked John, Diane and Tillie for coming.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Palisade Update – Mark added to history on Water Park to what Tommy stated earlier.

Urban Trails Committee – Robert unable to attend but Michele stated group is moving forward on work on No Thoroughfare Wash and the meeting with the County Commissioners on March 8th at 1:30pm.

Legacy Update – Steve said 29 to 30 Road trail will be built this year. 27 ½ to 29 Road, some trails with possibility of acquisition. No money, no one to own, no one to maintain. Discussed

going under Redlands Parkway Bridge, City and County ownership questions. He added to the bonding issue. \$9 million interest payment is 20% of what is available for each quadrant for next 20 years. Mesa County started with last Legacy grant request with some additions.

Adopt-a-trail Committee – Dennis reviewed goals and ideas from previous email sent out. Dani still gathering trail segments. Eric is working on model agreement. Will be setting up a meeting with BLM, City, County and State Parks to discuss plans and documents. Continue to move forward with marketing.

Trail Map Committee/Public Relations/Marketing – Still moving along.

Public Comment

Mark said Channel 12 is showing video of Greenway GOCO presentation.

Dusty said Planning Commission meeting February 26th at 7:00pm (upstairs in old County Courthouse) regarding DuPont property. Very important that trail connection is made because it is part of approved Master Plan.

Dusty asked for more information on the retreat.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.