

**RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

**Minutes of Meeting
June 15, 2004**

Call to Order

Co-Chair, Mark Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Those present were:

Mark Gardner	Paul Jones	John Gormley	Dusty Dunbar
Michael Kuzminski	Dick Gerhardt		

Also present were Tim Fry, Bob Cron, Don Hobbs, Brad Taylor, Leeann Hill-CEC, Steve Moore, Wade Haerle and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes - John/Michael. Motion passed.

Announcements

City interviewing for new members on 6/18.

There were no further announcements.

Old Business

Discussed turnout at Riverfront Walk for Health. Michele passed out follow up.

Michael updated on "Meet Me at the River" on 9/11 at the Botanic Gardens. Would like RFC to have a booth in the morning (8am-3pm). Shannon is event planner for the Gardens.

Mark talked about Riverside Parking Open House tonight. Three options, two over the tracks over 4th, other at Nolan. Two of them wouldn't require 1601. He added that the owner of the brick building east of the Gardens is planning on tearing it down.

He went on to talk about Price-Stubbs study. Response is due 6/18. He would like RFC to submit response. Steve will draft.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Wade Haerle was introduced. He talked about best way to approach GOCO Board. He explained that it's a different board, different Governor and hopes RFC understands. Mesa County project is in good shape in eyes of the board. They like community separator project and riverfront projects. He explained why he denied \$400,000 Legacy grant. Money being taken out

of local community grants. Caution in approaching board and make sure to ask for money out of appropriate pot of money. State Parks will be tough because they are broke.

John talked about problem categorizing projects. GOCO implied wanted large scope projects. Buck Ferguson wants less top heavy, community up. Concern about half completed “Legacy” projects. Wants to see projects completed. Wade said the board does not want to see Legacy Projects but does want large-scale projects that can be completed in two years. John expressed frustration with GOCO asking for info but not giving much time to gather the massive amount requested.

Mark said RFC was not asked to apply for current round of GOCO funding. Project placed 23rd out of 68 applications and the top 22 would be asked to apply.

Wade said to be patient and preserve. Wade said Mesa County wants Long Park completed before Doralynn leaves office and implied that it would be funded by GOCO this time around.

Discussed State Parks budget woes. Brad said the five sections of the Colorado River State Parks are making money. He thinks it would be about a 20% increase over last year but has no effect over in Denver.

Wade talked about getting Senator Campbell to sign on to getting Front Range Trail done. Then could connect to I-70 Trail. (Model for RFC to use).

John asked what “purpose” has best \$ availability for RFC. Wade said local government. He then diagrammed “purposes” (formerly known as quadrants). He said they didn’t like the City of Grand Junction asking for open space \$’s in local government. He added that what RFC has with intergovernmental agencies is one of the best in the state.

Steve talked about constraints of local community grants and cap at \$200,000. Large-scale (Legacy) grant \$’s are much larger.

Thanked Wade for coming.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Urban Trails Committee – Tim updated group on what’s happening. UTC participated in Bike Festival on 5/22 and did a Cruiser Rider. Work continues on No Thoroughfare Wash. Kent is working with Mesa County Engineering. Waiting on approval, once approval is giving, can move on with project. Hopefully will start in mid-summer or early fall. Corps of Engineers doesn’t seem to have issues but could change. USFW also is okay. Kent has meeting with CDOT this week.

Legacy Update – Steve stated that the GOCO Board meets tomorrow. 68 concept papers, 22 entities will be invited to apply. RFC was 23rd. \$60 million available and \$160+ million being requested. Steve believes \$12 million counts against RFC because GOCO keeps brining it up.

Criteria – old vs. new might be what they're looking for. He touched on Dusty's idea of segmenting project. Could do that because ours was in three parts. Regional Parks if \$ amount more, could be attractive.

Mark thinks RFC needs to refocus on riverfront trails and let community separator deal on their own. Steve said he believes we need to break up project and go for smaller pots of money.

Public Comment

Bob updated group on Water Park at Price Stubbs. Town of Palisade Board voted to support park. Working with BOR on project. Study has three alternatives. Preferred one is one with water park. Meeting in Palisade was well attended and nine out of ten people were in favor. Time is running out. BOR plans to go to contract in the fall. First year would be stockpiling material. Still unsure of cost. Will be going ahead with this grant cycle. Concerned about going head to head with Mesa County. He suggested having Rob Bleiberg come and talk to the RFC. Bob was reminded that Rob did talk to the members last year.

Dusty thanked RFC and UTC for commenting on development reviews.

Brad said Wade painted a dismal picture for State Parks. He thinks time is on our side. Reserve America is doing State Parks reservations. Fruita is in top 100 of family campgrounds out of 3000. Group congratulated Brad.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.