

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission

**Minutes
March 18, 2008**

Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by co-chair John Gormley. Those present from the Commission were:

John Gormley
Dave Soker
Kathy Herzog

Bennett Boeschstein
Tom Kenyon

Katie Steele
Ken Henry

Also present were Brad Taylor, Steve Acquafresca, Paul Darr, Hannah Holmes and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Tom/Katie. Motion passed.

Announcements – Retreat is April 5th at 7:30am at DOW. Social at 6:00pm at Pinon Grill. WATER Club river clean up on Saturday, April 26th.

No RFC meeting in April.

Trail Host tree planting on April 12th at Eagle Rim Park. (Dave would like to give trail hosts a certificate of appreciation and history book. He'd also like to recognize Emily and her supervisor).

There were no further announcements.

New Business

Comprehensive Plan and RFC attendance to open house – John gave history of Mesa County's policy to keep 100 feet easement through river corridor. RFC would like to see the comprehensive plan include trails along the river when development happens. Tom is on planning commission and thinks good idea to send letter to Dave Thornton. RFC wants to encourage owners to give easements and encourage governments to purchase buffer along corridor for various reason. John/Bennett will continue to work on letter. Meetings are March 25th/26th and April 22nd/23rd. John encouraged RFC to attend and give comments.

Discussed spring run off and 100 year flood plain.

Hannah with WCC talked about forum trying to put together for spring to create "buzz" about value of riparian areas and how to protect. WCC would like to ask the RFC to help assist with planning and coordination. Dave thinks it would be good if Hannah could attend the RFC retreat. Tom asked if group knows what kind of shape Mesa County river corridor is in. No, that's what the group wants to gather info for a plan. RFC thinks April/May too soon. She'll see

if could move to late May/early June. RFC wants to participate. Hannah requests when WCC approaching other groups if could use RFC as sponsor.

There was no further new business.

Old Business

Updates:

Old Fruita Bridge – close to having all money committed. City Engineer has different view than hired engineer. North pier concerns during spring run off.

Fruita has adopted Comprehensive Plan with trails to Grand Junction. It has trail within City and along Greenway. John reminded group should hear at end of month on GOCO grant. Staff supposedly has recommended funding. Dave would like to write letter to City of Fruita thanking for including trails.

PR – Kathy talked about PR meeting and planning. Everyone to bring camera to retreat to get updated photos. Needs help with schedule of media, press releases, content for newspaper wrap around. Discussed needing recruiting new RFC member with PR experience – would be greatly appreciated. May be too late for Vacation Land insert.

Video – Bennett nothing to report.

KAFM – Need guest for this month (3/25 at noon). Dave – April; Paul/Ron – May.

There was no further old business.

Committee Reports

UTC – Paul talked about Old Spanish Trail development. One development currently in City Planning at Sunlight Drive. Another would be on south and west side (320 acres). Developer hasn't submitted plans – nothing to review or comment on until plans submitted. Orchard Mesa organization has website and would more less like to see no development. Paul went out and walked area. Paul has spoken with Lori at the City and one plan is annexed and the other isn't until it comes into planning. Paul wants to see a comprehensive plan so it isn't piece meal. Currently there is no good trailhead at northern area. Old Spanish Trail/Gunnison Bluff trail is important and need to find out who has ownership. Katie will contact Keith Fife to discuss ownership. Looking for a few more members to help with legwork.

Partners – John apologized to Brad for not getting to him before he had to leave.

Public Comment

Dave has been asking Palisade to do a dedication for completion of Riverbend Park trail. He wants to see something similar to what Fruita did for Big Salt Wash.

Katie reminded group of VOC event on April 5th and 6th at Island Acres.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.