

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission

**Minutes
January 20, 2009**

Called to Order

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

John Gormley	Dennis DeVore	Katie Steele
Ken Henry	Gust Panos	Frank Watt
Reg Price	Dennis Pretti	Bennett Boeschenstein

Also present Steve Aquafresca, Brad Taylor, Paul Peck and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Bennett/Katie. Motion passed.

Announcements –Introduced Paul Peck to members. Paul will be replacing Steve Moore.

New Business

Retreat – April 4th. Social that evening at the Pinon Grill. John gave a history of the two types of retreats. Will be having sit down with all the partners.

John talked about Robb River Rally needing another co-chair. Katie is currently the only one. He added his conversation with Larry Ingram. Discussed involving LiveWell, City of Grand Junction Parks & Rec department and the Tamarisk Coalition.

There was no further new business.

Old Business

John gave update on cattle underpass on Arnett property per the terms of the conservation easement. On going discussion to purchase the cattle.

There was no further old business.

Updates

Old Fruita Bridge - Ken said have signed contract with GA Western and permits. Fruita has finalized agreements with Arsubee (?) family and Allen Baier. Signs have gone up and core drilling may start this week. Concerned that the north pier may not last when bridge is lifted off. Concrete to be poured next month. Had second post meeting on trail planning. Not sure why

RFC members weren't included in mailing. Things moving along. He said IIG will be subdividing property to east of property (old Pabco plant). City looking at removing one of the sidewalk requirements with dollars going to riverfront trail. Planning not on board.

Ken set down with GVIC board minus Phil and Clint. Discussed a 50' easement from center of canal (30' for GVIC and 20' for Fruita to acquire on the north side of 19 Road and Wildcat). Michele noted that most items being agreed to by GVIC to make project work are same items UTC has proposed. Ken followed up with letter after meeting to confirm agreement. There still are some sticking points.

Have contract for rec center. Should be open in fall of 2010.

KAFM – Brian Mahoney will be on next week at noon. Steve Aquafresca has show before Bennett's. Can listen at KAFMRadio.org.

Video – is in final, final, final production. Brian still making a few changes. All RFC members will get copies to show to service groups. Alpine Bank has given a \$1,500 grant towards \$7,000 production cost. Have contacted Bacon and Goodwin Foundations and hear they will probably be giving funds. RFF stated they will commit \$1,500 up to remainder if no more funds received.

Committee Reports

UTC – Continue to work on reviewing plans for the City of Grand Junction. Still hoping to move forward with demo project at 25 ½ and G Roads.

Partners – Brad talked about persistence with State Parks and Fruita working on land exchange. One property ¼ mile from Corn Lake and the other immediately adjacent to Brady property. Land exchange happened on 12/5 – three years after process started. 88 acres now in hands of City of Fruita. Fruita granted trail along 88 acres down to Loma Boat Launch. Fruita will put in almost one mile of trail.

Public Comment – Brad asked if agenda for retreat set. Thinks acquisition and development of trails should be a topic. Celebrate what's been done; identify missing links and getting trails done.

Gust asked about going out and looking at identified missing links and determining difficulty of completing link.

Frank asked how far trail can be from river. Looking at running sewer line to Clifton and would like to have trail from Palisade to Clifton.

Steve stated level of difficulty changes. If things not working, move onto next thing and come back when ready. Cost will add to level of difficulty.

Steve added that County has finalized 2009 budget. There is \$500,000 again for trails. He commented on the IGA meeting in December having a great turnout with lots of progress to report. He recommended everyone to attend the next one.

Dennis P. said it's wonderful to hear all that's going on in Fruita and the County. He will be attending all the City Council candidate forums to hear where they stand on trails.

Bennett said at Tom Kenyon's press conference he stated the importance of the riverfront trails.

Bennett attended the GOCO grant meeting in Fruita and it appears that Nature Centers are eligible for GOCO funding. Audubon will be working on a grant proposal.

Botanic Gardens are looking up. Have new director and funding is up. Tamarisk Coalition did removal on Watson Island.

Brad volunteered to provide tour of trail for new members.

There was no further public comment

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.