

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION  
683-4333**

**Riverfront Commission**

**Minutes  
July 20, 2010**

**Called to Order**

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

John Gormley	Brian Meinhart	Katie Steele
Dennis DeVore	Frank Watt	Bennett Boeschstein
Dennis Pretti	Gust Panos	Kathy Herzog

Also present were Paul Peck, Jennifer Moore, Pete Firmin, Steve Aquafresca and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval** – Bennett/Gust. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Concert July 28<sup>th</sup> – t-shirt table, Katie. Still need volunteers to collect donations during intermission.

Need five volunteers for Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. Kathy/Brian volunteered.

Audubon Society – looking for board members – call Karen Levad.

**New Business** –

BLM listening session – Katie applauded the intent. First part was from BLM Director and Forest Service and then broke into discussion groups. Get more landowners involved and trying to engage younger generations to start being outside rather than virtual recreation. There were about 250 people there from all areas – Oil & Gas, private sector, government entities and environmental groups. RFC was specifically asked to attend by having a table and to participate and to talk about 18 partners working the riverfront project. Discussed how Ken Salazar took several people from CO to DC to implement GOCO style management.

County Nature Park/Lower No Thoroughfare Wash dedication/celebration – Jessica Peterson contacted John about having celebration. Discussed whether or not County was going to open trail up until construction starts. Talk was not to open up until construction start. People are calling to ask when they can start using it. Paul to follow up with Jessica.

GOCO grant application for Skinner and Fruita connection – County is working on a GOCO application for the Skinner property and Fruita connection. John attended a meeting with Greg Linza and Mary Orn. Working on two applications - \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Trail cleanup/BBQ – John talked about trail clean up done a few years ago. Went well last time. Group likes idea but wants to wait until later in fall. In addition, may have a wine tasting for wines served at the Concert Series for next year.

There was no further new business.

### **Old Business –**

Compton Property purchase – County closed on Compton property in July. Will allow trail to go underway I-70 and connect to Little Salt Wash. Thanked the County, City of Fruita and RFF for funds in the purchase. Deal has potential for all partners to get their money back at future date.

Fruita Master Trail Plan – Ken wasn't here but John read his update. Fruita has started work on design for trail under I-70. Compton's have asked the City of Fruita to name the trail after the Compton family or after Bessie Compton. Michele stated that since she's been with the RFC (13 years) it had been stated over and over again that they did not want to see "Proper Names" used on trails. RFC members agreed they didn't want to see Proper Names use on trails. Bennett stated that the trail has a name – Little Salt Wash. Katie motioned to reiterate and re-adopt the historical policy to not use proper names for trails. Bennett second. Motion passed.

Making progress on trail from state park to 340.

IIG and ? submitting development plans that will include trails.

BLM Resource Management Plan – Paul said nothing new to report. BLM is still working on the plan.

Speakers Bureau/PR – Kathy asked Michele to bring list of Service Groups. Reg and Dennis P. showed video to Newcomers, Bennett has shown to Fruita Rotary and Partners and Western Colorado Conservation Corp.

Kathy said need to start organizing the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at next meeting. She will bring consensus from survey. Survey stated most wanted to see a grander concert. Street banners were also popular. Will need to find out if RFF has money for large concert. Pete asked if the three day concert event would be considered for State Park.

County Project Update – Ready to award bid for design for trail from 24 Road to Fruita. Engineering bids are coming in really low. Think that there will be a formal protest during the process on Monday because of federal funds being used. Bid will be going to Montrose company. Local company (very well qualified) may bring protest.

Educational Alliance – Bennett and Gust talked about agreement with School District 51. Chevron has issued \$5,000 grant which has been received and issued to District 51. Press Release has been drafted and will be in the Sentinel's back to school section. Carey asked about DeBeque schools – didn't know that they weren't part of District 51. So now have same contract with DeBeque schools.

**Updates:**

KAFM – Bennett had to leave.

**Committee Reports:**

UTC – Jennifer talked about Bike to Work – had over 100 people show up - ran out of food. Working on priority list of where UTC wants to be in the next year. Will be doing a Bike to School Day in the fall and then will participate in Safe Routes to school in the spring.

Partners Report – County is expecting signed contracts on the two United parcels soon. DuPont easement goes away in 2013 or 2014 but will go away if get trail easement on the other property. Arnett Trail has caused Pikes to want to discuss trail easement County. County attorney recommends more than MOU for the ROW and use of the parking lot. USFW is working on Compatibility Determination and the related environmental assessment. County will request access permit for contractor designing the Fruita Connection. Design documents will be used to finalize the environmental assessment and related decision documents. Clifton Water has expressed verbal interest for the trail on the west and north side of their property. Clifton Water to Riverbend Park – six route alternatives presented to the County Commissioners. Their decision is to approach the landowners along the river, determine interest, and negotiate with those willing to discuss a trail.

Old Spanish Trail – had meeting schedule for July but was canceled.

**Public Comment –**

There was no further public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.