

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission

**Minutes
May 17, 2011**

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
Bennett Boeschstein	Stacy Kolegas	Mary Ann Cooper
Kathy Herzog	Frank Watt	

Also present were Donna Ross and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Katie/Kathy. Motion passed.

Announcements –

Junior Service League grant – received \$10,000 for benches and signage

Lower No Thoroughfare Wash trail dedication Wednesday, May 18th

IGA float trip – June 3rd – Corn Lake to State Park in Fruita.

Concert Series – July 20th, August 3rd, August 4th

Website – Mary Ann asked about things still needing to be tweak on the site. Noticed Palisade is missing from Partners. Michele stated she is working on it but it's still a learning process for her.

New Business –

RFC recruitment – City has received five applicants so far – RFC would love to find members that have history, grant writing skills and PR/Marketing skills so if you know anyone please ask them to apply.

Capstone Project – Paul talked about Stacy's idea of getting students from CU-Denver working on their Capstone project. Strategy planning for the next 25 years and putting together a proposal for CU-Denver for the students to take on in the fall. Stacy and Paul met with Tom and Donna of the County and others to see what the needs of each entities' are and submitted the proposal based on their comments. Interested students will submit applications to Katie to determine who would work on the project with the outcome being a strategic planning document.

John stated that Tom and Donna offered the County's willingness to microfilm all old documents.

Retreat Update – everyone should have received a copy Steve Moore’s notes today with the outcome of the meeting. ADA policy came up and Katie thinks that it’s very important for all the entities to have a unified policy. She thought there was a lot of enthusiasm.

Blue Heron Trail is repaired and the Riverfront will be presenting a \$17,000+ check to the City at the LNTFW dedication tomorrow. Thanks to the City, Trent Prall and Jerod Timothy for getting the project done.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

John thanked Ken for the use of the Recreation Center for the retreat. A great venue for the group. Participants enjoyed location too. IIG property has been annexed into the City and will add mile to mile and half of trail. Verbal agreement to donate property to the City once finished mining along the river. City of Fruita will provide \$7,000 to Mesa County for properties. Ken talked about Fruita working on six year out Capital Improvement Budget. Concerns with new City Council members coming on during that time and need to have preferred budgetary items for the trail in this plan. Trail from Hwy 6 & 50 (north side of 50 by FMHS) hope to have everything in place for construction to begin in July of next year. Using Engineers from the City of Grand Junction rather than hiring from Front Range. New mountain bike terrain park open – adjacent to Redcliff Mobile Home Park. Frisbee disc golf will be finished this summer. Bennett asked about the Old Fruita Bridge being in the long range plan – Ken said it’s there but money isn’t.

25th Anniversary – Mary Ann explained what the RFC is planning for next year with quarterly events and the types of events planning for each quarter. Group will meet again on Monday to work out budget info for Fundraising group. Kathy added that sponsorship and seed money is of concern but will be working on issues.

County Project Update – Donna stated that she is just observing tonight. Paul talked to Greg today about Phase I. Looking to have Request for Proposal (RFP) out in mid to late summer. Right-of-ways are all worked out on the Phase I. US Fish & Wildlife (USFW) still working on their side of agreement. Dennis asked about riding thorough Walter Walker Wildlife, would need to talk with Division of Wildlife (DOW).

Educational Alliance – Bennett said the School District is still trying to get the teachers to complete the form presented at previous meeting.

Old Spanish Trail – Bennett/Leila/Donna met with Wade Shelton of Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and gave him a tour of the area trying to acquire from the Bankruptcy Court. Also discussed Brady Trucking Property and the Confluence property. Bennett gave history of the TPL and their investment in the Grand Valley. Wade will continue to research the property owners and how he can help urbanized communities. Will make contact with the Bennett property owners.

National Conservation Area – Katie said divided into zones and were able to complete the first zone and all interests are working together. Number one on the agenda is the river corridor connections.

Updates:

KAFM – Mary Ann finally made it. Frank will be on May 31st at 12:15pm.

Committee Reports:

UTC – Jennifer unable to attend but Michele stated that the group has started work on the Urban Trails Master Plan. Will continue to work on over the next few months and return revised map to Ken Simms.

Partners Report – See attached comments from Paul.

Frank talked about the flooding possibility and some changes proposed by the reservoir operators. Frank believes he will have to close Riverbend Park for flooding possibility in late June. CDOT will probably close I-70 if flooding should occur. Free phone app call Flood Watch for those interested in following.

Stacy added that the Tamarisk Coalition is expecting a high number of tamarisk beetles to be in the area this year and rapid defoliation so will have lots of brown this year. Will be doing monitoring in June this year rather than in fall due to funding issues.

Paul said he has a contract on his house and will be moving sometime in June.

Public Comment – State Park stated that interim regarding the ADA that if it's battery powered its okay but if not, it won't be allowed. Hiring a landscape architect for the Fruita area.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.