

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission

Minutes
August 16, 2011

Called to Order

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

Katie Steele	Ken Henry	Mary Ann Cooper
Leila Reilly	Frank Watt	John Pabst
Karen Jefferson	Brad Taylor	John Heideman

Also present were Donna Ross, Greg Linza, Donna Ross, Julie Sabin, Mike Vandegna, John and Maryann Sink, Dave Soker, Pete Firmin and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Mary Ann/Frank. Motion passed.

Announcements – Welcomed new members – went around the room and did introduction and each member gave a brief history of themselves.

New Business – Outcome of the appeal of the new Fruita Connection was that the County Commissioners upheld the approval of the Planning Commission's. Those in opposition believe the process should be a major review rather than a minor review and can appeal the Board's decision but haven't heard if there will be a further appeal on the first phase of the trail. Mr. Engelkey's opposition is more with the third phase "narrows" along I-70. Ken H. stated that he was disappointed in Mr. Lamonte's comments. Greg stated that the County will continue to follow the letter of the law for requirement by other the entities involved for each phase. Julie S. stated that Ken and Greg were very professional.

Colorado Concert Series – Michele reviewed the numbers for the season. Very successful year. Still waiting on some invoices from Ron and will have final numbers of expenses once he returns from vacation.

Damage on trails – Greg gave updated on the Audubon trail damage. Work completed on the design. Several businesses stepped up with donations, will be approaching Riverfront Foundation for some funds. County looking at their cost being about \$8,000 to \$10,000. Mike talked about the Blue Heron damage. Unfortunately the trail damage won't be as easy to repair and the Audubon trail. Trail will be difficult to repair and will need to re-route as temporary trail with soft surface and once section of trail will narrow to about six feet from the ten feet. Michele asked if the City will have warning signs informing users that the trail narrows down to six feet.

Mike said that they will have signage about the trail being a different surface and likes idea of the warning.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

City of Fruita – Ken talked about the IIG property. Have the easements to go from State Park in Fruita to Kokopelli trail. Will maintain trail to Reed Wash. Will use surface that mountain bikers can use. He talked about the box culverts that will give access from south side to the north side. Fruita developed a parks and trail plan that will be used for future development by developers.

25th Anniversary – Mary Ann talked about the scheduled events for next year. Gave brief history of what the group has done since October/November of 2010.

County/Fruita connection – Greg gave history of the trail of the Clifton Nature Park. Mesa Land Trust is working on the Pike property. If the Pike deal works will be able to get the trail out to 34 Road. There are about 25 landowners that aren't interested in having trail easements on their property but further up are owners that have conservation easements but will probably take a long time to finish the trail to Palisade. Greg talked about the GOCO Legacy program and that GOCO isn't able to fund large Legacy project but have a new Urban Legacy program which will be for smaller amounts. Discussed the Los Colonias area and County has recently signed a First Right of Refusal on the Skinner property. Only one property owner, Bennett that isn't interested in an easement. He discussed the Fruita Connection (8.1 miles from Redlands Parkway to the Fruita Welcome Center) in more detail. Phase 1 funding is in place and hope to have all permits bid out in next 60 days with construction taking about one year – looking at June/July of next year. Have Army Corps of Engineers permit on Phase 2 and CDOT will be doing the construction on that trail using enhancement funds. Construction to start in July in 2012 and hope to be finished by 2012/2013. Phase 3 – estimates is \$3 million with being built in 2013 – 2014. Doing design engineering on lower Little Salt Wash, hope to have designed within the next three to four months. Greg stated that Craig Meis and the County see the project as a transportation trail with the goal being a connection from Fruita to Palisade.

Old Spanish Trail – Leila made the Riverfront Commission aware that the Old Spanish Trail was nominated for one of the Most Endangered Place in Colorado. She will need to research what the significance of that would be for the Old Spanish Trail. Trust for Public Lands has decided to focus their attention to the Brady Trucking Property.

National Conservation Area – Katie was unable to attend the last meeting. All zones have been reviewed but the wilderness area.

Capstone – Stacy was unable to attend so Katie updated about the two candidates that have applied and Stacy has interviewed both and will follow up with Katie and Donna at a later day.

Updates:

Committee Reports:

UTC – Julie said UTC is continuing work on updating the Urban Trails Master Plan with Ken Simms with the County and Jody Kliska with the City. At later dates will have open houses. Doug Conant is still working on signage.

Partners Report – Paul didn't get one emailed to Michele before the meeting. Michele will contact him again to see if he had anything to report, if so, she will include his report with when she sends out the minutes next month.

Pete talked about the State Parks' needs to repair the washouts. Will be transferring the money from C ½ Road to Fruita to make the repairs. He talked about the damage and where it was located within the park in Fruita. Connected Lakes repairs should be completed this fall.

Public Comment –

Dave Soker asked Julie if UTC was working with the Fruit and Wine tour group. Julie stated that she thought Ken had already met with the group but will talk to him about their trail. He then talked about his work with the endangered fish and would like to get a tour together. He'll send more info to Michele to see if can set something up.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.