

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission

**Minutes
October 18, 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	John Pabst	John Heideman
Karen Jefferson	Brad Taylor	Stacy Kolegas
Bennett Boeschstein	Brian Meinhart	

Also present were Sherry Schank, Donna Ross, Greg Linza, Pete Firmin and Michele Rohrbach.

Page three, Brad stated that the paragraph should read Lottery not GOCO. Should also read, \$51,000,000 in Lottery funds in Mesa County. Ken chaired the last meeting.

Approval – John P./Bennett. Motion passed.

Announcements – Did introduction around the room so Sherry knew everyone at the table.

New Business – GOCO update – Katie read from Al's notes. Liked that the river initiative is a part of the GOCO's. Everyone expressed concern about the elected officials in Denver eyeing the big pot of lottery funds for other projects. Bennett was pleased that Mary Orn was able to get the concept paper application submitted in a very quick manner. Fruita Connection was number one on the application with Los Colonias being part of the grant.

Bennett stated that the City has applied for a GOCO grant for the Three Sisters property.

Katie updated on the outcome of the RFF meeting - \$2,000 was approved for the appraisal for the Brady Trucking property; \$10,000 was granted to Mesa County for repairs to Audubon (this is a one time approval); \$25,000 for Fruita Connection, Phase II; \$100,000 for Fruita Connection, Phase III and \$25,000 was granted to Mesa Land Trust for the Three Sisters Property.

There was no further new business.

Old Business –

Fruita Connection – Donna said the grant application was taken before the Board of County Commissioners and they did approve the application. Construction documentations for Phase I

will be going out tomorrow, bids due November 4th. Construction to start in second week of December. Mandatory site visit next week. \$200,000 GOCO grant being submitted for Phase II. Todd Hollenbeck told Greg there may be some funds leftover and will let know. Will not start construction until July of next year with completion in October. Phase III will start next year with completion in December. Tamarisk has been removed by the Western Conservation Corp – completed last week.

City of Fruita – Ken said he had a meeting with Michelle Wheatley of the National Monument and her trails person. They are interested in repairing the Dougway Trail. Would allow someone to start in Fruita and go all the way up to the ? section of trail. The Monument will be working on the design.

Ken added that Locmiller owned some property adjacent to Little Salt Wash and needed some easements to get down to the State Park and were able to get the easement through bankruptcy proceedings. There is another interested party looking at purchasing the remaining property which means Fruita might make a small profit on the deal. Greg updated on the Little Salt Wash trail, documents are being turned in to go under the highway.

Palisade – With the meeting being moved at the last minute, Michele forgot Frank's update. Please read below what Frank has asked Michele to share with the group.

The fence is complete around the Orchard Mesa Irrigation above ground facilities at the start of the Palisade Rim Trail. An agreement has been signed with BOR and OMID but I haven't seen it and I don't know what the terms are. If I do get a chance to see it, I'll let you know. The trail building crew was scheduled to begin work on October 17th and they have a 7 week commitment. I met with representatives of the Army Corps and the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the 6th at Riverbend Park. It did not go well. Their current position is that I cannot restore lost material, rebuild the road and keep the trail where it is. They will allow the installation of cut-off walls, armored banks from the current river's edge sloped "gently" back and I need this to be engineered. So no low cost solution for us. Moving the road will have to involve crossing the trail and that is relatively simple but will potentially be damaging to the trail at the points that we didn't pour it extra thick. I'll be meeting with an engineer later on in the week. Ultimately they believe the trail needs to move away from the river and don't care what the cost implications are for that. Nice to have support for a riverfront trail from the federal government. All in all a disappointing outcome.

25th Anniversary – Mary Ann stated that a tour was done at Banana's for the March 3rd kickoff event. Another meeting next week for the PR and have made some inroads on fundraising. Brad added that met with Matt Robins of the Colorado Lottery to see if they could partner with us on a couple of our events (no kids only events because of the gambling aspect of the Lottery). Stacy added that the Fundraising committee will be meeting on Monday and come up with a strategic plan of what funders need to ask. Michele added that each RFC member will be asked to sell 10 tickets each, price to be determined later. Three options will be available. Pete asked about the school district selling the wristbands. Michele said have to be careful of the partnership because the Banana's event needs to breakeven. Brad asked Stacy to clarify the fundraising of the 25th event and where it's going. The 25th committee is just focusing efforts on the 25th event and later

can move towards capital campaign. Stacy said if anyone is interested, talk to her. Bennett said to ask City of Grand Junction. Bennett volunteered John P. to be on both the 25th and capital fundraising committee.

Old Spanish Trail – Leila said nothing new really to report. Ken stated that there will be annual meeting in Richfield, Utah which still has ruts that they will be showing attendees.

Brady Trucking – nothing more to add what Bennett stated earlier. She also added that she was at the Audubon event and a Rotarian approached her about building a “Rotary Park”.

National Conservation Area – Katie said that at the last meeting two of the permit holders attend the meeting to discuss the domestic sheep passing disease onto the bighorn sheep. The permit holders came and spoke to the group and told them when their sheep could be grazing (usually when snow on the ground). Quiet users and ATV users have a conflict in the Cactus Park area so lots of work will need be done to resolve the issues.

Capstone – Stacy stated the application has been revamped and reposted. If anyone has ideas of other places to post, please let Stacy know. Probably will start hearing in mid-November if someone is interested. Bennett added that Jim Robb brought over Gary Lacy to speak and the RFC might consider doing this again.

Updates:

Committee Reports:

UTC – Michele updated that group continues to work on the UTC master trail plan. Signage is proving to more difficult than the group thought but continues to work forward on it.

Partners Report – Had first Partners meeting in about five or six years. Was impressed with the partners that attended. Bennett stated that Botanic Gardens, Audubon and DOW were left out of the GOCO initiative grant applications. Al wanted to know what the difference of the Partners meeting and the IGA meeting. Donna said that the County has learned this week that Clifton Sanitation has submitted a GOCO application. Katie suggested that they and Clifton Water should be included on future IGA meetings.

Public Comment – Brad stated that he and Al did tour of the west end of the valley and he noticed that the property and the end of 18 Road is for sale and he wanted to know if the City of Fruita has secured the easement. Ken said that the property will be going before City Council tonight.

Katie talked about the high water this year and that the Corps of Engineers seem to be less enthusiastic on remedying the problem. Michele stated that Rob with the City of Grand Junction stated at the luncheon the other day that the Corps was working with the City on the Blue Heron trail. Katie asked the group to think about bringing the Corps into the fold and getting an open dialogue going. Most of the members think it would be worthwhile to get the dialogue going.

Bennett needs someone for the KAFM next Tuesday afternoon show.

Thanked Ken and the City of Fruita for coming through at the last minute with meeting space. Hopefully Occupy Grand Junction will not be at the old Courthouse in November.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.