

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission

**Minutes
November 15, 2011**

Called to Order:

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

Katie Steele	Ken Henry	Mary Ann Cooper
John Pabst	Karen Jefferson	Brad Taylor
Bennett Boeschstein	Leila Reilly	

Also present were Keith Dickerson, Rosa Bray, Dave Soker, Pete Firmin, Donna Ross and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Mary Ann/Bennett. Motion passed.

Announcements – December meeting, in past had canceled due to low interest. Not having meeting unless something important comes up.

New Business – Bennett talked about past discussion of subcommittees so the entire group needing to work on all issues. There is the 25th Anniversary Committee and he'd like to get an Education Committee up and going. Bennett said suggested DOW, School District, Rosa Brey, Leila, Bennett Cary, Christy McGee, Mary Ann Cooper, Monument Association and Museum. Fundraising committee – John Pabst was suggested, John Gormley, Brian Mahoney and Joe Skinner need to outreach to the community. Capstone – Stacy, Brad, Katie, Karen. Discussed whether or not DeBeque got the \$2,000 last year. Further talked about finding money for subs at the schools for the kids to get out to the sites. Environmental Committee – Audubon is going to be doing something with trail building. Dave Soker suggested engaging the Chamber of Commerce.

There was further new business.

Old Business –

Fruita Connection - Donna updated on the RFP for Phase I of the Fruita Section. Bids are in and working on selection. Had great response, 34 attending the pre-bid meeting and 23 bids. Top three looked upon as most favorable were all local. Grant application and concept paper have been submitted and haven't heard anything yet.

Bennett asked about the old Fruita Bridge. It has been placed on the National Historic Bridge List. Still needs new decking, paint and access on both sides. Study done in 2005 show that the bridge is still sturdy. Ken is trying to get the City to annex that area into the City.

City of Fruita – Nothing new to report on the Fruita Master Trail Plan. Design work for Little Salt Wash and State Park. BLM work on North Fruita Trail development but should not affect the riverfront trail.

Town of Palisade – Frank said the agreement with the Orchard Mesa Drainage District (OMD) and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is a five year deal. Will do an opening in the spring. Good turnout on Saturday. Decided to move the road in Riverbend Park. Have hired an engineer to review the trail and will write a letter to back up what Frank proposed. He has talked to Patty and Carrie. Frank did presentation to Palisade Rotary and they would be interested in partnering with the 25th. Not sure how to partner with them but will look into idea. Frank meet with Al to go over what Palisade is doing.

25th Anniversary – Mary Ann deferred to Brad. Discussed at last meeting to table future meetings until funding comes through. Once funding comes through will start moving forward on PR after the first of the year. Discussed having info to Katie but stated that depends on when funding is in place. Bennett talked about 25th logo being on other events happening on the river and trail. Dave suggested getting the RFF board involved in going to events and giving history.

Old Spanish Trail – Leila has nothing new to report.

Brady Trucking – Bennett said the City wants to wait until all the legal issues are resolved and then an appraisal will be done (RFF pledged \$2,000 and GJ Property has pledged \$6,000 up to whatever is necessary). Bennett discussed the City's grant application for Los Colonias and Botanic Gardens - includes the Brady property.

National Conservation Area – Katie said done reviewing all the areas. One would be hands off, no restorations, the second would have some restoration done by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the third would be a mix. Tour of Cactus Park on Saturday if the weather permits. Issues between quiet users and motorized users. Katie Stevens with the BLM said probably another 2 ½ years before process is done. Frank said he didn't think folks understand how the BLM economists were arriving at their values. Katie will talk to Katie Stevens to see if this issue was resolved since she had to leave the meeting early. Dave S. said there is no legitimate, reasonable way to come up with monetary values.

Capstone – First meeting set for the first week of December. Katie wants to make sure that the RFC is driving the project not the student. She'd also like to have some of Bennett's suggested from other areas come and speak so RFC can see what they have done after their first 25 years. Brad asked Dave about the oral history of Palisade and how did it turn out. Dave said the Palisade Historical Society is still working on the project.

Updates:

Committee Reports:

UTC – Keith said group toured the Three Sisters property last week. Signage committee is still working on issues. Katie added that Ken Simms would like to come and show the new maps regarding the UTC master plan to RFC. UTC will be getting the same presentation so maybe could combine presentation to both groups. Michele will work on getting something set up.

Katie stated that Donna, Clifton Water and Clifton Sanitation and ? aren't part of the IGA list. Frank will get contact info to Katie. BLM is trying to get trail alliance together to come up with a comprehensive map. Michele reminded the group of the work done with Dwayne Holmes and this group needs to know that this map was completed after three years worth of work and they will be reinventing the wheel if they don't use the work that has already done.

Partners Report – Discussion with BLM on their efforts to develop program similar to efforts in Grand County, Utah. They are in process of hiring a person to spearhead this and similar efforts.

Meeting with Frank Watt on Town of Palisade activities, real good discussion with emphasis on repair work in Riverbend Park and frustrations he is experiencing with other entities involved.

Hope to schedule meetings with Mesa County, Grand Junction, and Fruita sometime in end of November/beginning of December.

Public Comments - Dave talked about the work he is doing to educate people on the environment of the river and habitat. RFC needs to get behind that the river is clean and safe. He discussed the history and significance of the bridges. Believes in designating a headline project and earmarks the funds for that project. Glad to hear that working with Colorado Mesa University. Need more business and Chamber involvement.

State Park – have funding for the redesign to fix the washed out trail. Deed on the tractor museum is in process.

KAFM – Leila and Rob with GJ Park were on last month. Next program will be the last Tuesday of November. The 25th would like to be on in January to go over the calendar of events. Rosa said that she could be on there. Katie would like to be on there to discuss the NCA.

Public Comment – There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.