

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

Urban Trails Committee

**Minutes
February 11, 1998**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by at 7:30pm by Co-Chairman, Bob Cron. Those present from the Committee were:

Bob Cron	Pat Kennedy
Lenna Watson	Paul Teal
Cindy Burke	Gerry Tucker
Jamie Loomis	

Also present were Jody Kliska, Doug Cline, Trent Prall, Cliff Davidson, Ken Simms and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Cron entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Cindy Burke. Motion passed.

Announcements

Bob Cron stated he received a letter from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, they are sponsoring a volunteer trail improvement projects with government agencies. Bob didn't believe Urban Trails would have a need for them, passed letter onto Michele to pass onto the Riverfront Commission.

No other announcements.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Mesa County Trail Map - Cliff Davidson on behalf of the City and County talked with the members about a Mesa County Trail Map. Introduced Ken Simms, Traffic Analyst/Transportation Planner. By using the Urban Trails Master Plan, it can be

incorporated into the Major Street Plan which hope to bring up to the City and County for adoption in next few months. This would be much closer to a true total transportation plan since alternative modes of transportation would be included. Looking for alternative modes of transportation to get people out of cars and around town since streets will not allow for the ever increasing number of cars.

County Planning Commission directed the MPO to produce a existing trails map so public will not be mislead and think they can go out and use certain trails today (trails not yet built).

Cliff asked Urban Trails Committee for their help in getting the existing trails in map form. Committee will be responsible for only urban trails. No future trails will be shown on the existing trails map.

Jody Kliska asked if Fruita and Palisade will be included. Cliff said MPO is strictly the City of Grand Junction and the urbanized area around Grand Junction, certain areas defined by the census based on population density, etc., that is a governor designated area, so they have to work within that confine since that is what their money is for. However, as part the outlying transportation planning region which is the whole county, they are the staff for that, they can go out there and do other things. This is important when talking about the trails, the trails don't just stop, they go on. Inserts will be included to show existing trails in outlying areas. Map will be distributed, no money to have it published. Maybe next year it will fit into the budget.

Cliff also asked if the Committee can help with text regarding information on trails. Hoping to have ready in a few months.

Doug Cline asked about selling the map. Cliff said he hadn't really thought about it, but since it's taxpayer money he doesn't really like the idea of selling. Doug suggested maybe selling for just the cost of the paper and ink.

Lenna Watson asked if Cliff had talked with any printers. He said no. Lenna said she will check with a printer to see if perhaps they won't help with the printing.

Committee thanked Cliff and Ken for coming.

Riverfront Commission Retreat - Pat Kennedy talked about the different number of issues discussed at the retreat, historical past, vision for the future. Discussion did include urban trails, mainly the canal bank issues. Urban Trails has been pushed and pulled in various directions and has been under the wing of the Riverfront Commission. Riverfront Commission wishes to remain non-confrontational even in dealing with the canal companies. Pat sees Urban Trails role as to take the heat for these types of activities. Had to remind Jim Baughman that the Urban Trails Committee is only concerned with urban issues, not outlying areas such as Loma. Felt the air had been cleared on a few issues. Urban Trails area is defined as 32 Road to 19 Road.

Also mentioned discussion about name change. They felt that some are afraid of things called urban.

Riverfront Commission is concerned about what the community thinks about them and want to keep things non-confrontational. Urban Trail Committee feels they will be able to take the heat on canal bank issues.

Jamie Loomis asked about separating from the Riverfront Commission. Pat Kennedy stated that there is a lot of clout that comes from being associated with the Riverfront. At this point Committee feels it isn't necessary to distance from Riverfront.

Pat Kennedy brought up recreational use of the canal banks, he has talked with Janet Terry. Went into history of the feasibility study regarding canal banks. Canal companies objected to the study saying it was tainted by Bureau of Reclamation's \$250,000 grant money. The Ad Hoc Committee is currently investigating similar entity to do what the canal companies will deem an unbiased feasibility study and see what the "true" public sentiment is about recreational use on canal banks. Hope to have something going in next four to six weeks.

Committee has concerns about how far out the survey will reach and the wording of the questions. Especially if canal companies want agriculture community surveyed.

Do we want to sponsor an event(s) for trails month in June, 1998? - Bob Cron asked group if they were interested. Jamie Loomis thought it was a good idea. Michele Rohrbach mentioned that there is a meeting on Tuesday, February 24th at noon with the City, Riverfront Commission and Paula Anderson, GJPD Volunteer Coordinator to plan co-sponsored events. Jamie Loomis said he'd be there.

Committee Reports

Recreational use of canal banks - most of the items on the Action Plan are deferred. Bob Cron did draft a white paper, passed around for review. Will discuss later with any changes, Bob asked that the draft did not leave the Committee. Committee than can use to meet with the City of Grand Junction, copies of Action Plan and white paper will be given to City prior to meeting for their input.

Pat Kennedy mentioned his discussion with Janet Terry regarding letter to landowners. Janet thought that was a good idea - not necessarily ready to mail, be have something ready that can be stuffed in envelopes when needed. Jamie Loomis stated that Gerry Tucker was working on draft of letter. Gerry read draft to the committee and said would have letter ready for committee review at next meeting.

Subdivision Trails - Gerry Tucker asked if Shawn Cooper had brought in inventory for the land the City owes beside the canals. Bob Cron asked Gerry Tucker to watch with

regard to an owner, Dave Fletcher, on the north side of South Camp that may be planning further development. Trent Prall said the owner has been to the City about sewer and was referred back the County because of what he wants to put in (or what he doesn't want to put in). Owner does not want to put in anymore trails. Trent showed map of the three filings owner is wanting to develop and how they are in conjunction to existing trails. Bob Cron asked who owner is working with County, Trent said owner hasn't submitted yet, looking at doing on March 1st.

Bob Cron stated that one of the Committee's priorities is to match the bike lane which is now on the south side, on the north side and match the path on the south on the north side. There are critical points of trail necessary to get kids safety over to the school. Owner doesn't want to pay for trail nor does he want to set aside land for the trail.

Trent stated that Temple Rock Development will be submitting to the City around April 1st. It has changed hands and new developer has money. This is the 500 acres south of Shadow Lake. They are aware of trails and map and are planning on incorporating them in their plan. Area will include a golf course.

Development out by Ute Tanks won't be submitting until June.

Pat Kennedy asked about a major boulevard from South Camp Road over to South Broadway going through the Red Canyon. Trent stated that Fletcher does not want it and the County may not require it. One of the plans is to come down Red Canyon and pull off and go down to 23 Road. 23 Road would make a better access onto South Broadway - still not great side access.

Bob Cron asked Trent to let him or Gerry Tucker know when he knows who in the County will be handling the review of the Fletcher project.

Metropolitan Planning Organization - next meeting in February 18th at 1:30pm to 3pm. Bob Cron stated that those who could attend, please do. Bob said nothing new to report.

Community Awareness - Jamie Loomis stated that he wasn't able to meet with Mark Achen but Lenna Watson did. Mark Achen, Kristen Winn, Lenna Watson, Pat Kennedy and Bob Cron meet to discuss what Urban Trails is about and what had been done so far. Mark was concerned about community support and how to get it from the community. Ideas included getting school district involved, things accomplished and things wanting to do for Urban Trails, safety. Mark has a very positive support for Urban Trails. Community Awareness in January minutes contains Mark's changes and ideas.

Pat said that canal banks were discussed in the meeting. Mark brought out some activity that Pat wasn't aware of, Shawn Cooper has been acquiring land here and there when someone comes into plat a piece of ground. Shawn will ask for an easement on the canal bank, the canal companies have gotten sticky when an owner does grant the easement, they will not allow the owner to drain his property into the canal.

Lenna stated that Mark also said if it comes down to money, that the City would come through with some financial support if all other avenues have been exhausted. She went on to say the Mark had pointed to some canal bank trail connections he felt would be appropriate.

Jamie Loomis asked when Urban Trails third anniversary was, Bob Cron said first meeting was March 14, 1995. One of the items on the list was to celebrate, so it must be done next month. Jamie asked if there were any ideas. Bob Cron said a copy of the latest final copy with the City could be given to the Sentinel on the street striping. Jamie then said that could be combined with accomplishments as well as street striping and bike lanes.

Lenna Watson mentioned that Safety Committee has the GIS markers are on the Audobon Trail and that Danny Hertzog had printed something wrong and Lenna was going to have him do a new picture on the Audobon Trail with the GIS and 911 information.

Jamie Loomis suggested that Lenna put that as an accomplishment with Urban Trail since they go hand in hand.

Will wait and see what Jamie and Lenna come up with at the March 10th meeting.

Bob Cron mentioned that we had looked at some draft logos last month. Gerry Tucker stated that because he was ill last month, he fell down somewhat on this. He has contacted District 51 and is waiting for someone to get back with him. Gerry will continue working on. Lenna stated that Safety was going to create a little logo too and they are waiting for Urban Trails, it will have name of trail and number of miles, it will appear on Urban Trails sign. Bob Cron suggested if it's on riverfront, Safety should go ahead on put the information.

Jody Kliska mentioned that she forgot the data regarding bicycle/pedestrian accident information for 1996 and 1997. She will bring to next meeting.

Urban Trails Priority List - Bob Cron stated that the City street striping and signing has been finalized and that the County is still in draft form. Pete Baier has been named the new Public Works Director. Paul Teal has been unsuccessful in setting up a meeting. Bob Cron suggested to keep trying. Bob is unavailable until end of the month.

Bob Cron told Michele Rohrbach that it was okay for her to get with Kristin Winn regarding the City of Grand Junction's priority list and plan a news release.

Public Comment

Doug Cline stated that the Tabeguache Trail trailhead parking lot was indeed a big muddy mess with vehicles parked on the perimeter. He has had some people out there to make it

easier to park where people are suppose to. He will be using the lot as a training project. Won't be paved until August. Doug will contact Joe Stevens to let him know what's going on.

Doug then went on to mention that the Old Mill Bridge was hit by vandals big time over the weekend. Half of the lights were broken, 17 of 30 were hit. The light fixtures are about \$70 each plus the bulb. Since the first of the year, 23 fixtures have been lost plus four of the overhead. Doug is looking at getting a surveillance camera from the GJPD to use in the area, problem being, were to put it so it doesn't get broken. Secondly, the GJPD would prefer giving priority for use in drug surveillance.

Doug said there is a great deal of community support in helping stop the problem. Doug has forwarded information onto Neighborhood Watch contact with the GJPD. He also is trying to work with steel companies to come up with a cover to help keep the fixtures from being broken.

Suspect vandalism is happening around dusk or early evening.

Several Urban Trail Committee members that live in area agreed to keep an eye on the area and making an effort to walk the trail in the early evening hours.

Doug stated that it has been put in Crime Stoppers and is working with the Sentinel to put an article about the damage.

Doug also stated that vandalism seems to be more prevalent in the Orchard Mesa side. Pat Kennedy asked if it would reach the point where the lights would be pulled. It was agreed not a good idea since there are people are using the bridge for transportation.

Bob Cron stated that Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade along with the VCB have applied to have the Colorado Trail Symposium here in August or September. Decision will be made in next few weeks. Would like to have in Denver area, however, there didn't appear the be anyone willing to sponsor.

Jamie Loomis also suggested that the VCB be contacted regarding the printing of the trail map. Jamie is going to contact Cliff Davidson to have him call the VCB.

No further public comment.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

