

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
245-0045**

Urban Trails Committee

**Minutes
November 9, 1999**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by at 7:30pm by member, Robert Traylor. Those present from the Committee were:

Robert Traylor	Birgit Bostleman
Bill Findlay	Diana Cort
Clark Rieves	Robb Reese
John Halverson	Ken Scissors

Also present were Jody Kliska, Bob Cron, Shawn Cooper and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes

Robert motioned to approve the minutes. Birgit seconded. Motion passed.

Announcements

Robert welcomed new members and did an introduction of everyone at the meeting. Robert gave the new members a brief overview of each of the subcommittees and the retreat that will be in the spring.

Each new member gave the group a brief bio of themselves and why they wanted to be a member of Urban Trails.

Michele reminded Birgit that it's her turn to attend the Riverfront meeting next Tuesday night.

There were no announcements.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Robert gave the new members a history of the canal bank recreational use survey recently completed. (Michele gave each new member a copy along with their UTC notebook). He then gave a review of Redlands Water and Power Canal draft proposal received today, highlighting the canal companies concerns. The details still need to be worked out and Jamie and Gerry have asked that the proposal not be discussed with anyone outside the UTC until the plan is finalized.

Robert said he received maps from the City for the Highline Canal and the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal with landowners names (or parcel numbers) along the canals indicated on the maps.

There was no further new business.

Committee Reports

Community Awareness - Still working on getting the video off the ground. Will be seeing the Mesa State Professor between Thanksgiving and Christmas. He will give the assignment to his advanced course students. Birgit said their attempt to do a presentation at the Senior Center was not good. The seniors there were more interested in playing cards and sitting around talking - not real active. They will now focus their attention on the schools. Robert added that if any of the new members had a group needing a speaker to contact Birgit, John Paxson, Jamie, Gerry or Michele and let them know, Community Awareness is looking for groups to talk with. Ken added that Martha Roskowski with Bicycle Colorado might be a good person to contact about getting more community awareness out there. Ken will e-mail her and invite her to a meeting.

Recreation use of the canal banks - Robert and Bill stated there was nothing new to add from what was discussed above.

Master Plan - Ken followed up on things from the last meeting. Still working on permanent signage on the Tour of the Valley routes. Ken has a meeting with Jody, Carl White, Alice and Becky with Community Hospital will meet next Monday. Ken will contact Jamie or Gerry to see if one of them will be able to attend the meeting. Jody will drive Ken's bike route notes and then get back to Ken. Ken also mentioned that we are no longer getting anything from the City or County plans. Michele said she isn't getting any response from her e-mails to the City or County, especially since staff is going through turn over. Ken also said the Martha Roskowski is also very concerned about child safety. Thinks perhaps this would be a good topic for the retreat. Robert added that new and old members should be making notes of topics of discussion for the retreat.

Public Comment - Jody brought a contribution for the library, she had an extra copy of "guide for the development of bicycle facilities" put out by AASHO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials).

Shawn stated at the Rails-to-Trails conference last week, shared right-of-ways were discussed, he then spoke with Jamie about the possibility of a detached trail from Grand Junction to Fruita. It would require contacting the easement holders which are the Highway Department and the Railroad. He has driven the route to see how it would work. It looks like doing the trail along River Road would be the best. It could also be done going out toward Palisade. Bob reminded the group of their boundaries and to contact the City of Fruita because they do have a trails committee. It's a great idea and he said the hardest part will be finding the contacts. Mark Relph has a contact with the railroad and probably Tim Woodmansee too. The Rails-to-Trails people will also be available to help when the time comes. Jody stated that River Road is slated for improvement down the road.

Shawn stated that he didn't know if anyone had heard but the new fencing being installed down at the Botanic Gardens has been installed right against the trail and the City is requiring that it be moved to meet with their two feet shoulders on both sides of the trail.

Bob gave a brief history of the Urban Trails Committee and his part in it from the beginning. He also told the new members about what he does as the Legacy Coordinator and said if the new members had questions, to please give him a call. Also, stated that Jamie and Gerry should be doing an orientation with all new members.

He also spoke about the soft path the Riverfront Commission is trying to install around Blue Heron Lake. Looking at giving people options. He informed the group about the Little Park Preserve property that the BLM wants to transfer to the City. This property includes the Lunch Loop Trail. He and Jody talked about the off street bike path along South Camp and Monument Road and when it would be done and how it will be funded. One of the development along Monument Road has put \$38,000 into a fund with the County to do the off street path. The County wants to wait and do the project all at one time. Bob recommends that the UTC members keep track that the \$38,000 and that it is to be use for the off street path, not road improvements.

Bill asked about the status of the crossing under the railroad tracks down by Riverside on the west end of Main Street. Jody stated that it's still on the long term list. There are a few problems with gas line and sewer line.

Shawn said that State Parks is currently working on a river trail study. May be able to tie it together.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.