

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
683-4333

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**May 19, 2015**

**Called to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 5:34pm by co-chair Brad Taylor. Those present from the Commission were:

Frank Watt	Brad Taylor	Stacy Beaugh
Bob Fuller	Claudette Konola	Bill Findlay
Eric James	Karen Jefferson	Jason Bailey

Also present Scott Peterson, public, Bennett Boeschstein, City of Grand Council Member, Michele Rohrbach.

Absent from meeting: Cliff Sprinkle, Dr. Bill Findlay and Dr. Larry Copeland

**Approval of Minutes** – Brad asked to add a line showing who are absent from the meetings. Stacy/Bob. Motion passed.

**An announcement** – Volunteers needed for CRCS as bucket passers and to help greet the 2015 CRCS sponsors.

Did introduction around the room for the public's benefit.

**Updates –**

KREX "Is there true value in the trail" – Frank did interview and explained the value of the trail through grant funding and Las Colonias and the Sting of Pearls and the RFC's vision.

**Outdoor Heritage Days** – Frank said it was rainy and cold in the morning and sunny and warmer in the afternoon. He said they thought there were about 1,000 people in attendance. Stacy said they had a pretty steady stream of people.

**Power of Citizen Advocacy** – Three day conference put on by the City of Grand Junction – Brad, Frank and Michele attended and bottom line was board members must advocate for project.

Brad did an interview on KREX regarding the survey.

**Tourism Day** – Brad said there were 20 exhibitors and the front line people from the area hotels came. Brad said there were 90 people in attendance.

Mesa County – Greg unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Developers from the main Greenway Park will be out after Memorial Day and made a \$10,000 to the Kokopelli Trail connection. Brad said he will be talking about some property for sale in Fruita.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. said a great presentation done today on Las Colonias by two CMU students. Will get link to Michele. Ribbon cutting in a couple of weeks. Design of the amphitheater is moving along.

Presentation of I-70B project yesterday. It talked about connections to the Riverfront. Michele said the City should be hearing in early June if they receive a Bicycle Friendly designation.

Stacy added that the Governor signed a law for \$2 million for tamarisk and Russian Olive removal. She hopes to get some of the funding here to the Western Slope.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said working on their 5 and 10 year plan. Funding in 2019 for trail to shooting range. Waiting to hear from Mesa County on River Road east of town over bridge to Cameo. Closing hasn't been completed on the old Xcel property. Attorney General's (AG) Office is asking for a Level Two Assessment, currently has a Level One. Palisade has asked Governor Hickenlooper to ask the AG to back off for now.

Blue Grass is June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Ticket prices go up on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Farmers Market starts on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Working on the bike skills park – going slowly. Main Street and 38 Road are being hampered by the rain. 38 Road needs some redevelopment.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete is trying to get a grant for habitat restoration next to Clifton Water (E ½ to 34). Issues are access and would need some water foul hunting in order for grant to be competitive. Pete has submitted to have it surveyed because the boundaries are unusual. He talked about the adjacent landowners wanting to direct Pete how to manage the property and that doesn't bode well for the riverfront trail project. There are some legitimate concerns that Pete thinks need to be addressed. Talked about the Bennett property and Pike property. Pete said he'd be happy to talk with the Bennett family at the direction of the RFF. Brad thinks that the RFC/RFF should be the ones to make the contact to keep the CPW out of being the "big bad government". On going work of tamarisk removal work. Talked about soft path around the lakes.

**New Business** – Stacy said the RFF agreed to fund the facilitator for the retreat. She discussed the retreat agenda and how it was designed to achieve the outcomes. Decided not to have breakout sessions so Ilene talked about a method called a "fish bowl" to engage everyone.

Brad likes the idea of fresh eyes. Stacy will follow up with Ilene tomorrow so if anyone has comments. Please let Stacy know.

Survey – there was a lot of great information. Talked about the trail haters and landowners' rights, no comments from County Commissioners, economic development wasn't high on the

list, thrilled with the number of responders. Talked about the safety comments. Brad asked everyone to review and digest the survey and come prepared for the Retreat.

**RFF update** – Brad explained that will be reporting back to the RFC quarterly after the RFF meeting. The City of GJ Parks and Rec came to the RFF to ask for \$5,000 for design of the amphitheater at Las Colonias. Will do a better job of having the grantee requestors come to RFC first before going directly to the RFF. RFC should than make recommendation to the RFF.

Google Earth Update – The VCB got word earlier this week or last week that project is about to go live. Brad said over 42 miles of trail where photographs – 12,000 images. Brad gave them National Trails Day, June 6<sup>th</sup> as the day to go live. VCB is going to run with it.

Property acquisition: Dangh Raugh had contacted the RFC regarding property for sale of 18 ½ Road. After reviewing the information, Brad doesn't think this piece of property is needed. He did some research and he can't find where the road was vacated. At the end of 18 Road is a lake called "Lake We Don't Know" and at one time the area was going to be developed into high end homes and there was going to be ¾ of mile for trail.

Skipper Island – Brad and John Gormley met with a realtor, Ray Ricker last year regarding the Vangundy property. Skipper Island is out by Fruita. Ray would like help in getting a request for proposal to be able to donate the property to a government entity.

Frank reminded the group that the retreat will be on the 5<sup>th</sup>, will we have RFC. Michele stated there will be a concert on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Decided to cancel the meeting.

### **Old Business:**

Update on KREX "Is there true value in the trail" – Frank did interview and explained the value of the trail through grant funding and Las Colonias and the Sting of Pearls and the RFC's vision.

Retreat – Stacy the RFF agreed to fund the facilitator for the retreat. She discussed the retreat agenda and how it was designed to achieve the outcomes. Decided not to have breakout sessions so Ilene talked about a method of a "fish bowl" to engage everyone.

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GJ/DDA/RFC meeting – Frank updated on the meeting he, Brad, Michele, Kathy Portner, Tim Moore, Harry Weiss and Scott Peterson regarding a friendly connection along 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Main Street to the riverfront. Michele apologized for the double staples in the handouts.

Harry leaving is an issue but we are ahead for the next person coming in as Executive Director of the DDA. Don't have another meeting planned but will keep the group informed as we move forward.

Bennett B. added that the Tim Foster is a big proponent of protected bike lanes. Bennett then explained what they are and how CMU is putting them in their redevelopment plan. Bennett is all for a protected bike lanes.

Claudette updated at the group and how they are trying to come up an economic impact and environmental impact. Survey will be done on Bike to Work Day. Quantifiable data so can go before any governmental entities and explain the need and solution. Second survey will be developed with info from the BW survey.

Advertising – Karen said she's been in touch with Grand Valley magazine. Hoping to get an article along with the advertising. Jason said he talked to Ben ?, the owner of Grand Valley magazine and he to Jason tell them to do it.

**Public Comment** – Scott talked about trying to get down to the trail and how it wasn't that easy. 7<sup>th</sup> Street would be a great connection.

Michele added that she received two comments:

1. the need for restrooms along the Monument View Trail
2. signage along River Road to trailhead at Walter Walker Wildlife Area

Bennett B. said the Healthy Mesa County was on last month KAFM. This month will be Dr. Copeland talking about sports medicine.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.