

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION  
683-4333**

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes  
January 17, 2012**

**Called to Order:**

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

Ken Henry	Mary Ann Cooper	John Pabst
Karen Jefferson	Brad Taylor	Leila Riley
Frank Watt	Brian Meinhart	Stacy Kolegas

Also present were Steve Macy with Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Biz Collins with Urban Trails Committee (UTC), Woody Walcher (candidate for County Commissioner), Donna Ross with Mesa County, Mike Vendagna with City of Grand Junction Parks & Rec and Michele Rohrbach.

**Approval** – Frank was missing from the attendance of November meeting minutes but was at the meeting. Brad/Frank. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Ken Simms with the Mesa County Regional Transportation office (RTPO) will be giving Grand Valley Master Trail Plan presentation at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**New Business** – Tour of the Moon – Michele updated the group on what the Tour of the Moon Ride was about and what the Riverfront would get in return for participating. Brad motioned that the RFC should work with the Tour of the Moon. Frank second. Motion passed.

Ken added that the Monument has new superintendent and has invited her to the March RFC meeting.

There was further new business.

**Old Business** –

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) applications – revised master plan for Los Colonias was not approved. River initiative plan was approved. This includes the plans from Grand Junction to Palisade and from Grand Junction to Fruita. Mesa County was one of 17 projects being asked to submit grant application due by mid March. \$31.4 million in funds available. Mesa County met with Jackie Miller with GOCO last week to review application requirements. GOCO board will be doing site visits in late spring. Grants awarded in June. Application for acquisition for the Three Sisters was approved.

Fruita Connection - Donna with Mesa County updated on Phase I of the Fruita Section. Brush has been cleared by Sorter Construction and moving along quickly because of the nice weather. Question has been asked about planned restrooms. Donna stated that there are currently none

planned. County Commissioners have concerns about the long term upkeep and budget constraints. Phase II design is moving forward but wasn't sure of the 90% date.

City of Fruita – Construction on trail from Hwy 6 & 50 to State Park hit a problem with one of the box culverts under the railroad being in the flood plan. Ken said he thinks the issues have been worked out. ¾ of trail is adjacent to the waste water facility is being worked on. The Community Center will celebrate its first anniversary February 1<sup>st</sup>. Over 180,250 paid visits since the opening in February 2011 (the first year will be over 190,000). With the daily visits averaging 375 – 450. Library numbers have also increased.

Town of Palisade – Frank has meet with Greg Linza with the County regarding a letter from the Town to the County Commissioners for a planning grant from North River Road (Town Hall) towards Cameo to the South Rim trail. Met with Army Corps of Engineers and Patty Gelatt with the US Fish & Wildlife to review saving the trail in Riverbend. So far, two previous applications have been rejected. Frank's goal is to save the trail and not have to move it. Town doesn't have the funds in dealing with the issue. Costs could be upwards of \$150,000+.

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Karen stated funding amount raised is \$16,250. First event is Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bananas. Working on poster s and PR materials. Committee hopes to have tickets for members to sell by early February. Each member will be asked to sell a minimum of 10 tickets. Tickets can also be picked up at the Town Hall in Palisade, the Fruita Community Center as well as the Riverfront office. Working to make able for purchase on the website.

Old Spanish Trail – Leila has nothing new to report.

Brady Trucking – Trust for Public Land and John Shaver, the GJ City Attorney are negotiating a land swap with Brady.

National Conservation Area – Katie didn't get any info to Michele before she left town

Capstone – Brad updated what the vision was and that the group has decided to go with smaller steps using the students at Colorado Mesa University in Georgeann Jouflas' Business and Entrepreneur class. The students will work with the RFC on what the RFC has done in the past 25 years and where it needs to go in the future. Capstone students probably won't be ready until spring of 2013.

Get Kids Outdoor – Chevron agreed to fund \$7,000 but much be matched. Audubon secured \$8,000 grant but can't be used for Chevron's match. Riverfront Foundation normally commits \$500 so group needs to raise \$6,500 more for the match.

KAFM – Bennett is out of town but emailed Michele to asked if someone from the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee could be on January 31<sup>st</sup> noon show. Stacy is available; she will email Bennett talking points before hand.

## **Updates:**

### **Committee Reports:**

UTC – Biz said the Urban Trails Master Plan has been revised (now being called the Grand Valley Trails Master Plan) and open houses will be forthcoming. Group has recently submitted comments on new plans for development off of 24 Road by the theater.

Partners Report – Al updated on the partners meeting he had with Mesa County, Town of Palisade, City of Grand Junction and City of Fruita. All entities will continue to work together when applying for grants. Mesa County will be applying for a planning grant for the Fairgrounds.

State Park – Steve Macy talked about the river damage done at the State Park in Fruita. The State Park received an emergency contingency grant to fix the damage done to the lake.

**Public Comment** – Woody Walcher stated he appreciates all the work the RFC has done on the riverfront trail project.

There was no further public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.