

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission

**Minutes
February 21, 2012**

Called to Order:

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

Katie Steel	Ken Henry	Karen Jefferson
Brad Taylor	Frank Watt	Brian Meinhart
Stacy Beaugh	Mary Ann Cooper	John Heideman

Also present were Doug Conant with Urban Trails Committee, Woody Walcher running for County Commissioner, Donna Ross with Mesa County, Mike Vendagna with City of GJ Parks & Rec, Bennett Boeschstein, GJ City Council, Greg Linza with Mesa County, Steve Acquafresca, Mesa County Commission, Al Phister, Riverfront Partners Coordinator, Ken Simms with Mesa County Regional Transportation Office (RTPO), Pete Firmin with State Parks Doug Conant with the Urban Trails Committee (UTC) and Michele Rohrbach, staff for the Riverfront Commission.

Approval – Ken/Frank. Motion passed.

Announcements – Intergovernmental meeting – Thursday, March 1st at 7:00am at BLM office. Tickets are now available for the 25th Anniversary kick-off event at Banana's on Saturday, March 3rd from 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

New Business – Grand Valley Master Trail Plan (formerly known as the Urban Trails Master Trails Plan) – Ken Simms with RTPO gave history and presentation of the updated map and how the map was updated. (Get UTC logo to Ken). Looking to have open houses in March. Ken stated that he does have to go to the canal companies and they have stated they (canal companies) do not want them shown on the maps. Drainage companies are also reluctant to have trails on their drainages too. Most of groups working on the map want the canal trails left on the map so when development starts again, there is a plan. More difficult when trails aren't marked on a plan. Bennett talked about the Audubon Trail along the Redlands Canal since the 1980's. Tim Foster when in the legislature passed a law regarding trails on canals. Bennett suggested showing where trailheads lead to (i.e. Fruita to Kokopelli). Ken Henry talked about some of the problems they had with developers spending lots of time and money and then finding out that trails would be nice before Fruita completed a master trail plan. Ken Simms suggested RFC and UTC and GVB submitting letters stating their desire to keep canal and drainage trails on the map. Ken Henry asked about the rumor he heard that the BOR has aloud trails (Phoenix's canal trails are on BOR easements.) Thanked Ken for doing the presentation.

There was further new business.

Old Business –

Tour of the Moon – Michele updated where the registrations are and the movie at the Avalon.

Tour – Katie asked if there was any interest.

Fruita Connection – Phase I has been cut, culverts are in and bridge abutments are in, armoring still needs to be done. Bridges should be here in a couple of weeks. Should be pouring concrete shortly, looking at dedication in June or July. Applying for the River Initiative Grant and will be adding the Kokopelli design and construction. Match at \$4.3 million. GOCO will be here in mid-open for a tour. Working with CDOT for the Phase II with completion in December. If grant approved for Phase III will move forward with construction in January, 2013. Bennett asked if Los Colonias was part of the grant application. Greg said it is part of the concept but isn't included in the actual grant.

City of Fruita – City received an excellent bid for Reed Wash. Opportunity to by-pass the Bittle property. Lower Little Salt Wash design is almost 90% complete, railroad is holding things up.

Town of Palisade – Frank talked about the application from the Forest Service to see if it might be of help to the Riverfront. April 7th dedication of the Palisade Rim Trail. Has not yet submitted third application. Frank said that Palisade hopes to partner with the County to add a bike trail along the County road.

Outdoor Heritage Days – Saturday, April 28th at Riverbend Park in Palisade.

25th Anniversary – Karen said tickets are out, posters are being hung, and print ads are done. Working on the 5k event in May. Colorado lottery will be helping with this event.

Old Spanish Trail – Leila was ill and unable to attend.

Brady Trucking – Working with Trust for Public Lands and the land swap is still in the works. Bennett said City of Grand Junction is committed to making the deal happen.

National Conservation Area – Steve said working on the alternatives for the five zones and making recommendations of ideas to add and a few deletions. Two meetings in March with motorized versus non-motorized. Katie said public is welcome at the meeting. Next meeting is March 7th at 3:00pm in Training Room A of the old County Courthouse.

Capstone – Brad said have entered into an agreement with two students from CMU's entrepreneurial class. Could move into an ongoing project with future students. Some of the ideas they came up with was Facebook presence, pinterest is something else they're looking into, will be attending some events to surveys, YouTube videos. Will see how it evolves.

Visitor and Convention Bureau – Brad and Katie did a presentation with their board to re-engage their board in what the riverfront project is working on. Tourism possibilities with destination to

ride the trails. Brad will be doing two more presentations – one being to their volunteers. Greg said if tie into the Kokopelli trail that ties into Moab then part of the American Discovery Trail.

Get Kids Outdoor – Bennett meet with Liz Mok with the Forest Service today and she's been working with Encana for several years. He will go back and talk to Carey Bared

KAFM – Stacy was on last month and talked about the 25th. Bennett would like to have someone talking about the 25th each month. Next date in February 28th, Mary Ann volunteered. Frank will talk the March 27th date.

Updates:

Committee Reports:

UTC – Doug talked about the Share the Road initiative being done this year. Grand Junction was one of the cities being considered. GVB has had a board meeting and working on education projects. Grant money available for childhood obesity – not large. Urban Trails Committee stated “leave the canal trails” on the maps.

Partners Report – Al didn't have anything to add.

Public Comments – John H. stated that a interested person from Gateway came and talked to the Lions Club about the NCA being done down in Gateway. He was wondering if they should be invited to the IGA meeting. He asked if the Escalante NCA has had any work with this NCA. Steve said there was a report done that there isn't support for an NCA in Gateway yet. Steve added that a Wild and Scenic study done in the area soon.

Katie said she's like to make a shift in how the meeting will work starting next month. Wants to work on plans and goals. Compress the updates. All updates need to be to Michele by March 8th.

Public Comment – There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.