

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
January 19, 2016

Called to Order:

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

Brad Taylor	Frank Watt	Karen Jefferson
Stacy Beaugh	Gale Foster	Claudette Konola
Dr. Larry Copeland	Dr. Bill Findlay	Eric James
Cliff Sprinkle		

Also present Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), Bennett Price with the Town of Palisade board member , Greg Linza with Mesa County, Ted Ciavonne, Ciavonne, Roberts & Associates, consultant to the City of Grand Junction, Pat Kennedy, Riverfront Foundation member , Bennett Bochenstein, GJ City Council Member and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent – Bob Fuller resigned - currently one vacancy on the board

Approval of Minutes – Gale/Larry. Motion passed.

Announcements – Bennett announced that Chevron will be presenting a transportation grant to School District on February 16th at 6:00pm.

RFC retreat will be on Saturday, April 23rd – time to be determined.

RFC social on Saturday, April 23rd at Bookcliff Country Club – 6pm to 8pm.

Updates –

Mesa County – Greg stated that they've been working with the Tamarisk Coalition on native tree planting.

City of Fruita – There was no representative from Fruita. Michele stated that Fruita will be doing tree planting later.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. stated that the Las Colonias project is very important. Hopefully all the funding will fall into place. He talked about the Governor's 16 in 2016 which is a new program. Michael Bennett, City Manager for City of Fruita, wrote a response to the Governor's office request for more info. Gale Foster has offered to talk to the two landowners that have been holdouts down between 27 ½ and 29 Roads.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. talked about the contract resolution for the shooting range at Cameo. Xcel came in with some exceptions and inclusions that needed to be resolved. The Town was able to get them to back off some of the requirements with a 30 day comment period.

Frank added that 140 trees were planted in Riverbend Park today.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete has a meeting with Ture Nycum about wildlife concerns along the trail. Some issues with hunting just east of 29th Road. He thinks need better signage. He also has done the tree planting with the Tamarisk Coalition. Still working on ongoing issues.

New Business –

Grant request from City of Grand Junction for Las Colonias – Ted Ciavonne stepped in for Traci Wieland who was sick tonight. He said that DOLA funded the design portion and the City submitted another DOLA grant request in December. Should hear in March if the City moves forward in the funding process.

He stated at the November meeting with the City, himself and members from the RFC and RFF there was a gap pointed out by Frank Watt. He talked about the slue work and dirt work needed for the amphitheater. He explained the three phase process for the trail realignment that would fill the gap discovered at the November meeting.

He said he priced the red line trail out at a 12' trail width which is 2' wider than what is currently there. This was based on the expected usage increase with added amenities in future phases. He quoted \$65,643 for the red trail and \$79,000 for the blue portion on the map. Should be able to get the numbers tighter in a couple of months.

He then showed the permanent restroom improvements requested by City Council on the east end of the amphitheater.

Greg Linza asked about the slues being cut and did it affect the Corps permitting. Ted said a group called River Restoration will be doing the work on the slue. He said there still are some studies being done by the Corps.

Ted explained that the City can't take any dirt off the site and are addressing it by placing new top soil of about 18" on top of the current soil. Department of Energy will be doing ongoing testing including the inside the building.

Frank stated that at the meeting in November, \$70,000 was what was quoted and agreeable to the RFF members. He's not sure about the \$145,000. Ted said could make it work if \$70,000 is what the RFF agrees to.

Brad asked Ted for clarification as to the ask number of \$145,000. Frank is concerned that the current ask is double of what was originally discussed.

Thanked Ted for the presentation.

Frank motioned to recommended asking the RFF for the red section. Gale second. Motion passed. Stacy said that the blue section could be considered at a later date.

Annual Report – Brad updated on what was spent on advertising in 2015. He added putting together a list of 2015 accomplishments. He then talked about bringing back an Annul Report. He read from the first 1988 report.

Old Business:

Voluntary Surcharge – Stacy talked about the two surveys Customer and Business. She refreshed the group on the VSP Committee’s kick off meeting last month. Georgann and Nathan are still working on how the surveying will work to help keep it from being tainted.

Stacy asked Michele to send out the notes from the meeting to all RFC members to keep them in the loop.

Stacy stated she thought there could be more questions regarding outreach and explaining what a voluntary surcharge program.

Brad would like to see the word maintain changed to promoting.

Discussed the business list and what businesses were on the list and what ones weren’t. Stacy explained how they were trying to keep the list more random.

Karen commented that some of the names on the list are located in GJ but they don’t do business in the valley. She asked if there is going to be some kind of intro before directing folks to the surveys.

Stacy would like comments by end of business tomorrow.

Still need to agree how the funds will be spent. Brad asked the group how the funds should be used:

Restrooms

Signage

Water

Property acquisition

Building more riverfront trail

Riparian habitat

Discussed who could ask for the funds. Michele stated that other non-profits that fit into the criteria would be able to ask funds from the VSP.

Brad added he heard about a new event (half marathon) might be starting at Edgewater and running to Fruita.

Public Comment – No public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.