

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
683-4333

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**February 16, 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	Claudette Konola	Gale Foster
Dr. Larry Copeland	Cliff Sprinkle	

Also present were Bennett Price, board member with the Town of Palisade, Libby Collins with Mesa Land Trust (MLT), and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent – Bob Fuller’s position is currently vacant, Eric James, Bill Findlay

**Approval of Minutes** – Frank/Stacy. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Retreat reminder: Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00am-8:30ish to 3:00pm. Social to follow at Bookcliff Country Club – 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Will meet at the GVT Transfer Station at 24 ½ Road by the Mall.

IGA meeting on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm at the BIM office.

**Updates** –

Mesa County – Greg was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Fruita representative unable to attend.

City of Grand Junction – City of Grand Junction representative unable to attend.

Town of Palisade – Bennett discussed COPMOBA’s eight miles of single track trail. He stated that there was some negative feedback from residents. Concerns raised about pollution to the reservoir and the Towns’ watershed. There will be an informational meeting tonight to education the public. He also said that the Palisade Plunge will be discussed tonight too.

Pathways to Nature Report – Frank stated the report has gone out and waiting for comments. He updated the group of how this report came about and that it has been in the works for the past several years. This process led to the GOCO Inspire grant which was received by the City of Grand Junction.

Speed Dating for Non-profits at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) – Frank attended for the RFC and was interviewed by 15 students in an hour and half. Of the 15 students only 3 students had

been on the trail. One student was from Fruita and loves the trail. One thought she might have been on the trail but wasn't sure.

He added that from this event and the Pathways report, most people are getting their info from websites and aren't using our brochures and handouts. Libby added more info of why people aren't using the trail. Need to figure out a way to reach the students at CMU.

Brad added that at the last Riverfront Foundation meeting the board approved \$3,000 for advertising. He thinks RFC may need to rethink where funds are spent since print is what people are using.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete unable to attend.

### **New Business –**

Libby added additional history to the Pathways grant and how it led to the GOCO Inspire grant. The Inspire grant is designed for underserved areas (Riverside and Orchard Mesa communities) and how to figure out how to get people to the riverfront trail and to Las Colonias. She said that the groups involved are not trying to reinvent the process, just work off of the work that has been done and enhance it to better serve those two communities.

She said that they will be doing a tour with the Riverside Community to see what the actual/perceived barriers are to the residents.

She updated on the MLT Monument Road trail project and how it would make it easier with improved access to the riverfront trail. She said that currently families, children and runners are using Monument Road so there is a desire for a trail and the trail would tie into the existing Lower No Thoroughfare Wash Trail that ends at Monument Road making it safer for users.

16 in 2016 – Frank discussed the kickoff meeting and the decision to draft a list for Madeline West who has been designated by Governor Hickenlooper and how she could help with non-monetary support. Suggestions made were to keep funding in place, streamline the process with other entities, forward thinking rather than reactive which has cost partners added expenses (Fruita's Kokepelli Trail and the eagle nests which required Fruita to move the trail). Will put together a list of challenges of getting the trail east of Fruita to Palisade. Brad added that Frank should be recognized for all his effort on short notice to put this together.

Frank discussed concerns with CDOT automatically saying no when approached with projects.

Michele updated the group on her conversation with the interested person in celebrating the 16 in 2016. Brad suggested asking other non-RFC members to step up and volunteer – the RFC is spread thin and can't take the event on but would support their event.

Frank talked about the half marathon from Edgewater to Cooper Brewing Company in Fruita and that CDOT won't allow them to cross Hwy 340.

### **Old Business:**

Voluntary Surcharge – Stacy stated that Georgann and Nathan incorporated some but not all of the RFC's feedback from the January meeting into the revised surveys. The electronic consumer

survey will allow folks to remain anonymous but survey taker can give their personal info for further follow up at the end of the survey. The electronic business survey would also be anonymous. There will also be in person surveys where Georgann and Nathan would take RFC/RFF board members to some businesses for face to face meetings. Shooting for mid-March to have the surveys completed and report finalized by the end of April. Nathan informed Stacy he will be contacting Crested Butte and the Verde River people to see if there are any questions they wished they asked but didn't. Stacy said she will need to further discuss with Nathan and Georgann as to where or who can send out (post to RFC Facebook?).

Draft Annual Report – Brad asked the members over the next few days to review his draft and make comments to him. He said that the Riverfront Project of today isn't the same as the past. Everyone will need to review the Strategic Plan and review 2015 accomplishments. He asked everyone to please view the "On Our Horizon" section. The list needs to be pared down so it's more of an executive summary.

Retreat route – Will meet at the west GVT transfer station near the mall. We will head west to Fruita to 17 Road/Greenway Drive. Then onto the Fruita Waste Water Plant; then to the Loma boat launch. We will then head east to Palisade to the east end of River Road.; then to Riverbend Park. We will then work our way towards Corn Lake where we will stop for lunch. From Corn Lake we will head towards 29 Road; then west to C ½ Road to 27 ½ and then back to the west GVT Transfer Station.

There currently are one vacancy and three expiring terms at the end of June. Michele will send email to Dr. Bill Findlay and Eric James reminding them their terms are expiring.

Tour of the Moon – RFF agreed to talk to St. Mary's Foundation to see if they can move their Gala date starting in 2017.

RFF agreed to \$65,000 for the trail realignment at Las Colonias.

Gale asked how to handle the negativity of the owners not willing to work with the riverfront. She thought perhaps with a positive negative article in the paper. Group suggested holding off on that idea for a while.

Brad stated that Claudette sent a Facebook post to him from someone who commented that the Riverfront Commission isn't doing anything to complete the trail and that it should have been completed by now.

Brad talked about the Outdoor Recreation Coalition (local business owners) that came together to bring the Pro Cycle Challenge to the Grand Valley. Brad, Stacy and Michele met with Sarah Shrader of Bonzi Design to find out more about the group.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.