

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**683-4333**

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**August 16, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

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

Frank Watt	Brad Taylor	Karen Jefferson
Gale Foster	Cliff Sprinkle	Dr. Larry Copeland
Orilee Witte	Laney Heath	

Also present Kyle Harvey, Fruita City Council member, Bennett Price, Town of Palisade Board member, Mike Vandenga, Park Superintendent with City of Grand Junction Parks & Rec Department, Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent – Stacy Beough, Bill Findlay, and Claudette Konola

**Approval of Minutes** – Larry/Gale. Motion passed.

**Announcements** – Welcomed new members Laney and Orilee.

Did introduction around the room for the new members.

**Updates –**

Mesa County – Greg was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Kyle stated that Fruita received a \$1 million Energy Impact Grant for the Kokopelli Trail. They have also applied for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant and a CDOT grant.

City of Grand Junction – Mike stated the City is doing a lot of repairs in house and trying to remove all the asphalt trails within the urban areas and along the Riverfront Trail.

Las Colonias went out to bid yesterday and will be closing in three weeks. The City hopes to start construction in mid-October with completion in 2017. He said the City hopes the trail reconstruction will be completed by the end of the year.

Town of Palisade – Bennett said Peach Fest starts this Thursday night with a Peach Ice Cream event and will continue through the weekend. This year will include tours of other events through the Palisade area. Expecting several thousand of people over the weekend.

DeBeque Canyon is now in its new location and had a grand opening last weekend.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete stated that the last concert wasn't that well attended as the others. He is still working with the Army Corps of Engineers for the properties the State Park will be developing.

Brad stated that the Grand Junction Visitor Center had JT Romantkze spoke about the Shooting Complex and the scope and benefits. Currently going through the permitting process which is really slow.

#### **New Business –**

Brief RFC history presentation for new members and current projects in the works. Frank explained the issues of why it is taking so long to complete, unwilling landowners, cost of construction and lack of funds. Brad told the new members that he and Frank will take them out on a tour of the trail.

Frank stated that the Town of Palisade sent a letter to the County Commissioners asking that they consider trail connections from Palisade to Grand Junction. Kyle asked Frank if the City of Fruita should send a letter to the County Commissioners in support of the Town's letter. Frank said it couldn't hurt.

New maps – Frank passed around a draft of new map RFC is considering for the Visitor Bureau Center and the Fruita Welcome Center to hand out to visitors. The old bubble map used in the past has fallen out of favor and looking at an easier more user friendly map. Orilee said she likes the new map and that they've discovered that all user groups aren't that into the QR codes. Discussed the cost of printing the maps.

2016 Colorado Gives Day (COGD) – Michele stated that COGD will be on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. She would like RFC members to help encourage their friends/trail users to participate in giving on COGD. If all RFC members can encourage just five people to become members, could potentially raise \$2,750 which is a little more than half of what she would like to raise in donations on COGD – her goal is \$5,000.

aRT Program – Michele updated on what this program is and how the RFC will be participating in vetting the designs. All designs will be temporary.

#### **Old Business:**

Voluntary Surcharge – Stacy did presentation to the RFF at their July meeting and they were in agreement to see what it would cost for an integrated marketing plan. Stacy, Karen and Michele will be meeting within the next two weeks to start working on the integrated marketing plan so can start getting estimates.

29 Road Underpass – Frank updated that it is a County capital project for this year. He states they are looking at ways to bring the cost down. The RFF would like to participate in the cost sharing to show support for the project. Frank has given Pete Firmin's info to Julie with Mesa County regarding a land swap. He hasn't heard from her yet. Frank will contact Julie to set something up.

FLAP grant – Frank said that the Town of Palisade and Monument Road didn't not receive funds but the City of Fruita's 18 Road did receive a grant. The Town will be applying for a TAP grant for the Palisade Plunge.

Bennett Property – Gale said she hasn't heard back from the Bennett family and she wanted to give them some time – she will touch back with them.

2016 CRCS wrap up – Michele stated that the first two concerts did really well but attendance was really down for the last show. She believes there are a couple of reason for this, 1) having to replace the Buckwheat Zydeco concert with the Travelin' McCourys two week out, 2) a customer service clerk at City Market was telling people picking up tickets for the subdudes concert that the last concert was canceled. Cloudy/rainy weather also kept people away.

Outreach – Larry would like to have a presentation box/materials use for fork and knife club presentations. Gale thinks it would be great at networking groups. Brad suggested giving presentation via YouTube.

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

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