

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
September 20, 2016

Called to Order:

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

Frank Watt	Brad Taylor	Cliff Sprinkle
Orilee Witte	Stacy Beaugh	Dr. Bill Findlay
Laney Heath	Claudette Konola	Dr. Larry Copeland

Also present Kyle Harvey with Fruita City Council, Bennett Price with the Town of Palisade Board member, Pete Firmin with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and Michele Rohrbach.

Absent – Karen Jefferson, Gale Foster

Did introduction around the room for new RFC members.

Approval of Minutes – Cliff/Larry. Motion passed.

Announcements – Tour of the Moon – Michele passed out volunteer t-shirts and parking passes. She will email out reminder and time for when volunteers need to be at Two Rivers Convention Center on Thursday, September 29th.

Sundial installation at Las Colonias – installation took place on September 16th. According to Lorie Gregor, the Arts Commission does not do dedication ceremonies but she said they would be happy to work with the RFC if interested in doing something. Most of the board said no but Bennett B., Claudette and Laney all expressed interested in putting together an event. Michele said to keep her posted so she could share what and when it was going to happen.

Updates –

Mesa County – Greg was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Kyle stated that Fruita has heard from GOCO and was rated number two out of nine and being recommended for funding – GOCO meeting in Carbondale in October.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett B. said the bids for the amphitheater have been opened and will be announced tomorrow night. They were too high so may need to raise more funds or do more cuts. He stated that hopefully construction will start this year.

He stated the porta-potty at Jr. Service League Park is a mess. He has spoken with the Grand Junction Jr. Service League group regarding putting in a permanent restroom similar to what is at

James M. Robb Colorado State Parks and repainting the roof of the pavilion. He asked the group to raise funds and he's going to see if the City can help some, may go to the RFF for some funds too.

He gave a brief history of Judge Ela's work with the riverfront project.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said great attendance at WineFest over the weekend. Fewer wineries there this year but great sales. Shooting Complex dedication the week of October 10th. He and Frank will be working on trails up the backside of Mt. Garfield into Coal Canyon.

Frank said the Governor met with Palisade while in town for the Club 20 meeting to discuss the Palisade Plunge and the Shooting Complex. CPW, the City of GJ, Xcel Energy, COPMOBA and Chris Kehmeier were also at the meeting. Chris and Frank discussed the issues CDOT has with a trail adjacent to I-70. Frank said the RFC needs to support a plan showing trails to the Mesa County/Garfield County line. Discussed CDOT's reluctant attitude for trails along roads in Region 3. Region 3 has seven trails that are part of the Governor's 16 in 16. Bennett B. suggested writing a letter to CDOT.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Pete met with Bill regarding the funding for the trail. He has spoken with Ron Valardy and JT Romatzke about a restroom along the trail at Walter Walker and that the RFC needs to write a letter stating that a restroom would be much appreciated.

There will an AnnaBanana 5k this year. Organizers expect a large group of kids from schools across CO participating in the event.

He went to meeting at 35 Road regarding the riverbank sloughing off and looking for funds to address the issues. If state funds are to be used, there needs to public access – didn't go anywhere at the meeting. Corps of Engineers and Clifton Water were also in attendance.

Made an offer on five acres that will expand the camping area. Looking to make an offer on seven acres at the entrance of the park to further expand the park.

Trying to deed a piece of State Park property to the City of Fruita but BLM is now stating that CPW can't because the property is BLM's even though it is deeded the State.

Will be moving a hunting blind in the near future.

Met with the City of GJ regarding the whitewater park at Connected Lakes.

New Business – There was no new business.

Old Business:

Voluntary Surcharge Program (VSP) – Stacy offered to meet with Laney and Orilee later to bring them up to speed on the VSP. Next step is to get quotes for the Integrated Marketing Plan – Karen, Stacy and Michele have meetings scheduled with two local marketing firms. More work will follow after the meeting.

29 Road Underpass – Frank said nothing has happened since last update. If he hears anything he will let the group know.

Letter to Partners regarding motorized use – Frank passed out a draft letter to the GJ City Council, City of Fruita, Mesa County and Town of Palisade stating the RFC would like to enforce the ban on non-motorized use of the riverfront trail (e-bikes, motorized scooters, all terrain vehicles, ADA compliance would still be permissible).

Colorado Gives Day (COGD) – Michele reminded RFC board that she wants each member to encourage five of their trail loving/using friends that don't currently donate to become a member on Colorado Gives Day. She will help RFC members set up Fundraising Page on RFF COGD webpage. Stacy challenged all RFC members to make a donation on COGD. Michele stated donors will be able to preschedule their donations starting on November 1st. She has set a goal of \$5,000 and would like to state that the RFC and RFF board will be matching part of that goal.

Many Rivers Brewing – Stacy said that the Many River Brewing will be donating 100% of their net profit to river restoration. They are still working on finalizing their liquor license. They are testing their beer at Kannah Creek, she isn't sure if there is still some available on tap.

Larry asked if anything has been done on presentation box. Brad said he hasn't gotten to it yet. He also asked about Crowd Funding. Stacy said it isn't as easy as it seems. Michele stated that COGD is a form of Crowd Funding.

He also asked about an "Adopt a Trail" program. Michele stated that there have been numerous attempts but it hits a point than it stops.

Brad talked about the need for directional signs. Laney and Bill volunteered to help Brad with list of what's needed.

Bennett P. said he did a presentation of the map that Frank gave him and it was very well received. He said he'd like to have some for his tasting room.

Orilee said the State is redoing and updating the kiosk outside the Colorado Welcome Center in Fruita. She'd like to include the newly revised RFC map. Frank asked her what size she would like and he can print for her.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.