

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

**Riverfront Commission (RFC)**

**Minutes**  
**December 20, 2016**

**Called to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by member, Frank Watt. Those present from the Commission were:

Stacy Beagh	Karen Jefferson	Orilee Witte
Laney Heath	Dr. Larry Copeland	Brad Taylor
Frank Watt	Claudette Konola	

Also present Kyle Harvey with the City of Fruita City Council, Tom and Carla Berkel guests, Bennett Boeschstein with the City of Grand Junction City Council and Michele Rohrbach.

Did introductions around the room for guests.

Absent – Gale Foster

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

**Announcements** – RFC office will be closed January 6<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>

**Updates** –

Mesa County – Greg was unable to attend.

City of Fruita – Kyle said no formal update. City has been working on recruiting businesses to the Fruita. The trail has been an attraction to several of potential businesses.

City of Grand Junction – Las Colonias is moving along. Opened the slow. Close to completing new trail. Tamarisk Coalition and Ducks Unlimited received grants to do restoration work along the river. Bennett is hoping to get the native vegetation back in the area since it currently looks like a war zone.

Town of Palisade – Frank, Bill, Brad and Katie attended the open house for 29 Road. Concerns expressed about two way traffic under the 29 Road bridge and emergency access. Frank sent an email to out going Mesa County Engineer Julie regarding connecting Palisade to Clifton. Kevin King will be the new point of contact on the project. Palisade did receive a \$90,000 GOCO grant to work on the environmental study for the Plunge. Hope to start work in February. Will go for a GOCO Connect grant in August. Open house January ? and ?. Doesn't know the location of the open house in Grand Junction. Mesa County will be using some funds for North River Road.

Hope to be open by the fall of 2017 or spring of 2018. Frank explained what the Plunge is to guests.

Shooting Complex – ground breaking in April. Working on temporary shooting range. Division of Wildlife is in charge of design which is in the process.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete was unable to attend.

**New Business** – Meeting schedules for 2017.

RFC meetings will now be every other month starting in February. Will meet February, April, June, August, October, December. IGA will meet in March, June (subject to change), September and December.

Volunteer opportunities – Outdoor Heritage Days, Earth Day, Tour of the Moon, dedication ceremonies, Riverfront Concerts – three. Brad added that the knife and fork clubs to discuss the Voluntary Surcharge Program. RFC and RFF members will need to be the ones going out and talking with businesses since Michele can't do it all. TC has volunteered some time to help with the VSP program. Earth Day is sponsored by Alpine Bank and they sponsor the CRCS. Group thinks it should be a priority for RFC to attend to this event. Good fit for the RFC and mission. Bill F. asked to get dates for 2017. Michele to get schedules from Fruita, City of Grand Junction, Palisade.

Larry questioned meeting only every other meeting. Karen said it will increase emails and phone calls between board members and will require members to respond in timely manner.

Claudette asked about grant requests that come in during the months not meeting. Michele said can vote via email. Will require all board members to response in a timely fashion.

Michele reminded everyone that if they haven't responded to the Doodle Poll to please get it done before she leaves for vacation.

Co-chairs – Frank will not be reupping in June as a board member but will still attend as Palisade staff. Brad will not be reupping in June. He attended his first meeting in 1996. Frank said to make a smooth transition, he and Brad has spoken with Stacy and Karen to succeed them as co-chairs. Brad and Frank will mentor them over the next six months.

Stacy talked about wanting more say in recruiting new members. Having Frank continue on as Palisade staff will help with the connection of government connections and history.

RFC Expectations – Stacy passed around a draft expectation document and reviewed it with the board. She would like members to review and bring back suggestions or comments to the next meeting.

Group thinks it's a good document.

IGA meeting to be regular RFC agenda item. (Michele needs to add to February agenda).

## **Old Business:**

Voluntary Surcharge Program (VSP) – Karen said have met with Ryan Sawyer Marketing and the cost and initial elements for putting a marketing plan together. RFF voted to grant \$20,000 to fund the marketing plan. Other communities have similar programs, Verde Valley, Crested Butte and Jackson, WY. Hope to have options available at the February meeting for brand.

Brad asked about how will the funds be used for grants. There will be a grant cycle, potential grantee will receive a copy of Mission Statement and list of what goals set by the RFC. Initially one per year to start and as funds grow, may add second cycle as time goes on. Depending on the amount of funds needed

Colorado Gives Day – Michele will email list of 2016 Colorado Gives Day donors and would like RFC members to call all donors by Friday. It's really important thank donors. Had 12 new donors but missing some donors from last year.

IGA meeting – Frank spoke about e-bikes and that partners agreed that they would like to keep e-bikes off of riverfront trails. Ture said Fruita was considering allowing them on the trail but would say no if that is what other partners want. Fruita is currently doing a study regarding them. Do need to come up with speed limit signs and sight limitations and possible lines.

Bennett stated the trail was built for ADA use and that is why the grade is 3% but one section in Redlands it is 8%.

Brad said if the Commission is serious about getting 7<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, we need to get bike lanes on 7<sup>th</sup> Streets – need to get people from downtown to Las Colonias.

Brad said if haven't gone down to see the artwork along the riverfront trail. Make sure to walk around girders.

**Public Comment** – Tom commented on Segways. The Garden of the Gods ran Segways in the bike lanes in the park. He said that there were problems with people not being able to ride them but bike and Segways don't mix.

Tom said signage is also an issue especially for medical needs.

Carla stated there isn't promotion of the riverfront trail. No resources to new comers to the area. The Riverfront Trail is a gold mine and wants to know why there isn't anything available at hotels, motels and at the Convention Center.

Orilee said that the Welcome Center is working on revising their kiosk with maps.

Tom thinks more people should attend the meetings.

Perhaps could do adopt a sign.

There was no further public comment.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.