

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

Minutes
June 20, 2017

Called to Order:

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

Karen Jefferson	Orilee Witte	Cliff Sprinkle
Dr. Larry Copeland	Brad Taylor	Gale Foster
Bill Findlay	Claudette Konola	Brad Taylor

Also present Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Bennett Price, Town of Palisade Board Member, John Whipple, Grand Valley Paddling Club, Katie Steele, Riverfront Foundation, Rondo Buecheler, public, Chris Kennedy, City of Grand Junction City Council, Scott Braden, public and Michele Rohrbach.

Did introductions around the room for guests.

Absent – Stacy Beough, Laney Heath

Approval of Minutes – Larry/Gale. Motion passed.

Announcements – IGA float trip on Friday, July 21st. Please RSVP to Michele by July 13th. Lunch is being donated so you must RSVP. She will also need to know if you will need a lifejacket. Asked if could bring plus ones - at the moment, answer is no.

RFC bike ride – Karen would like to have a bike ride to take new RFC members on an orientation ride and any existing RFC members, RFF members and partners. Start at Edgewater and ride to Fruita. Still need to work out the shuttle back to Edgewater. Probably in the fall.

Michele said that she got an email from Mike Heaston – Tour of the Moon, they are at 75% as of Monday.

Karen reminded about the Las Colonias ribbon cutting on Thursday, July 6th. She said it would be great to have a good showing of RFC/RFF members.

Updates –

Mesa County – Greg was unable to attend. Frank updated on 29 Road and as currently designed; the cost is around \$450,000. With the County's work on the Animal Services building, there are no funds available for 29 Road. As designed it will have great lighting, beautiful ironwork

similar to the bridge and a great retaining wall. Stated that it is way over designed for the actual need discussed at last year's retreat and with Greg Linza.

Katie asked if the RFF should sit down with the Board of Commissioners about bringing the project down to a more manageable price. Frank said he would prefer to wait. He will continue to talk with County staff about the project.

City of Fruita – Kyle was unable to attend.

City of Grand Junction – Chris said he had nothing to add this time but will at the August meeting. Bill asked about the section of trail that is failing by the Glacier Ice Arena, it is about to fall into the river again and if there are plans to add rip wrap or move the trail alignment up. Chris will check into what the City is planning.

Town of Palisade – Bennett P. said on July 7th the Town will start excepting applications for recreational marijuana. Only three licenses allowed – one will be for the Medical Marijuana business and two others. Have had a great deal of interest from outside Mesa County. Excluded area – 1st and 3 ½ Street and Kluge.

No outside grow operations will be allowed. First draw will be Palisade only; second one for Mesa County, third draw will be for those outside of Mesa County.

Bill asked about the Palisade Plunge and trail at the bottom of the Plunge back into town along River Road. Frank is working on road and Mesa County's plan shows 8' detached trail.

Katie asked if there were any more comments after the Plunge meeting last week. Frank said it was a successful meeting - he hasn't seen all the comment sheets.

John asked if there are plans to improve the parking lot. Frank said once they move to the construction phase, that will be improved.

Had a successful Bluegrass Festival last weekend. Attendance may be down a little from last year but no real problems.

Brad asked about the sewer line. Frank said it ended up going down the center of the road. Bennett said they have the railroad to deal with and they haven't been receptive to working with the Town.

City of Grand Junction will be allowed to move forward on Monument Road with GOCO's Connect Initiative. The Town, didn't advance so won't be able to apply for the Plunge. The soonest they can apply for funds will be 2018.

Shooting Complex, have lease with CPW. The Town's intention is for paved and unpaved trail

Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) – Pete said they have finished the concrete tying into Fruita's concrete trail. Have funds to do concrete around lake. Refurbishing the boat ramp in Fruita and

adding a boat ramp for jet boats. There are some potential issues with the boat users and trail users. Shade shelters going in at the tent areas and group areas. Ron Valardi is retiring after 47 years at the end of the month. Someone will be appointed as interim. Eric Los will now be the ranger at Fruita. Pete still has one ranger position open.

Regarding E-bikes issue in State Park, Pete said they will be working on a white paper. Ron told Pete it would be a region issue but Pete thinks it's a State issue - not sure what and when it will happen.

Pete said Grand Junction Fire emailed Greg Linza regarding locks on the bollards and the need for one locking system standardized along the riverfront trail.

Bill asked about the trail connection to 340 and if it would get you to the Monument. Not for now.

New Business – Karen thanked all the outgoing RFC members: Frank, Brad, Bill and Cliff. All will be missed.

Katie thanked Brad and Frank for all their efforts in bringing some order from the loosey goosy way things had been done. She also thanked them all for their work on the Round Up for the Riverfront.

Old Business:

Passed out Round Up for the Riverfront brochures and Concert Series brochures, Round Up for the Riverfront applications and checklist.

Karen stated that the group has been working with Ryan Sawyers Marketing for the brochure design. Brochures have been printed, looking for input for future reprinting. Please read the brochure. The Concert Series will be tricky this year since next Thursday is last one for this year. When talking with businesses, let Karen, Stacy or Michele know if a business has questions that aren't in the brochure but will add to the next printing.

Karen said that still need to present to the City of Fruita and Mesa County Commissioners.

Chris asked when everything would be ready electronically. Karen said since want to brand, need to change existing website.

Passed around the list of businesses list from Retreat for who will contact listed businesses.

Business Agreement – please review and let know what works and what doesn't.

Karen said she has been contacted by the Daily Sentinel and Welcome Home. There was a really nice story in the Welcome Home and purchased a ¼ page ad. She explained what Welcome Home is and those new owners get a welcome basket with goodies and info. We had an ad on the folder. Karen would like to do the folder again not necessarily the magazine article. Brook is offering a special for the RFC for \$600. She will take any goodies we have available to put in

the baskets. Michele said she has lots of rack cards available and need to get rid of them since they have old logo on them. Frank asked if this will be out of the regular advertising budget or new marketing One Riverfront grant, Karen said One Riverfront grant. Claudette asked if it was successful, doesn't have any numbers but Brook said it is definitely reaching the people. Brad motions to do the \$600, Cliff second. Motion passed.

Public Comment – Scott said he's just here to listen. Ronda said he too is just here to listen. Both applied to be on the RFC.

Claudette is very pleased that recycling is now at the Concert Series. She wants to thank the volunteers, My Green Junction.

Gale has the latest map of Las Colonias showing the round about going out to 27 ½ Road, the business center, boat ramp, dog park, etc.

Brad said the Governor's Tourism Council will be in Grand Junction – October 27th, 7:00am. More info to follow as it becomes available.

He asked if anyone read Robin Brown's article on Sunday – it was a good article for the riverfront.

He also suggested continuing having a meeting in Fruita and Palisade once a year. Need to meet with the Park Advisory Boards with City of Grand Junction and City of Fruita.

He talked about the three rocks he kept on his desk when he worked for the State Parks. One was from the Bruce Wells property. Once the property was taken care of he threw the rock in the Wells Lake. The other two rocks he had were from the last two properties – Bennett and Skinner. He asked that Karen and Stacy keep them on their desk to remind them everyday what still needs to be done.

Cliff said he's had a blast over the past four years. He once worked for Brad. He plans to l continue to be involved.

He kidded Brad that one day there will be a section of trail named after him for all the work he did on getting the trail done.

Bill said this was his second stint as a Commission member and he hopes that the Rio project gets funded.

Claudette asked if we knew who was appointed – Michele said no and won't until after approved by all entities. She did say that she knew Karen was reappointed.

Larry asked about getting riverfront signage on I-70. Frank, Chris and Rondo all said that the I-70 signs are really expensive.

He also thinks need someone more forceful, like Brian Mahoney to make announcements at the concerts. Michele pointed out the Cliff did a great job for the first concert and Brian did do the second concert.

He would also like to see meetings go back to every month.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.