

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

One Riverfront (OR)

Minutes
February 13, 2018

Called to Order:

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

Karen Jefferson, co-chair	Orilee Witte
Dr. Frank Barbero	Laney Heath
Laurie Tyre	Catherine Ventling
Dr. Larry Copeland	Rondo Buecheler
Jeffrey Fleming	Gale Foster

Absent – Stacy Beagh

Also Pete Firm, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bennett Price, Board Member with the Town of Palisade, David Cesark, Palisade Plunge and Scott Wynnann, COPMOBA and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Larry/Gale. Changes to December minutes, should read December not October. Bennett said parking is an issue – remove top of Rim Trail.

Announcements – Welcomed Jeffrey Fleming as new member. Did introductions around the room.

IGA meeting March 1st at 7:00am in Training Room A. Rondo and Gale said they would try to be here to facilitate the meeting.

Bennett Boeschstein sent an email out regarding E-bikes being discussed tomorrow night at City Hall at 6:00pm. Karen updated the new members on the ORF's position of not supporting e-bikes because of enforcement issues and could lead to other type of motorized wanting to be allowed. Per Stacy's comments, ORF is neutral so if a member attends and wishes to speak in support, please speak as an individual or for your business not on behalf of ORF. Pete added that CPW will now allow but he has some reservations regarding speed.

City of Grand Junction recognition dinner, April 16th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Two Rivers.

Partner Updates:

Palisade – Bennett said tonight will be his last night as board Trustee since he is not running in April. He will attend the April meeting to bring the new representative. Property has been purchased (not a parking lot as stated in December minutes). Karen thanked him for all his efforts with One Riverfront; she said he could attend anytime. He stated he is working with Michele on Round Up. He added that the Town is pushing hemp growing and the greenhouse owned by Palisade Greenhouse, and are revamping the Town code to allow for the owners to

grow hemp. He stated that there are over 20 hemp growers in Mesa County. Still working on the distillation and extraction issues not resolved yet.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete passed around information on CPW Future Generations initiative and the need to raise fees to help funding for CPW. He explained that currently fees collected do not cover the actual cost of the programs and repairs and maintenance. Bill is designed to give more leeway to CPW so it doesn't have to go back to the legislature to raise fees.

Karen said she hopes everyone had time to read the materials Michele emailed out. It was very interesting to read and see how long it has been since fees were raised. Next step would be to draft a letter of support to Senator Ray Scott and Representative Yeulin Willett. She said the RFF has already drafted a letter of support and highlighted partnership with CPW. Pete said that the bill goes before the committee tomorrow.

Gale motioned to write a letter of support. Catherine second. Motion was passed. Catherine asked if could message on ORF Facebook page and link to CPW's Facebook page, encourage people to contact the elected officials. Pete said that would be great.

City of Fruita – Michele stated that Fruita has requested their funds for the Kokopelli Trail Connection. Construction on Phase II has started. If weather continues as it has, trail will be completed in April. Ture wants to hold another celebration like with did in 2016 for the Lower Salt Wash Trail to the State Park at one of the concerts this summer.

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

New Business – Palisade Plunge Grant request – Dave and Scott explained how the Plunge came about and the groups involved in moving the project forward. The Plunge was listed as one of Governor Hickenloper's 16 in 2016. There was no funding with the designation but it brought a lot of attention to the project. Dave gave a short PowerPoint presentation of what has been done on the project and what is needed to move forward with the construction of the trail. Hope to have the environmental evaluation ready in the next month and will do an open house in April at that time and the project will be shovel ready to move forward. Scott talked about the economic impact for the valley is a key driver for the project. There are only a few projects like this one; he mentioned one in Salida and one in Moab. Scott also talked about the Colorado Mesa University economic impact study on the Grand Valley that is either just published or about to be published.

Bennett added that Mesa County is working with the railroad to make improvements on River Road which Palisade thought they would be constructing.

Scott and Dave stated that the connectivity will tie into the Riverfront trail in future phases.

Construction cost of the trail is \$2 million with half of that going to North River Road which the County said they will cover. The group is looking at raising the remaining funds and build as they have funds. DOLA was not going to fund construction as they had planned and GOCO

won't have funding for 2018 but looking at grant process again in 2019. Should have funding available again in 2020.

Scott talked about first phase and the Town has agreed to apply for a federal grant for about a 2 mile of trail adjacent to Palisade Rim Trail. Next phase is 10 miles of trail – full trail construction, restrooms and parking is about a \$1 million. Looking at raising \$250,000. Asking the RFF for \$100,000 knowing that this is a big ask and will take whatever funding the RFF wishes to give. Laney asked about COPMOBA's funding, Scott said they don't have funds; they will be working on valley wide fundraising and working with Palisade on doing fundraising.

Catherine asked about priority for parking in town since there is currently a problem now. Scott said that none of this funding will be for improvement in town.

Discussed other groups they will be asking- Department of Nature Resource (DNR) and El Pomar. Catherine stated that the parking issue along River Road – CDOT might be a potential grant opportunity.

Jeffrey asked how this project ties into One Riverfront project. They stated that later two miles along River Road will be along the river.

Karen thanked Dave and Scott for the presentation.

Karen passed around the RFF funds available. She asked Michele to review the numbers. Catherine asked for a quick overview of the Strategic Plan to help determine if the project meets the criteria.

Karen added the 29 Road Underpass is under construction and the RFF has committed \$40,000 (Karen apologized for the board not seeing the presentation but the County needed the funding okay quickly so went directly to the RFF at the January meeting).

Rondo and Bennett added how the project will be an economic boost to the valley.

Gale stated she'd like to see COPMOBA and Palisade do fundraising and get some money gathered since the proposed construction won't tie into the riverfront trail. Rondo said the group has raised \$250,000 for the NEPA study. Catherine said she is having an issue with the connection to the riverfront trail so maybe their request is too early.

Karen explained that the RFF has done grants with contingencies and spread over several years.

Gale shared her concerns that getting too far away from the Strategic Plan.

Group asked about fundraising dollars available in the coming year. Michele stated normal fundraising is the annual donation letter, Colorado Gives Day and the beer/wine and donations collected at the Concert Series and she has no idea what will be available until after letters have gone out, Colorado Gives Day is over and after each concerts.

Gale motioned not to approve any money at this time. Laney second. Vote: five were in favor of passing the funding request onto the RFF, five were not.

ORF Volunteer Events for 2018 – tabled until next meeting.

Old Business - Round Up for the Riverfront progress – tabled until next meeting.

Public Comment – No public present.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.