

COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333

One Riverfront (ORF)

Minutes
June 19, 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	Stacy Beaugh, co-chair
Orilee Witte	Dr. Frank Barbero
Laney Heath	Laurie Tyre
Catherine Ventling	Dr. Larry Copeland
Rondo Buecheler	

Absent – Jeffrey Fleming and Gale Foster

Also present: Pete Firm, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bennett Price, former Board Member with the Town of Palisade and his wife Davelyn, Traci Wieland and Trent Prall with the City of Grand Junction, David Varner ORF applicant and RiversEdge West (REW) staff, Currey Ventling – Round Up Administrator (RU) and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval of Minutes – Stacy/Catherine.

Announcements – IGA bike ride on June 29th postponed until late August or early September. Announced Currey as the new Round Up Administrator. New co-chair and co chair elect. Fred will be new co-chair and Catherine will be co-chair elect. Farewell to Stacy. Karen stated how much ORF will miss her. Michele presented her with the last “classic” logo river rock and certificate. Told her how much she had done for ORF and that she appreciated all Stacy had done for her and the project.

Partner Updates:

Palisade – Palisade representative unable to attend.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife – Pete said Island Acres didn’t burn down during the fire. He is dealing with transient camps. Trying to work with land owner Michael Gustafson (west of 29 Road) - Pete was looking at land trade but doesn’t think it can happen because of criteria on original funds used, so may have to purchase outright. Looking to hire two Resource Park Technicians.

City of Fruita – Ture said they are pouring concrete on the Kokopelli Trail Connection and hope to have it finished by the end of July. Lots of enthusiastic riders getting in the way of construction. Dedication on August 9th at the Bellamy Brothers concert.

Karen thanked him for being ORF's new Fruita ex-officio member.

City of Grand Junction – Traci explained what the RIO/Inspire initiative was and what the funds will be used for. Should hear in October if they received \$490,000 Colorado Health Department grant.

Working on overlay on 7th to Struthers. Will be adding bike lanes to 7th Street to Struthers.

UTC is working on signage and messaging.

Trail along South Rim needs some maintenance.

Mesa County has started repair work on the Audubon trail.

New Business – Funding Request City of Grand Junction – Traci explained how the RFC/RFF granted \$5,000 for the boat launch but the City didn't receive funding.

Traci is hoping RFC/RFF will let them use the \$5,000 pledged for the boat launch plus asking for an additional \$10,000 for a water feature at Las Colonias for kayakers and paddle boarders. She stated Trent was able to move the boat launch forward with other projects being done at the Recreational Business Park site. Trent explained Phase I will be completed by July.

Bonsai is going in pad site A and will have a zip line from Orchard Mesa across the river. Sites B and C will be ready in August.

Rocky Mounts will take pad H. They originally were looking for a secondary location but decided they liked the quality of life here and will move their operations from Boulder.

Trent talked about creating "Google" like ponds. Area will have a festival area and the lake will be shaped like a butterfly. There are restaurants and retail pads. There will also be a dog park.

Slough is in blue and part of Phase 2 (which is orange) on map. Currently needs more water and will be doing some work to make that possible.

Trent talked about the Montrose water park and that it's pretty cool. Longmont just put one in similar to what Grand Junction is looking at.

The City has permit from the Corps of Engineers. Water Park will be in the slough – USFW and Corps not interested in anything being in the river. Slough construction will be from September to May.

Balance of construction will be based on funding:

Will be asking for a \$1.5 million grant from GOCO in November – would hear in March

Question 1 – would RFC/RFF be okay with City diverting \$5,000 from pledged boat launch funds to the recreation water park?

Additional \$10,000 being requested tonight.

Catherine asked how much experience consultant has. Gary Lacy is consultant and has done numerous water park designs throughout the US. He also did the preliminary work on the Palisade Water Park several years ago.

She then asked if the RFF has funds. Michele said yes.

Laurie and Rondo think it is a good idea and then maybe Fruita and Palisade may follow. Stacy added more activity down by the river is better for safety.

A motion was made (missed who made the motion) to reallocate funds from boat launch for the slough. Part two of the City's request – up to \$10,000. Stacy moved for both motions. Karen second. Motion passed.

UTC \$500 Community Street Event grant request – Michele explained the event and that RFC participated last year. Rondo motioned/Fred second. Motion was passed.

Rondo talked about 33 ½ Road trail and how to get it up to Island Acres. Stacy said Strategic Plan didn't have priorities listed and should be listed as priority – even if it runs along I-70.

Bennett said Frank Watt put the \$ amount at about \$3 million. Frank would like to get River Road finished first.

Michele talked about meeting she attended with Danny Katz with COPIRG and their discussion about the Palisade curves CDOT plans to straightened. She told Danny that ORF would like to see a trail along I-70 getting people from Palisade to the new shooting complex. This will also help in getting the trail closer to the Mesa County/Garfield county line.

Karen introduced David Varner and stated he has applied to be on ORF. Stacy reminded members that ORF doesn't have control over who is appointed but can make recommendations on what qualifications ORF is looking for in a member. Gale opted not to re-apply. Stacy and Karen wrote a letter of recommendation for David to be appointed.

Old Business – Old business was tabled until August meeting.

Thanked Bennett and Davelyn for allowing ORF to hold meeting at their DeBeque Canyon Wineries Tasting Room.

Public Comment – No public present.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.