

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

**Minutes
March 20, 2012**

Called to Order:

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

Katie Steel	Ken Henry	Brad Taylor
Frank Watt	Leila Reilly	John Pabst
Brian Meinhart	Mary Ann Cooper	Karen Jefferson

Also present were Donna Ross with Mesa County, Bennett Boeschenstein with GJ City Council, Greg Linza with Mesa County, Steve Aquafresca, Mesa County Commissioner, Al Phister, Riverfront Partner Coordinator, Earl Stitt interested guest, Pete Firmin with State Parks and Michele Rohrbach, admin for the RFC.

Approval – Ken/Frank. Motion passed.

Announcements – Riverfront office will be closed April 5th through April 30th.

Bus tour on Saturday, April 14th – meet at Regional Transportation (RTPO) office at 8:30am and will leave at 8:45am. Bring on sack lunch and RFC will bring water.

Outdoor Heritage Days on April 28th at Riverbend Park. Volunteer sign up sheet passed around. 5K on Saturday, May 5th at Corn Lake. Volunteer sign up sheet passed around.

New Business – There was further new business.

Old Business –

Fruita Connection – Donna passed around the County's copy of the River Initiative grant application requesting \$4.5 million to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) for everyone to review what was submitted. This would be for Phase III. If get grant, will have 20 miles of contiguous trail. County folks will be going over to Denver for a presentation in April and then GOCO folks will be coming over here for site tour. Greg stated that this particular grant is requiring a 50% match. Total cost of the project is \$9.2 million. Other communities are at an advantage with match since they have dedicated revenue streams where our project does not. Received many great letters of support for our project. Question asked if should mount a campaign for individuals to email GOCO for the project. Tom Burke from Mesa County has been appointed the GOCO Board by the Governor. Thanked Donna, Greg and Mary Orn for all their efforts on the grant.

Construction is moving along. Waiting for the area to detox so will see lots of dead fish. Bridges will be here in about a week and half. Will start base next week. Using a new product under the bridge that is being used in Arizona that appears to be working well for them.

Looking to move forward with Phase III and will be avoiding all wetlands and water which should please the Corps.

Some movement with the railroad down at Little Salt Wash. Design is at about 60%. One property owner that still need to resolve the 100'.

City of Fruita – Reed Wash evaluation is continuing. Going under rather than over. May have to cantilever but shouldn't flood because of the height.

Town of Palisade – Nothing new on repair at Riverbend and nothing on River Road. Meeting with CDOT on new trail. Fruit and Wine Byway got a second grant and do want to include a portion of riverfront trail. Working with Jim Nall. Trail dedication on April 7th will be getting invites out soon.

City of Grand Junction – Three Sisters is moving ahead. Trail will eventually tie into the riverfront project. Bennett is working on getting Los Colonias moving forward.

Ken Henry and Bennett went on a mighty Colorado Tour starting in Las Vegas and all the way to California stopping at all the dams and seeing what's going along the river.

National Conservation Area – meeting tomorrow and Katie will give up date at April meeting.

Capstone – CMU students will be in April meeting.

KAFM – Frank will be talking about Palisade on the next show.

Updates:

Committee Reports:

State Park – Pete said work will begin next week.

Public Comment – Steve said he stumbled onto a new trail organization of the Trail Alliance group.

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.