

**COLORADO RIVERFRONT COMMISSION
683-4333**

Riverfront Commission (RFC)

**Minutes
October 16, 2012**

Called to Order:

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

Katie Steele	Frank Watt	Karen Jefferson	Cliff Sprinkle
Jason Bailey	Brad Taylor	Brian Meinhart	Leilia Millikan
Ken Henry	Karen Jefferson	Claudette Konola	

Also present were with Keith Dickerson with Urban Trails Committee (UTC), Bob Fuller with the City of Fruita, Pete Firmin with Parks and Wildlife, Al Pfister, Riverfront Partners Coordinator, Biz Collins (UTC and Grand Valley Bikes), Greg Linza with Mesa County, Bennett Boeschstein, GJ City Council and Michele Rohrbach.

Approval – Ken/Jason. Motion passed.

Announcements – No announcements.

New Business – Biz asked if the RFC would be willing to draft a letter for Grand Valley Bikes grant application for Safe Routes to School. 23 elementary schools in the district and hope to add six more next year. Jason motioned to draft letter/Claudette second. Motion passed.

RFF/RFC retreat – will be a little different than usual, just RFF and RFC members. Looking at April 6th. Location and time to be determined.

Las Colonias and Matchett – City is looking at both on a dual track. Matchett would take pressure off of Canyon View. Las Colonias will be more passage with disk golf. Discussion of putting in grass area with possible water park and civic center. Kannah Creek Brewery is still moving forward with plans to build down there.

There was further new business.

Old Business –

Katie – will be bringing in tabs for each member for all the committees.

Educational plan – not doing anything with this group right now. Still need to talk with CMU to do something similar to last year.

Strategic Planning – Brad has been meeting with some members for UTC, RFF and will be contacting other members in the near future. He believes should have something to present at the retreat scheduled for April 6th.

Safety and Signage – Frank said trail has been covered except Riverbend and Connected Lakes. Need to discuss next step – concerns over blind, overgrowth and riders feel unsafe, lack of signage for direction and condition of trail. Need to prioritize and work up plan and get entities involved. Is concerned when new Emergency Marker signs go in and potential complaints from public – especially with the “No Camping” signs and the uproar from certain members of the public.

Government Relations – Brian said the committee hasn’t had an opportunity to meet. Currently there is a great deal of intergovernmental action going on and would like to work with other entities. Katie suggested members running for County Commissioner should be educated on what’s going on.

History – Ken Henry, Brian Meinhart, Leila Milliken, Cliff Sprinkle – Ken said the museum has offered their facility to “living history” with interviews on tape. Have had two members volunteer Bill Ela and Brian Mahoney.

Media Relations – Brian said group met last week to come up with vision for the committee. Do not want to duplicate Outreach Committee efforts. Would handle all the Press Releases for all of the new committees so all word is consistent. IT/social media is more about keeping the website updated and current and Facebook page for quick info out to public.

Outreach – Katie Steele/Karen Jefferson – would like to do a monthly history thing in the paper that would tie into the History. It would help with the public interest; educate the public and elected official. Immediate task of getting word out on new Emergency Markers and why they are on the trail. Want to work with Dave Buchanan to see if he would do a write up in the paper.

Frank said need to evaluate what worked and what didn’t work with regard to the 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Dennis DeVore emailed Katie that the art contest brought in \$809. Event was will attended.

Ken talked about Steve and Denise Hight have volunteered to help out with article time to time. Ken has also spoken with Bob Sweeney with the Fruita Times and Palisade Tribune.

Updates:

Mesa County – Federal Enhancement Funding is what’s causing the hold up on Phase II of the Monument View trail. Waiting for CDOT to sign and hope to start construction in December and completion in June. Phase III will be submitted by the end of the month and should take at least two month before can let bid process. Avoiding area needing Corps approval but planning on appeals from one landowner. Owner has multiple opportunities for appeals all the way up to the State Supreme Court. Hope it doesn’t go that far.

Emergency Service Markers – Greg talked about the public not feeling safe on the trails so he called a meeting with all the trail partners and emergency services for Fruita, Palisade, City of

Grand Junction and Mesa County. He showed the group an actual marker that will be placed on the trail and how it will tie into the 911 system. There will be emergency access points. Mesa County GIS has done a great job. Once signs are completed, Greg will deliver them to the correct entity for placement. Greg would like to have simple maps at each trailhead which hopefully will help make people feel safer as well as removing tamarisk. Would like to see one emergency system per map per section of trail.

City of Grand Junction – Bennett reminded everyone of the trail host program (which currently is only within the City of GJ jurisdiction), perhaps it could be expanded. Bennett talked about the City’s capital plan with riverfront project and money for trail repairs and signs that have been vandalized. Tamarisk tour tomorrow at 8:00am starting at the Botanic Gardens. Bennett talked about the flood plan and building requirements. He talked about the differences of the flood plan and floodway and how it needs to be taken into consideration in planning.

City of Fruita – Bob said the Little Salt Wash Trail which connects to the State Park will go under I-70 and under the railroad. CDOT is okay with concept with Fruita using the box culvert but the railroad doesn’t want them to use the culvert. Greg said under design to do another bore 50’ up from the current culvert for another culvert which will cost about another \$150,000 to the project. Full design should be complete within a year.

Town of Palisade – Frank said received \$50,000 grant for restoration and looking to get Palisade to add another \$50,000 and hope to have complete in early 2013. Frank said he participated in peer review for LPR grants and GOCO was very complimentary to our partnerships and to what Greg has done. Having some success going out to Cameo and looks positive. Xcel looks to demolition the building shortly.

Parks and Wildlife – Pete said the memorial bench program is coming back on line and working with Michele and others requesting memorials. Corps is out at the park for a few weeks. He has been receiving phone calls about something regarding Ken Nesbitt. Discussed the possibility of doing a sign similar to the one done for Arnett. RFC will need to set some perimeters.

Committee Reports:

UTC –Working on the summit on Friday, March 8th. Will have four components: Economic, Recreational, Health, and Transportation.

State Park – Construction drawings need to be finalized for trail connecting Fruita. Looking at trying to get funding for the new logo needed on all signs.

Partners – Al said he knows groups are working on GOCO fall planning grants and wants to make sure partners are working together rather than against each other. City is going for a spring planning grant.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.