



325 E Aspen  
Suite 155  
Fruita CO 81521

Phone:  
970-858-3663

Fax:  
970-858-0210

E Mail  
fruita@fruita.org

Web Site  
fruita.org

City Manager's Office  
970-858-3663

City Clerk/Finance  
970-858-3663

Community  
Development  
970-858-0786

Engineering  
970-858-8377

Human Resources  
970-858-8373

Public Works  
970-858-9558

Recreation Dept.  
970-858-0360

# MEMORANDUM

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
From: MARGARET SELL, ACTING CITY MANAGER  
Project: JULY 2, 2015  
Date: WEEKLY INFO UPDATE

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## **WHILE THE MICE ARE AWAY THE BOSS WILL PLAY?**

So, this is how the City Manager spends his vacation. He is obviously missing us and totally focused on work. I guess we will have to wait to hear about the one that got away!



City Manager – Working Hard!

## **ALL IS QUIET ON THE HOME FRONT**

It has been a pretty calm week. No major catastrophes or natural disasters, but a little bit on the toasty side. One of the HVAC units at the Civic Center went down and it was a little bit warm for several days but we were all able to keep cool heads and the amazing staff at Public Works got us back in the chill zone.

## **FROM THE PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR**

June FCC update: The Fruita Community Center has 20,739 visits in June (up 490 over last year). The up tick in visitors might have had something to do with the toasty weather. Daily admission receipts brought in \$41,042 with 9,290 daily visits.

Thursday Night Concert Series: The Ice Cream Social and Centennial Band are scheduled tonight (July 2). All the cool kids will be there handing out ice cream.

July 3 Celebration: Fireworks start at dusk (9:30 p.m.) on Friday, July 3. The City has hired Fireworks West out of Utah to set them off this year. It will be a spectacular display!



Parks update: Parks are looking a little ragged right now. It's hot and due to really dirty irrigation water, there have been some pump issues in various parks and facilities.

Another vacation: Ture says "I'll be on vacation!!! Ohh, and budget season stinks!!!". Thankfully, the Department will be left in capable hands during Ture's extended absence. What the heck, I might even do his budget for him! Zeros are easy ☺.

## **FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

School District 51 has not been successful in negotiations as of yet to secure an alternate location for school bus parking near the west end of the valley and have asked to continue parking at the City Shop site. City staff will be meeting with the new bus company next week to explore whether we can accommodate their needs. With the expansion of the new shop building and the consolidation of City equipment, things may be tight until the buses can find a new location.

## **FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

The City issued 2 permits for new residential construction in June (3 permits issued in June 2014). This makes a total of 16 year to date and compares to 24 last year to date.

### **FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

“Lola,” the 8 month old puppy temporarily adopted by the Fruita Police Department that would have otherwise gone to the Animal Shelter, has found a forever home. Lola was the first guinea pig in the Department’s new “Get a Pet Out of Jail” program. This program is made possible with the support of our Police Department staff, Kokopelli Animal Hospital, and dog lovers in the community. The Fruita PD does not discriminate against cats. Through its facebook page, it also helped to reunite a cat with its’ owner.



### **TIDBITS**

- Project Schedule – It’s a good thing that July 13 doesn’t fall on a Friday this year! A number of our capital projects are scheduled to start on Monday, July 13:
  - Downtown Streetscape Improvement project
  - 2015 Overlays
  - W. Ottley Improvements – Phase 2
- Councilor Mascarenas has been busy working on with the “How are the Children” initiative. A statue was dedicated as a memorial to children who have died in our community. The memorial is located on the lawn at the Old Mesa County Courthouse. The focus of the memorial is to remember and honor children who died as a result of abuse or neglect but will be a memorial for all children who are no longer with us, regardless of cause.
- CSPAN will be in the valley to record and feature the City of Grand Junction’s history and literary life on Tuesday, July 7. The segment will air September 5-6, 2015. See attached for details.
- The Riverfront Commission held a retreat on June 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss creation of a Strategic Plan. A synopsis of the June retreat is attached and provides an outline of their discussions. More details will be provided as they move forward.

- Oh yeah . . . work continues as usual.
  - Staff and the City's consultant are continuing to work on updating our website.
  - Budget season doesn't really stink but it is tough this year and staff continues to work on operating and capital budgets.
  - The sewers are still flowing and wastewater is getting treated, irrigation (though muddy) continues to water lawns, parks are still usable for those willing to brave the heat, mosquitos continue to bite, law enforcement is still keeping us safe even though they miss Lola, roads and streets have been cleared of all the snow ☺, capital projects are still moving forward . . .

**FRUITA IN THE NEWS:**

[New church in works for Sacred Heart](#)

[Farmer's Market Hometown Feel](#)

[Suds & snacks at Fatjar Cannery and Brewhaus in \*\*Fruita\*\*, Colorado | GJFreePress.com](#)

Cc: Department Directors



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

## **Grand Junction to be in National Spotlight**

*C-SPAN to reveal Grand Junction history and highlight authors during week-long visit*

### **WHAT:**

**You're invited as Charter Communications and Mayor Phyllis Norris welcome C-SPAN to Grand Junction** on Tuesday, July 7th at 10:00 am MDT at the Avalon Theatre, as they kick off a visit to record and feature the city's history and literary life.

At the event, C-SPAN representatives will reveal the stories and segments that will be explored by the national television network. While in Grand Junction, C-SPAN representatives will also conduct community and educational outreach.

Tuesday's event, which will be open to the public, will feature remarks from Mayor Phyllis Norris, Charter Area Vice President Christopher Fulton, and C-SPAN Producer/Community Relations Representative Ashley Hill. **The event keynote speaker is Western Colorado historian and Gateway Canyons Resort Curator of Curiosity Zebulon Miracle**, who will discuss Grand Junction's rich history.

Local segments recorded throughout the week will air on non-fiction book channel Book TV (on C-SPAN2, Charter channels 24, 618) and history channel American History TV (on C-SPAN3, Charter channels 71, 619) during C-SPAN's special Grand Junction Weekend, airing September 5-6, 2015.

### **WHEN:**

10:00 am MDT, Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### **WHERE:**

**Avalon Theatre**  
**Rooftop Terrace**  
645 Main Street  
Grand Junction, Colorado

### **Remarks:**

- Phyllis Norris, Mayor of Grand Junction

- Christopher Fulton, Area Vice President for Charter's Mountain States Market
- Ashley Hill, Community Relations Representative/Producer, C-SPAN Cities Tour
- Zebulon Miracle, Historian and Gateway Canyons Resort Curator of Curiosity

**BACKGROUND:**

In partnership with Charter, C-SPAN's 2015 Cities Tour takes Book TV and American History TV on the road. C-SPAN2 and C-SPAN3 are featuring the literary life and history of each of these selected cities during special weekends on the public affairs network.

Working with its cable partners, the C-SPAN producing team will take specially outfitted Local Content Vehicles (LCVs) into Grand Junction, Colorado, starting Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, visiting various literary and historic sites to interview local historians, authors and civic leaders over the week.

**AIR DATES:**

Programming recorded in Grand Junction will air on Book TV/C-SPAN2 Charter channels 24, 618 and American History TV/C-SPAN3 Charter channels 71, 619 on September 5-6, 2015. C-SPAN is available in Grand Junction on Charter channels 78, 617.

For more information, visit the [C-SPAN Cities Tour website](#) and the [C-SPAN Cities Tour Twitter page](#).

###

There were 30 attendees throughout the retreat. Represented were CO Parks & Wildlife, Town of Palisade, Strive, Mesa County Health Department, Congressman Tipton's office, Tamarisk Coalition, City of Fruita, City of Grand Junction, Orchard Mesa Irrigation, Mesa Land Trust, Urban Trails Committee, Riverfront Commission and Riverfront Foundation and several citizens.

## Riverfront Properties Overview

- Where do we have gaps to complete the trail?
- Riverfront Project in 2015 is different than the Riverfront Project in 1987
- Is there a way to highlight the economic, health, ecological, etc. values of these priorities?
- Google Earth has now captured all of the Grand Valley trails
- Gaps in the Riverfront Trail:
  - Las Colonias (27 ½ Rd) to 29 Rd – Two properties to complete a trail to take traffic off of C ½ Road and avoid crossing 29 Road
    - Two properties left
      - Skinner – Need to be creative
      - Bennet – No
    - County has on their radar to create a parking lot near 29 Rd
    - Major safety issue of getting people across 29 rd (vision for underpass if trail complete)
  - 33 ½ Rd to Riverbend Park at 36 ¼ Rd
    - Four parcels by Clifton Water are owned by CPW – CPW's mission is to improve habitat, hunting and public access which increase adjacent private landowner's concerns. It is important that CPW holds on to the parcels for the long-term vision of connecting the trail. The challenge is to balance the primary mission of the agency while creating trail access.
    - The whole area is "rare" lowland riparian habitat, it's a wildlife corridor, when you put people on that area directly, the wildlife corridor is impacted
  - Is the canal a way to accomplish this? Utilizing the canals is a significant and contentious issue.
  - Palisade Riverbend to Cameo
  - To get riverfront trail access instead of frontage road along Monument View
    - Azcarraga easement to 19 Rd
    - Public easement across Rigg property
    - Need partnership with Adobe Creek Golf Course
    - Property that is for sale in Fruita
    - "Lake Weedunno, LLC" easement
    - Old Fruita Bridge (17 ½ Rd) area and the bridge itself (note that the s. side right of way is still public)
  - State Park in Fruita to Kokopelli Trail in planning stages; need funding

**In summary, there is still more trail opportunity but we need to be aware and have the funding in place to make these happen.**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is challenged with balancing wildlife focused goals with historical State Parks challenges – e.g., hunting access, protection of T&E and other sensitive wildlife species. They are funded by user fees, so the properties they manage are constantly subject to the goals of those user groups.

## **Strategy #1:**

What kind of things should we be doing to support Strategy #1: Cultivate the economic, cultural, and ecological goals of the riverfront corridor?

Priorities from Fishbowl Session #1:

1. Tell our story
  - a. Who our partners are and honoring them
2. Quantify and cultivate economic value (broader than the trail, ecological values and jobs from restoration too)  
Connectivity

## **Strategy #2:**

What do we do to support Strategy #2 – Support Multiple Uses of the Riverfront Corridor?

Priorities from Fishbowl Session #2:

1. Let people know how to use the riverfront (user interpretation) – signs, wayfinding, designated areas, inventory of properties, explanation of permit process (what are we going to coordinate)
2. Codifying how do we advise - IGA, cooperative agreements, policies, commercial activities, conveying policy, public safety (RFC needs to establish how we are going to coordinate)
  - a. Define how involved the Riverfront will be in the river use
3. Take leadership convener around these issues; leaders in drafting policy, we do not want to get into the enforcement of anything – be more active in advising on what the policy should be (outcome rather than action item)

## **Strategy #3:**

What actions do we take to support the strategy – to inspire stewardship of our river systems?

Priorities from Fishbowl Session #3:

1. Build expanded capacity; diversify funding portfolio (overall organizational activity)



**Action Items:** Assignments, timelines, accountability, benchmarks

**\*\*Tell our story**

People: Brad, Traci, Claudette, Bonita, Steve, Karen, Cliff, Larry, Bennett B. , Shannon (w/ Stacy's help on behalf of TC)

Chair: Karen

(Note: record Brad's presentation, link to Katie's past presentation)

**\*\*Quantify/cultivate economic value**

People: Mesa County Department of Health, Claudette, Frank, Katie, Kathy, Michele, Bob, Greg, Stacy

Chair: Frank and potentially co-chair w/ Greg R., support from Katie

(Note: we are going to support Mesa County's efforts on doing the "heavy lifting")

**\*\*Connectivity (trail)**

People: Bennett, Ture, Kathy, Traci, Michele, Frank

Chair: Bennett B.

**\*\*User interpretation (how to use the riverfront)**

People: Karen, Michele, Kathy, Greg Linza, City of GJ Parks Rep.

Chair: Michele

**\*\*Codify/define advisory (how and what)**

People: Brad, Stacy, Katie, Jason, Ture, Michele, Pete

Chair: Pete

**\*\*Building expanded capacity/diversifying funding**

People: Michele, Jason, Karen, Max, Stacy, Cliff, Karen, Riverfront Foundation

Chair: Cliff

**Timeline:** For coming up with action plans for each of these items...

- Once per month meetings for a few months to develop game plans
- Six month deadline for an initial outlined game plan for each item (November 2015)

**Accountability:** How do we make sure that this happens?

- Monthly meetings of the Riverfront Commission Chairs of committees to provide an update
- Update at IGA meetings as well

**Next Steps:**

- Some sort of worksheet that can help the chairs format their action plans (Stacy)
- Summarize this for the IGA meeting as soon as possible for input (Brad, Frank)
- Synopsis of retreat to the partners (Michele, Stacy)
- July Foundation Meeting presentation (Frank)