

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

March 6, 2019

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Hunt, Bruce Fitch, Todd Rankin, Terry Craig, Laura Rossetter, Jeff Leigh, Turk Montepare, Art Hardin, Bob Gregory

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: John Uban, John Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Jason Lederer

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Anne Murphy - Town of Breckenridge; Katherine Phaup - CDLT, Kim Dufty - CDLT, Jewel Anderson - Town of Silverthorne, Paul Semmer - USFS

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SUBMITTING COMMENTS: None

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:37 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes was approved as submitted.

Summary Report: Laura Rossetter asked about the photographic analysis of the Recpath and roads, noting a specific location on Miners Creek Road between Bills Ranch and Temple Trail with deficient shoulders. Brian Lorch noted that staff will look into this location.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda : In response to questions from the OSAC, Paul Semmer provided an update on the Blue River Trails Master Plan, as a Town citizen and member of the Town's trail committee. The Town of Blue River is conducting a master planning process to identify routes within the Town that are already under easement. The Trails committee is working to identify effective routes to connect the Town of Blue River and Town of Breckenridge Trail systems. The goal is to finalize the recommended trail connections within the next couple of months and advance conversations with the County, Town of Breckenridge, and USFS. Trails connections will consider both summer and winter routes.

Brian Lorch added that the County has been participating in CDOT Access Control Plan discussions and incorporating a potential Hoosier Pass Recpath connection project into that planning process. The OSAC was enthusiastic about both initiatives.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Planning for Forest management Activities

Brian Lorch gave a summary of efforts to set up an agreement with the Forest Service to develop forest management plans behind Royal Placer and Peabody Placer. The County is requesting \$135,000 in-kind from the Colorado State Forest for oversight and \$100,000 in funding from the wildfire fund. The goal is to keep this program funded through wildfire funding. The new County funding may also be used to perform fuel reduction cuts on National Forest, most of which will require further NEPA evaluation.

County Initiated Re-zoning

The County Commissioners and Town of Breckenridge Council concurred with rezoning approximately 1,700 acres of jointly owned lands to Open Space. The criteria for selecting the properties were aimed at

avoiding affecting property values, anticipated uses, and other parcel-by-parcel attributes. Almost all the parcels selected have already had the density removed from them. Both the Commissioners and Council felt comfortable that these properties could be appropriately zoned as Open Space. The Countywide Planning Commission will be reviewing the rezoning at their April 1st meeting.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

Recpath Grooming

There has been strong positive feedback on the Recpath grooming and it is receiving a lot of diverse use, including, skiers, fat bikers, runners, walkers, etc.

2019 Recpath Improvements Projects

Jason Lederer reviewed two Recpath improvements projects planned for Swan Mountain Road in 2019. Both projects include the installation of a new side path, striping, and signage designed to better accommodate bicycle traffic along the roadway. The County received a construction bid from Columbine Hills Concrete for the project near the Upper Blue Sanitation District Plant. The County also anticipates amending CHC's existing Summit Cove Loop project contract to include the new section near the intersection of Summit Cove Boulevard and Swan Mountain Road.

Bruce Fitch asked whether a grade separated Recpath on Swan Mountain Road was still under consideration. Brian Lorch reviewed the potential of a grade separated Recpath along Swan Mountain Road noting large challenges, primarily related to cost and resource impacts. The OSAC discussed potential improvements to the at-grade facilities including, flashing "Share the Road" signage. Bruce Fitch suggested an underpass at the Recpath intersection of Swan Mountain Road.

Jewel Anderson updated the OSAC that the Town of Silverthorne is working on building a section of Recpath extending their system across the jointly owned South Forty open space property to the new public works facility and Three Peaks.

E-bikes

Brian Lorch provided an update on the status of ebikes on the Summit County Recpath system noting that the USFS approved an amendment to the County Special Use Permit allowing for Class 1 and 2 ebikes on the Recpath. During their 3/26 worksession, the BOCC will be providing their direction on appropriate ebike uses. Thus far, the BOCC has not weighted in on Class 1 vs. Class 2. Brian Lorch prompted the OSAC for their feedback, which he will share with the BOCC. There has been a fair amount of staff and public feedback that Class 1 ebikes may be more in line with current uses. The Town of Breckenridge has had conversations with their Council and BOSAC, with a strong current preference towards Class 1. The Town of Silverthorne and Frisco also suggested Class 1. Pitkin County and towns in the upper Roaring Fork Valley allow Class 1 only, but most other municipalities are going with the State law, which allows Class 1 and Class 2. The survey the County put out did not yield a result with respect to E-bike type.

Laura Rossetter noted that the intent of the Recpath is to provide non-motorized recreation, which lends itself towards Class 1. The OSAC unanimously recommended Class 1 ebikes only.

Other Items

Brian Lorch updated the OSAC that staff are coordinating with CDOT and the USFS to initiate the planning of a natural surface trail connection between Exit 205 in Frisco and the Salt Lick Trail system. This will likely be a 2019 planning project, with a goal that construction could occur in 2020.

The USFS has updated the Golden Horseshoe SUP and considered/incorporated feedback provided by OST staff as well as the OSAC. The updated SUP provides some additional clarification on the extent and management responsibilities of the GH trail network.

Election of Officers : Brian Lorch provided a bit of background on the status of an alternate OSAC member and that Heather McGonagall was no longer being considered. An alternate is not necessary for

moving forward. All OSAC members who applied to remain on the OSAC were reappointed. Bruce Fitch nominated Turk Montepare to remain as OSAC Chair and Todd Rankin to serve as OSAC Vice Chair. Diane Hunt seconded the nominations. The OSAC approved the nominations unanimously.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:

Todd Rankin made a motion to enter into Executive Session, which Diane Hunt seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:28p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director