

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

April 3, 2019

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Fitch, Todd Rankin, Terry Craig, Laura Rossetter, Jeff Leigh, Turk Montepare, Art Hardin, John Taylor

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: John Uban, Diane Hunt, Bob Gregory

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Jim Curnutte

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

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:38 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report: John Taylor commented that there was a typo in the Summary Report regarding the trail connection to Frisco from the Salt Like Trail system, and that the I-70 exit should be listed as 203.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda : Cory Richardson, who is the new recreation staff officer for the Dillon Ranger District replacing Ken Waugh, introduced himself to OSAC.

Anne Murphy from the Town of Breckenridge provided an update on their e-bike process. They have already taken an ordinance allowing Class I e-bikes only to Town Council for a first reading. The second reading will be on May 23rd, and it will take approximately one month for it to take effect.

Ms. Murphy also commented that they are now plowing the Recpath, as the Nordic Center is closed. They received positive feedback from the public about the grooming this year, including wanting it to possibly be done more frequently than two times a week. Staff may consider this in the future.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Forest Management: The County is hoping to use wildfire funding for a position at the Colorado State Forest that would help Open Space staff plan and implement forest management activities. This year that would include forest management on the Peabody and Bashore properties.

County Initiated Re-zoning: The Countywide Planning Commission reviewed the open space rezoning effort earlier in the week and had a very positive response recommending the rezoning of approximately 1,850 acres.

Swan River Restoration Project: Open Space staff sent out over 800 postcards to landowners for its annual meeting and update with the BOCC on the Swan River restoration project. The meeting went well, with positive discussion about the project results, gravel removal and truck traffic. The County will be applying for grants to fund the next phase of restoration. The timing of the project will greatly depend upon the market for gravel and how quickly it can be moved off the site. Summit County and Town of Breckenridge, as the landowners and owners of the gravel resource, have leased the gravel to Schofield Excavation and the royalties are used strictly to fund the restoration work.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

2019 Recpath Improvements Projects: Brian Lorch explained that the bids for the Recpath improvements at the Swan Mountain/Highway 9 intersection came in over budget, but the Summit Cove improvements came in under budget. Columbine Hills will be the contractor on both projects. The goal is to have the SMR improvement project completed by Memorial Day, while the Summit Cove project will be on a more extended timeline.

Staff just completed a grant request to GOCO to help fund a Recpath underpass on Highway 9 in front of the County Commons. CDOT has indicated they will include the underpass in their plans and construct it, but not pay for it. The underpass connection was recommended by the community, and the Town of Frisco will hopefully be a partner on the project. Without the grant funding, it is unlikely it will be built, as it is a **\$1.5 - \$2 million cost**.

Recent site visits to the Tenmile Canyon Recpath have indicated it will require very extensive snow and debris clearing to open. Each of the 23 avalanche paths in Tenmile Canyon ran this year, depositing massive amounts of snow and debris on the path and in Tenmile Creek. It is highly unlikely that the work to open the path can be accomplished in-house by County Road and Bridge staff (as is typical). Because this is an historic avalanche cycle, the County is looking for ways to fund the clean-up outside of normal Open Space/Recpath maintenance funds. Commercial operators, event organizers and members of the public should expect a delayed opening on the path. OSAC commented that the Town of Frisco and other event organizers should be asked to collaborate on the Recpath opening.

Brian also explained that the Fremont Pass Recpath construction project has been delayed a year. Avalanche activity adjacent to Highway 91 destroyed 7 power poles that Xcel will need to replace and put underground. Xcel needs until at least fall of 2019 to do that, meaning that Recpath construction cannot begin until the spring of 2020.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:

Todd Rankin made a motion to enter into Executive Session, which Bruce Fitch seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. Jeff Leigh made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Bruce Fitch seconded. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director