

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

June 5, 2019

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: John Uban, Diane Hunt, Bob Gregory, Todd Rankin, Laura Rossetter, Jeff Leigh, Turk Montepare, Art Hardin, John Taylor

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Fitch, John Taylor, Terry Craig

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Jim Curnutte, Michael Wurzel

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Anne Murphy - Town of Breckenridge, Kim Dufty - CDLT, Jewel Anderson - Town of Silverthorne, Paul Semmer - USFS, Tony Caligiuri - Colorado Open Lands, Ben Lenth - Colorado Open Lands

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:36 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted, except item 9. Election of OSAC officers was rescinded because OSAC officers were re-elected in April.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report:

- The Recpath improvements will be delayed at the Swan Mountain/Highway 9 intersection. The initial goal was to have the contractor, Columbine Hills complete this project by Memorial Day, and complete the Summit Cove project on a more extended timeline. However, both projects have been delayed due to the Fall due to the amount of snowfall in May.
- CDOT appears to have fully funded the underpass between the Summit County Commons and the Frisco Adventure Park even though Open Space staff's GOCO grant to fund the project was unsuccessful.
- Laura Rossetter asked about the successful rezoning of acquired open space to the Open Space Zone district, and applauded Katherine King for her work on that effort. She asked if OS should rezone more property more often. Jim Curnutte responded that annually is probably not necessary, but rezoning to the Open Space zone district could, and probably should, happen more often.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda: Anne Murphy from the Town of Breckenridge provided an update on summer Recpath closures. TOB is installing fiber internet, which likely requires the closure of the Recpath from the Rec Center to Valley Brook Road until June 20th.

Brian proposed changing the July OSAC meeting from July 3 to July 10, and OSAC concurred.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Forest Management: The County plans to use 1A wildfire funding to hire a full-time forester (1 FTE) at the Colorado State Forest Service for 3-5 years that would support Open Space staff to plan and carry out forest management activities, including overseeing contractors on wildfire mitigation projects like Mesa Cortina/Wilderness Open Space. Work this year should also include forest management and wildfire mitigation planning on the Peabody and Royal open space properties.

Mesa Cortina / Wilderness Management Plan Amendment 2: When the Bashore property was added to the Mesa Cortina / Wilderness Open Space, the management plan was updated with an amendment 1.

Now OS staff are proposing a second amendment to the management plan to allow for mechanized, i.e. mountain bike, use on the open space below, or to the east of Buffalo Drive to support the Cortina Connect Trail construction that is about to begin. RMYC is under contract for four weeks to begin constructing this trail that will connect the Town of Silverthorne to the Mesa Cortina / Wilderdest Open Space and the Salt Lick trail system. This is also a critical connection in the future community goal of creating a non-motorized connection between Frisco and Silverthorne. All stakeholders, including Town of Silverthorne staff, Silverthorne SPORT Committee, CDLT, CPOA, and the BMMD support mountain biking east of (below) Buffalo Drive.

Jeff Leigh motioned to support the amendment 2 to the management to allow mountain bike use east of Buffalo Drive, Turk seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Laura Rossetter recommended Open Space staff might build a chicane between the mechanized and non-mechanized trail sections.

Swan River Restoration Project: 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 being used strictly to fund the restoration work. Schofield has requested the county for a final grading plan for their efforts. Environmental Resource Consultants (ERC) has given the county a proposal for 30% design tasks, including: materials requirements, a stock piling plan, a grading plan, an alternatives analysis for the road crossing of the Swan River, field work, and a permitting overview. A cost estimate for these tasks is \$57,000, which will come from the gravel sale royalties. After the 30% design is complete, TOB and the county will have a conceptual plan to get through permitting, and then the county would likely publish another RFP for a Design/build contract.

Discussion of proposed restructuring of Continental Divide Land Trust: Kim Dufty, Board President of CDLT presented to OSAC and introduced the Colorado Open Lands (COL) Staff in attendance, Executive Director, Tony Caligiuri based in Lakewood, and their Community Conservation Program Manager, Ben Lenth, who is based in Salida. Merger talks between the two groups were initiated in 2014, and picked up in 2019. Both organizations are doing due diligence, but Colorado Open Lands has a model for merging with smaller, regional land trusts where mission and geography overlap. COL staff stated their commitment to being a great partner to the county, like CDLT is now, especially on GOCO grants. They stated that COL is committed to keeping staff and an office in the county for the immediate future. OSAC was generally supportive of the merger and asked that CDLT and COL keep it informed as the merger process moves forward.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

Updates on E-Bikes: The BOCC approved an update to the Recpath Rules and Regulations to allow Class 1 e-bikes on the Recpath, but not class 2, 3 or unclassified e-bikes. The county publicized the message of the rule change through several media channels and is working on a sign plan. At this point, Frisco and Breckenridge have followed suit, so the Recpath largely has one set of rules governing it between the county, towns, and USFS. There is no political will or desire to allow e-mountain bikes on single track non-motorized trails, with sufficient miles of motorized routes like forest service roads and ATV trails that e-bikes can use. OSAC suggested it may be time to step up enforcement and education on these issues.

2019 Recpath Improvements Projects: Brian and Paul Semmer explained that the Fremont Pass Recpath construction project has been delayed a year. Avalanche activity adjacent to Highway 91 destroyed numerous power poles that Xcel will need to replace and put underground to power Copper Mountain before the winter season. Xcel needs until at least fall of 2019 to do that, meaning that Recpath construction will not begin until the Spring of 2020.

Ten-mile Recpath Opening: Summit County received 9 bids for the Tenmile Recpath Avalanche debris removal project, and RPM Construction, out of Eagle County, was the low bidder meeting RFP criteria at approximately \$87,000. Town of Frisco will contribute funds for 20% of the project costs, and the USFS has agreed to contribute \$40,000. Letters to our Colorado Congressmen and CDOT have yet to garner

further funding because the natural disaster was not identified as a state emergency. The county requested the contractor to finish the job in 15 days, but allowed up to 25. The county is still waiting for the all clear from Colorado Avalanche Information Center to begin work as wet slides avalanches could still be a serious safety issue. In total, 23 chutes slid and there is over one mile of debris on this 6 mile stretch. Brian identified the event as “character changing,” due to the amount of debris adjacent to the path, and it may be an annual maintenance issue for the foreseeable future.

Hoosier Pass Planning: CDOT has started the public comment portion of the Highway 9 Access Control Plan from Breckenridge to Hoosier Pass. As part of this effort, the consultants on the project are creating a 15% design scenario for Recpath from Breckenridge to Blue River and then to Hoosier Pass. The plan includes several different Recpath cross sections; sidewalk, side paths, and grade separated paths through Blue River, and then on-road shoulder bike lanes climbing Hoosier Pass. No further design work or construction has been funded, but this plan is the next step from the county’s master planning process that took place in 2013.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:

Bob Gregory made a motion to enter into Executive Session, which Todd Rankin seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. Jeff Leigh made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Bruce Fitch seconded. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director