

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

September 4, 2019

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Hunt, Todd Rankin, Laura Rossetter, John Uban, Terry Craig, Bob Gregory

BOCC MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Davidson, Elisabeth Lawrence, Karn Stiegelmeier

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Fitch, John Taylor, Jeff Leigh, Turk Montepare, Art Hardin

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Jim Curnutte, Bentley Henderson, Jeff Huntley, Scott Vargo

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Paul Semmer - USFS, Pete Swenson - Town of Frisco, Anne Murphy - Town of Breckenridge, Kim Dufty - CDLT

Call to Order: Todd Rankin called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:40 p.m.

Discussion of 2010 Mill Levy Fund Renewal: Thomas Davidson led a discussion about the Board's decision to put a perpetual mill levy renewal on the ballot this year, at the existing rate of funding. The Commissioners said that they carefully evaluated the needs of the acquisition program (with the assistance of Turk Montepare) and other mechanisms for being able to fund large purchases, should they become available. All present discussed the ever-growing needs for stewardship and maintenance, due to population growth and demand on open space properties and trails. Initial polling show that the question is likely to be received favorably by voters. The ballot measure will also renew funding for the initiatives covered in the current 2010 fund - affordable housing, wildfire prevention, energy efficiency in public buildings, and the general fund. The wording of the ballot question gives the BOCC flexibility in how the monies are distributed amongst those issues, with the exception of the 25% that goes to the general fund.

OSAC then discussed what they could do to support the measure under Fair Campaign Laws. They agreed to draft a resolution in support of the measure, and to meet as a subcommittee to do things like draft other letters of support, create and put up yard signs, and talk with friends and constituents.

Discussion of other Open Space and Trail Activities: Brian Lorch mentioned that

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report:

- Brian Lorch provided additional detail on the status of the Swan River Restoration Project in response to questions by the OSAC.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda: Jewel Anderson noted that the Town of Silverthorne is extremely happy with the new Mesa Cortina trail construction. Pete Swenson provided an update on the Peninsula Recreation Area (PRA) trails - they should be moving into the National Forest area of trails next week. So far, this season the Town of Frisco has constructed approximately 1.5 miles of new trail.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Frisco/Salt Lick Connection: Brian Lorch introduced efforts to create a new natural surface trail connection between Frisco and the Salt Lick trails system. This future trail would create a single track connection between Silverthorne and Frisco via the existing Salt Lick trail system and the new trail connecting the Town of Silverthorne to the Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space that is currently under construction. The Frisco / Salt Lick Connection alignment is currently under development, but will overlap with CDOT ROW. Staff and CDLT are also reviewing options to utilize a small portion of the existing conservation easement on the Giberson PUD. CDOT ROW has been initially receptive and supportive of the concept. Initial conversations with the Gibersons have indicated support as well. NEPA will apply to this project, but the initial sentiment of the USFS is that it should be relatively uncomplicated to complete the analysis. Staff anticipate initiating the NEPA proposal process with the USFS this year and the total review process will likely take a couple of years. Paul Semmer noted it will be important to explore trail alternatives now in support of the future NEPA review. The current alignment concept is down low on the hillside, closer to I-70, which is generally preferable to the USFS, as it avoids fragmenting better habitat higher up / further from the highway. The USFS is backlogged on their own trail NEPA work, which may delay implementation.

Forest Management: Open Space staff are implimenting forest management activities, with assistance from Colorado State Forest Service overseeing contractors a wildfire mitigation project at Mesa Cortina/Wilderndest Open Space. The trail from Town of Silverthorne to the Mesa Cortina / Wilderndest Open Space will be temporarily closed soon-after construction to complete this mitigation work.

Shores at Highlands Proposal: The Shores at Highlands HOA President approached staff with a request to remove the large gravel berm from behind his house. The berm was left in place at the direction of the BOCC and Breckenridge Heritage Alliance as a historic dredge mining artifact and interpretive site, as well as to provide a physical buffer between the Fourmile Bridge open space and adjacent Shores at Highlands development. At the time, there was also consensus from the homeowners regarding separation between the Open Space and homes. Turk Montepare noted that removing the berm is a precedent OST and the County do not want to get involved with. There was universal agreement amongst the OSAC that they are not interested in seeing the berm removed.

Breckenridge Trails: The Town of Breckenridge is currently making enhancements to the Side Door trail with the installation of features to create a downhill trail. The County is requesting indemnification against liability on this trail and the Town plans to sign the trail as an "Expert" trail. The Town is taking the lead in constructing the Red Pig Trail, with a goal of completing the work as soon as possible. The new trail will connect the Wellington and Barney Ford trails.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

None.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:

Turk Montepare made a motion to enter into Executive Session, which John Uban seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. John Uban made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Laura Rosetter seconded. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director