

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

February 5, 2014

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Leigh, Art Girten, Laura Rossetter, Lynn Amstutz, Russ Camp, Howard Brown, Todd Rankin, Bruce Fitch, Turk Montepare

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Craig

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Leigh Girvin - CDLT; Paul Semmer - USFS

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

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The January 8, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Public Comments on Items Not Included in the Agenda: Leigh Girvin of CDLT informed OSAC of a recently completed new conservation easement. CDLT has been working with the Hill family for 14 years to protect their property in the Lower Blue, at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Blue River. The 40 acre easement protects the riverfront portion of the property and a native spring, while reserving one homesite away from the river.

Leigh also invited everyone to attend their upcoming event at the Silverthorne Pavilion. Peter McBride will give a presentation on the Colorado River “Soil Conservation Feb. 20th at 6:30 pm. The Friends of the Lower Blue and the Blue River Watershed Group are partners in the event.

Lastly, Leigh indicated they are in a “p h on the Iron Springs project, anticipating the release of the EA shortly. Paul Semmer added that the USFS is a cooperating agency with CDOT on the EA, meaning CDOT gave USFS staff documents for review and comment. The USFS anticipates getting their comments to CDOT by the end of the week, which CDOT will address in the EA release. The EA will go out for public comment in the spring. r n

Election of OSAC Officers: Lynn Amstutz made a motion that the current OSAC officers (Turk Montepare and Art Girten) remain as Chairman and Co-Chairman, respectively. Russ Camp seconded the motion, and OSAC unanimously approved it.

Review of OSAC Applications: Staff received one application for the OSAC Snake River Basin vacancy. OSAC discussed that the candidate, John Uban, had some great background skills but regretted that he h been ind the County longer. However, they felt he would familiarize himself with local issues and geography quickly and unanimously recommended he be appointed to the Council.

Brian Lorch informed OSAC that the April meeting would be a joint meeting with the BOCC, and asked OSAC to send him any items they would like to see on the agenda.

Update on Open Space Management Activities: Brian Lorch's only addition to the Summary Report was informing the OSAC that County staff will be meeting with Town of Blue River staff tomorrow to discuss Spruce Valley Ranch parking issues, and will let OSAC know of the outcome. s

Howard Brown brought up concerns over the upcoming tree cutting projects on Ophir Mountain, particularly in the area surrounding the Peaks Trail. He feels there are very few dead trees there, and even if there were more, the product that typically results from a clear cut is not an overall improvement (i.e. even-aged, over-crowded lodgepole prone to a future beetle epidemic; no definitive fuels reduction, ruining of trails and recreation experience). He also feels the cuts should be restricted to the vicinity of development. Art Girten commented that he thinks the Peak 7 clear cuts, while disturbing when they were first done in the late 80s have regrown nicely with some of the healthiest trees in the County. Paul Semmer commented that the USFS is always trying to strike a balance between recreation and protecting natural resource values; that it is important to look at the effect on the entire landscape and not just the individual cuts; and that available science supports this methodology. Lastly, Turk responded that the BOCC is generally supportive of wildfire mitigation measures and that if a wildfire did occur we would not want to have to explain to the public why we did not do more. Turk added that he does not think it is appropriate for OSAC as a whole to weigh in on this issue, but that individual members should feel free to comment. t

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: Russ Camp moved to go into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Bruce Fitch seconded the motion. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:22 pm. Mr. Fitch moved to come out of Executive Session and Jeff Leigh seconded the motion. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 7:35pm.

Other Business/Announcements: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director