

**SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

September 3, 2014

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Leigh, Laura Rossetter, Lynn Amstutz, Howard Brown, Bruce Fitch, Turk Montepare, Terry Craig, John Uban, Art Girten

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Russ Camp, Todd Rankin

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Katherine King, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Leigh Girvin – CDLT; Scott Reid – Town of Breckenridge; Paul Semmer – USFS

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:40 p.m. Brian mentioned that Russ and Art have resigned from the committee; Russ was appointed to the Silverthorne Town Council, and Art is moving to Grand Junction.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted, with the addition of discussion of OSAC membership.

Approval of Minutes: The July 9, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

OSAC Membership: OSAC terms typically are filled in January, but the vice chair needs to be filled before then. OSAC unanimously recommended that Lynn Amstutz fill the position.

Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted. Laura Rossetter mentioned the Laurium Claims, and was hopeful discussion would continue on trailhead access and parking there. She also asked that OSAC discuss the cabins on the Candler Lode and the Lot 5 Buffalo Valley trail alignment.

OSAC asked if the new Montezuma Bridge is wider than the old one. Staff commented that it is wider than road bed, but was already ordered and had to stay within the existing disturbance corridor, so could not be changed much.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Public Comments on Items Not Included in the Agenda: Leigh Girvin commented that CDLT is very enthused about the new Turk's Trail Extension through Cobb and Ebert, and will be conducting a tour there Sunday, Sept. 14 at 10:30 a.m. CDLT has also reviewed the EA for the Iron Springs project, and attended the USFS public hearing. The comment period closes August 8, but CDLT does generally support the new alignment through Iron Springs as better for environment and the community. They are currently in a "wait and see" mode, but most of the parties involved seem confident the project will happen. Turk asked if there was an option to bring the road down to the Dickey Day Use Area from the light, since the new connection will add 0.4 miles to access the lake in each direction. Staff explained that any new trail alignment would need USFS and Town of Frisco approval. Leigh Girvin commented that a new trail would create additional impact and noise, in an area considered to be a "net conservation gain" in the project; i.e. the newly protected corridor next to the reservoir. Brian Lorch mentioned that the natural surface trail is not included in the mitigation, as County staff pushed strongly for Recpath construction instead. He also explained that the old Recpath prism from the water treatment plant still exists, and will be re-created as a Recpath detour while the highway is being built. In general, Leigh commented that the Dickey Access has been thoroughly

examined with many options discussed, and the agencies consider the best option to be trail access from the light (top of the tubing hill).

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Jason Lederer provided an overview of ongoing Recpath projects. Staff is closing out the Tenmile Recpath project paperwork. With a planning contractor hired by Climax, staff has also been working to identify a Recpath alignment up through Climax to Fremont Pass. This potential alignment was completed last week, and staff will be working on a MOU with Climax to collaborate on the construction of the path. Staff also looked at a possible lower elevation alignment through Copper last week with USFS personnel.

Approximately 3000-4000 ft of Recpath along Highway 9 in front of DNR Kennels was recently repaved by the same contractor doing the Highway 9 repaving.

The Recpath mile markers will be going in soon, placed every ½ mile throughout the system, including in the Towns. Kiosks and directional signage are anticipated to be installed next spring, and will show the mile markers and different colored routes. This work was partially funded by a grant from Summit Biking, Inc.

Brian Lorch provided an update on natural surface trail projects. Staff and volunteers from the Town, County and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado completed the Turks Trail Extension - from the end of the existing Turks Trail to Sallie Barber Road - about a month ago. Various sections of the Galena Ditch and ZL Trails have been completed with help from RMYC, TOB trail crew, Friends of Breckenridge Trails, and Community Development staff, with the goal of both trails being completed before winter. Staff and RMYC completed a reroute of the steep section of Blue River Trail in late June. The Muggins Gulch Trail connection from the road to the CO Trail will be a Make a Difference Day project (Sept. 13). The Muggins Gulch developer would eventually like to have an alternate non-motorized trail route instead of the road, but thus far has not submitted an application to the USFS.

Staff is still working on the caretaker arrangement for Sts. John, which will largely entail oversight of the area. Seasonal staff will also be doing some clean-up and stabilization of the decks and bath house. The vault toilets will be pumped. Staff will continue to draft a management plan for the property and cabins this winter with input from OSAC and BOCC.

Staff has been working on clean up of the Candler Lode property (South Fork of the Swan). Seasonal staff has removed car batteries, propane tanks, scrap metal, tires, etc. and installed shutters on the cabin windows. A gate has been installed on the entrance road to keep motorized traffic from entering the site. Over the winter, staff will solicit additional input from OSAC on future goals for the property and the cabins. One of the cabins is in decent shape (though not historic) and the others are more historic but more dilapidated. OSAC inquired about the possibility to access Great Flume from the property, to which staff responded that there is an existing trail prism, but it is quite steep and would need a number of switchbacks to gain sustainable elevation to reach the Great Flume.

Closing on the Laurium Claims is scheduled on or before Sept. 15th. At that time, staff will work on install a gate and buck and rail fencing to exclude motorized use on the property. For this winter, staff from both the Town and County are planning on taking necessary actions to allow for parking along CR528 as an alternate access to Baldy. The cabin that is largely intact will be secured for the winter, and “keep out” signs will be installed on the structure that is badly leaning. Over the winter, staff will solicit additional input from OSAC on future management of the property, including parking, trails, recreational uses, and cabin maintenance.

Paul Semmer mentioned that we should look into the status of the route leaving CR528 in the TMP, and that the Town of Breckenridge, Summit County and USFS should work together to discuss overall capacity of this area and trailhead size.

Lot 5 Buffalo Valley at Wilderrest will be closing at the end of September. The lot contains a trail that connects Fawn Ct to Ryan Gulch Rd, which can hopefully be incorporated as part of a long-term goal to connect Silverthorne up to Mesa Cortina. OSAC mentioned that the Town of Silverthorne has been asking for public input on trail development in and around Silverthorne. They are currently working with a consultant to develop a new Parks, Open Space and Trails plan. Staff will look into this and provide input to the process if possible.

The BOCC recently approved a referred mill levy measure that if approved by voters, would provide funding for ambulance, the communications center, and approximately \$630,000 for water quality improvement. When the public was recently polled, water quality issues had strong public support. The money would be used for the Swan River Restoration project and others – thereby reducing the burden on the OST fund and helping to move forward more quickly with clean-up projects.

The BOCC has indicated they want to restart the process on winter recreation management on County roads, with the goal of implementation before winter. OSAC had a brief discussion on where snow bikes fall in the recreation spectrum, and whether or not they are a conflicting use with skiers and snowshoers. Paul Semmer commented that the USFS is in something of a quandary over how they should be managed.

As part of the Swan River Restoration project, staff has been working with the developer of Muggins Gulch to realign the entrance road to the property. Staff was hoping the installation of their utilities would coincide with the road realignment, so they would not have to be relocated in the future. After a series of delays and false starts, County staff is now anticipating waiting until next year on the road realignment. There is a very active group of organizations meeting monthly on the restoration project, and they will be working this winter to raise funds for the portion of the project on TOB/County land.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: Howard Brown moved to go into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Art Girten seconded the motion. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:30pm. Art Girten moved to come out of Executive Session and Bruce Fitch seconded the motion. OSAC came out of Executive Session at 7:45pm.

Other Business/Announcements: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director