

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes February 28, 2013

Meeting Summary

The Broomfield Nature Program provided a report on the 2012 programs and participation, and provided a summary of the programs planned for 2013. The committee was updated on a drainage improvement project of the Gay Reservoir drainage area. The committee also discussed Public Art on Open Space properties and the potential criteria for guidelines and the review process of future proposals. Staff provided updates on the Denver Metro Area Coyote Study and recent coyote conflicts with unattended small dogs in Broomfield.

Roll Call

OSTAC
Present:
Annette Cislo
Rob Bodine
George Zack
Bob Gaiser
William Olney

Absent:
James Haedrich
Mike Shelton
Jay McKeral
Patrick Tennyson

Others in attendance: Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director Kevin Standbridge, Deputy City and County Manager Denise Price, Broomfield Nature Program

Agenda Minutes

- 1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting, 6:05 p.m. by Rob Bodine
- 2. Interested Citizens

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3. Broomfield Nature Program Presentation and Discussion

Kristan introduced Denise Price of the Broomfield Nature Program and Denise provided a report of the Program's efforts in 2012. Denise noted that this is the 19th year that the Nature Program has provided classes in Broomfield and the program had 829 participants in 2012. The Nature Program has 24 classes/outings scheduled for 2013. Some of the planned classes include preschool programs,

moonlight nature walks, Friday kids classes, and special events for other local charitable groups like KARA and FRIENDS. The preschool programs are typically the most popular ones and are always well attended.

- >Kristan, as always, let us know if there are any supplies or other items that we can help with; the Broomfield Open Space Foundation may be interested in helping as well:
- >Denise, we have a lot of supplies we have collected over the years and we borrow items from the City as well, but we will keep that in mind;
- >Rob, is there a process for training new volunteers?
- >Denise, we normally do a training dinner at one of our homes; new volunteers will shadow and work with the group until they are comfortable leading trips;
- >Annette, in regards to the class fee of \$3, what does this fee cover and and is there any help for disadvantaged families who might not be able to pay the fee?
- >Denise, the real reason for the fees in the first place was to hold the spot and ensure attendance when people reserve spaces; in the past we had people sign up early and then not show up while we had people on the waiting list that couldn't attend because it was thought that the class was full; the \$3 fee helps with holding the spot and encouraging people to attend if they sign up, but we would never turn somebody away from a class over the inability to pay the fee;
- >Kevin, our Recreation staff also has the discretion to adjust fees for this purpose, for any of the City sponsored programs;
- >Annette, wants to note that we really appreciate the program and want to invite the Nature Program to join us for the Broomfield Trail Adventure again this year, on June 1st.
- OSTAC thanked Denise for the presentation and work with the Nature program volunteers.

4. Update on Gay Reservoir Drainage Maintenance Project

Pete described the upcoming Urban Drainage project slated for the Gay Reservoir drainage way, which will consist of clearing out dense vegetation and sediment that has clogged up the drainage over a number of years. Several hundred trees will be removed in the drainage way, but many of the larger trees that are further out of the drainage swale will be preserved. There will be some changes to the aesthetic look of the drainage way and staff held an open house to address any possible concerns from the neighborhood. There will also be some trail closures in the area during times of heavy tree removal, but the contractor will make every effort to keep the trails open during times that kids may be trying to get back and forth to school. The duration of the work should be about four weeks and is slated to take place this spring.

- >Annette-Is this open space?
- >Pete-yes, some of this land was dedicated before the specific term open space was used in dedications, but it was intended to be open space and has been classified and managed that way.
- >Annette, are all drainage ways open space?
- >Kristan, no, drainage ways are often part of parks or other open lands and are not necessarily designated as open space;

- >George, is there a fence on the north side of this drainage?
- >Pete, no:
- >Rob, will this increase water flow?
- <Kevin, yes, it will open up the channel so that water can pass through
- <Pete, there will not be much more volume of water overall, but the water will flow through instead of backing up during wet periods and forming pools of stagnant water:
- >Rob, will there be signage?
- <Pete, yes, there will be signage at the entry points to this area so people are aware of the project.
- 5. Public Art Update and Discussion of Potential Guidelines for Artwork on Open Space

Kevin reviewed the previous discussions among both OSTAC and the Public Art Committee (PAC) concerning public art projects on open space and also noted the City Council's view that art should be an allowable use on open space. Kevin also noted that the Public Art Committee did acknowledge OSTAC's requested preference that large expanses of open space or keystone open space properties not have improvements like public art. The PAC would like to retain the ultimate decision in the selection of the art, but understands the need to coordinate with OSTAC and others on the locations.

- >George, not opposed to art in Open Space, but his reaction to something like the arch at the Ridgeview Open Space was that the artwork did not seem appropriate for this location; it is hard to find a large art piece that is appropriate for that location due to the vastness and open landscape along the ridgeline; also the 'gateway' concept is in conflict with the wide open spaces at Ridgeview and keeping these vistas open; understands that City Council wants to bring people to enjoy open space.

 >Kevin, left the PAC meeting with the impression that the gateway piece at
- >Kevin, left the PAC meeting with the impression that the gateway piece at Ridgeway was no longer being pursued, as they are looking at some other areas where people gather; that was my impression from their discussion;
- >George, would be more in favor of locations for artwork that are used more actively by the public, like trailheads or other public spots; mentions the Pearl Street Mall and the concept of using art that is for play and tactile or an artwork that enhances the open space.
- >Rob, the history of the artwork in The Field is relevant to this discussion, in that the artwork seems to be an example of blending the art into the landscape and surroundings, natural stone, carvings of nature themes related to the site etc. That's the type of thing we can look to for guidance. The history of what we have already, like The Field, shows that we can do this and how it might work;
- >George, the 'Planets' near Miramonte and Kohl, the Dan Probert project, could be an example of something that works for the setting; also, we seem to be moving towards a smaller piece, closer to activity areas; hopes to find common ground with PAC.
- >Kevin, both sides have shown consideration for the other side, we will just have to talk our way through this;
 - > OSTAC generally agreed it would be helpful to have Kevin facilitate the joint meeting.

>Rob, asked Councilmember Gaiser to share any additional comments from City Council:

>Councilmember Gaiser noted the support Council has for art in open space. >Annette, looked at a few on of the artists' pieces online -- Robert Tully, Lynn Hull - and I appreciated the perspective of Hull and her viewpoint on art in natural areas, pieces that may be used by wildlife as well as people possibly, something natural and subtle, not something that jumps out at you or is obtrusive on the landscape; likes the idea of environmental artwork because this type of approach of having the artist focus on the particular site by really understanding the uniqueness of the site; the avoidance of plop art on open space is important.

>Kristan, staff will work on finding a meeting time that can work for both groups and Councilmember Gaiser.

6. Denver Metro Area Coyote Study: Update on GPS Collar Information and Coyote Activity in the Country Vista Neighborhood

Pete discussed the ongoing Denver Metro Area Coyote Study and presented maps of the GPS tracking data that has been downloaded from the collars so far. Pete noted that the coyotes ranges vary greatly between the individuals and that two of the four collared coyotes are now deceased. One coyote died from mange and the other was struck by a car and killed. Both collars have been recovered and staff is working with the researchers to try to reuse to collars on two additional coyotes in Broomfield this spring or summer.

Pete also informed that committee of recent coyote attacks on unattended small pets in the general area of the Country Vista neighborhood. Pete showed the committee a map of coyote conflicts in 2013, and all coyote conflicts since Broomfield began tracking this information in 2009. Pete and Kristan discussed the variety of methods that staff has been utilizing to inform and educate the community about this problem, and prevent future conflicts. These methods include increased signage, direct mailings, newspapers ads, B-in-the-Loop postings, using coyote crew volunteers in the neighborhoods, high-intensity hazing, website updates, and distributing information to nearby schools. Staff will also continue to track and map all coyote conflicts that involve an attack on a pet or a human, or involve a threatening situation for a human and this map will be on the Open Space and Trails web site under the coyote section.

7. Updates:

- -Draft Goals for 2013-Kristan passed out draft goals and asked members to get back to her with any additional comments.
- -Other Power Driven Mobility Device Policy-Pete reviewed the final policy with OSTAC that was approved by City Council and noted that he is working on a map associated with the policy that will be put up on the Open Space and Trails web site.
- -Broomfield Garden Fair March 2, 2013
- -Kid's Fishing Derby May 4 th at Metzger Farm
- -March 20th 2013 Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

-A Future Joint meeting with OSTAC and the Public Art Committee will be scheduled in late spring/early summer.

>Bill Olney asked about the OPDMD policy and some areas that are not easily accessible for wheelchairs. Bill noted that he will inform the staff of these areas.

8. Review and Approval of the January 24, 2013 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

A quorum was no longer present. OSTAC will vote to approve the January minutes at its March meeting.

- 9. Other Topics as Desired:
- -Bob, would like to see an application for the trails that can be used on phones
- -Kristan, we are working on an application like this with the IT staff and should have something to show the committee in an upcoming meeting this spring or summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on March 20, 2013.