



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes
March 31, 2016

Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the latest phase of the Denver Area Coyote Behavior Study and updates on the Comprehensive Plan, the 2016 Open Space Goals and Objectives, and upcoming plans for 2017 CIP projects. The committee also reviewed the final location of the new Tom Frost trailhead, Palisade Park Amendment 5, a grant for the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail connection, and plans for the 2016 Broomfield Trail Adventure and the Broomfield 100 challenge.

Roll Call

Present:

Tim Griffin, Chair
Patrick Tennyson
Terra Lenihan
Ray Churgovich
Annette Cislo
Councilmember Liz Law-Evans
Councilmember Mike Shelton

Absent:

Rob Bodine

Visitors:

Doug Grumann

Other staff and consultants in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director
Pete Dunlaevy, Senior Open Space and Trails Coordinator
Holly D'Oench, Open Space and Trails Assistant

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Tim Griffin, 6:05 p.m.
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens
Doug Gruman, recently appointed to OSTAC and will be joining the committee officially in April; a frequent trail-and open space user.
3. Welcome to Holly D'Oench, Open Space and Trails Assistant
Holly provided a brief summary of her background and interests and the committee welcomed her to Broomfield.
4. Update on the Denver Urban Coyote Study
Pete described the upcoming phase of the Denver Area Coyote Behavior Study. Broomfield has been participating in this research since 2012. Broomfield will be working

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with researchers from the National Wildlife Research Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to trap and collar coyotes in Broomfield, beginning in April. The purpose of the research is to learn more about coyote behavior, territories, diet, and genetics. The researchers are hoping to collar five coyotes this spring at several different Broomfield open space properties. Trapping and collaring will also be taking place in other municipalities that have been participating in the study, including Jefferson County, City of Lakewood, and City of Denver. This research is also coordinated with, and supported by, Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

>Tim, will the coyotes be sedated?

>Pete, not during the trapping process, and they will be trapped, handled and released fairly quickly; the researchers also want to get a behavioral assessment of the coyotes, including their initial reaction to the researchers; they will receive a tranquilizer during the handling process, though, to help with the collection of measurements (weight, fur, temperature, blood sample, etc.);

>Mike, are the traps baited?

>Pete, yes, but just with an odor or paste that they can smell on the ground;

>Mike, are the traps near the dens?

>Pete, they will be in the areas of the dens, but not right up against den sites;

>Ray, is there research being done with chip technology?

>Pete, not that I am aware of; the collars have GPS and VHF capabilities;

>Liz, would suggest publishing the data and showing what routes the coyotes use, and how close they are coming to residences;

>Pete, we have made the mapping available generally, but do have some concerns about showing people exactly where dens are located on open space, for fear that they will approach the dens;

>Kristan, we could bring some of these maps to the next meeting for the committee;

>Doug, will there be results of the hazing part of the study?

>Pete, a lot of that work and research is still ongoing, but we expect that the results will be part of the final research documents;

>Terra, is the coyote crew doing more public outreach and education, and are we encouraging people to haze coyotes?

>Pete, we do encourage hazing but also only ask people to do what they are comfortable with; our staff performs more aggressive hazing when needed; we are trying to get the education out to the public continuously at events and through the media;

>Kristan, the Coyote Crew and Wildlife Masters help at public events to provide coyote information that includes hazing.

5. Update on the Comprehensive Plan

Kristan described the background on the Comprehensive Plan update, and Patrick and Tim provided a status report for the committee. Liz Law-Evans also described the process of the plan updates with the City Council, and noted that the consultants will be working to fine-tune some of the concepts that have been developed so far, before the Council will begin their final review. In the next few months, there will be an opportunity for public comment. Members discussed the 40% open lands goal, level of service goal for open lands, multi-family development in the northeast area of Broomfield, and the

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interconnections among many of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan such as economics and transportation.

6. 2016 Goals and Objectives/2015 Accomplishments

Kristan provided an overview of the 2015 accomplishments for Open Space and Trails and discussed some of the key goals and projects planned for 2016. In particular, Kristan noted the planned pedestrian connection from Hoyt Street to Industrial Lane, passing over the BNSF railroad tracks. Kristan provided an update on the status of this project, which is moving forward in design, but is still addressing land acquisition and final approval from the railroad. The committee reviewed designs and drawings of the proposed connection and future roundabout at Industrial Lane. Mike Shelton and Liz Law-Evans discussed the background concerning the potential vehicular overpass in this area as well. Kristan noted that while the vehicular connection is still planned here, it will likely be a ways out into the future.

7. 2017 Proposed CIP Projects

Kristan also provided updates on other planned CIP projects, including the Mid-Cities trail connection needed behind Walmart in the Flatirons/Interlocken area and the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail connection to the Skyestone neighborhood. Kristan also updated the committee on the final plans for the new Tom Frost trailhead. Members agreed that the port-o-let door be positioned to face north or south so that it would not face the open space or the businesses to the east. Kristan recommended the door face south so that it does not open to the old Westlake School. Members agreed the sanolet could be on either side of the west end of the parking lot.

8. Update on Palisade Park Amendment 5 and Request for OSTAC Reviewers

Kristan provided an overview of the Palisade Park development, which is slated to go before City Council in late April. Terra and Ray volunteered to serve as a reviewer and OSTAC representative on this project. Liz encouraged OSTAC members to attend City Council meetings where these types of projects are reviewed to share their thoughts and preferences directly.

9. Update on Planning of the 2016 Broomfield Trail Adventure and Broomfield 100

Pete provided an update on the 2016 Broomfield Trail Adventure on June 4 and the Broomfield 100 challenge. The Broomfield Trail Adventure will be hosted at East Park in Interlocken, and that will also be the official kick-off of the Broomfield 100. The main walking loop will go from East Park to Central Park and back along the community ditch. The bike loop will follow the US-36 Bikeway. Concerns were expressed about signage along the bikeway during the event and the proximity of the walking trail to the irrigation ditch, which will likely be running at the time of the event. There was also a suggestion to contact the group responsible for the disc golf at East Park and invite them to the event for a possible information table or a demonstration.

The Broomfield 100 challenge will begin at the Trail Adventure and continue throughout the summer, concluding on September 17, at Broomfield Days. Broomfield staff is currently creating a new 'passport' for 2016, with some new trails loops and features. The passport will have a separate feature this year for children and families, which will be more of a scavenger hunt theme that would not require transport to all of the different trail loops around Broomfield.

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10. Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail Status Report

Kristan discussed a potential federal grant to fund the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail connection from Indiana St., west and north through Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (Rocky Flats), to Boulder County/City of Boulder trails north of State Highway 128. She explained that the vision for this trail is to connect the Rocky Mtn. Arsenal Refuge (Arsenal), Two Ponds National Refuge, Rocky Flats, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Other governments that have been asked by Jeffco, the grant applicant, to participate as partners include Boulder, Boulder County, Westminster, Arvada, and Superior. The approximate grant match for Broomfield is \$95,600 plus a 10% allowance for cost increases given the project would be built several years from now. The Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail is finished from the Arsenal to Westminster. The link from Westminster and Arvada to Broomfield on the south side of Great Western Open Space is under construction and nearly finished. Kristan described the potential future trail connections and also some opposition to the trail based on concerns about public access to Rocky Flats. Kristan asked the committee to vote on whether they recommend support for Broomfield being a grant partner.

Annette motioned to proceed with applying for the grant and pursuing the trail connection; Ray seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

11. Thank you to Annette Cislo for her Service to OSTAC

Kristan presented Annette with a framed photo and a thank you for all of her years of service to OSTAC and the Broomfield community. OSTAC members and staff thanked Annette individually and paid tribute to her service.

12. Review and Approve Minutes from the January 28, 2016 OSTAC meeting

Patrick moved for approval; Terra seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

13. OSTAC Updates

- Broomfield Open Space Foundation Speaker Series
- Garden Fair Recap, March 5^h, 2016 (175 attendees)
- Pictures of Lowell Underpass at Metzger Farm
- US-36 Bikeway Signage
- Boards and Commissions Dinner, April 27, 2016
- Kids' Fishing Derby, Metzger Pond, May 7, 2016 (12080 Lowell Boulevard)

14. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

Tim reminded the committee of the birding walk at Metzger Farm on April 30.

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