



## Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

**Minutes**  
October 27, 2016

### Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed and discussed the potential paths for the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail and the priority list of parcels for open space acquisition.

### Roll Call

Present:

Doug Grumann  
Ray Churgovich  
Todd Cohen  
Joel Hendrickson  
Terra Lenihan  
Patrick Tennyson  
Councilmember Liz Law-Evans

Absent,

Tim Griffin, Chair  
Councilmember Mike Shelton

Visitors:

Roxy Juul  
Thornton Paxton

Other staff and consultants in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director  
Clay Shuck Recreation Director of Recreation  
Ellen Cancino, Administrative Analyst  
Pete Dunlaevy, Senior Open Space and Trails Coordinator  
Holly D'Oench, Open Space and Trails Assistant

### Agenda Minutes

- 1. Call to Order by Ray Churgovich 6:04 p.m.**
- 2. Introduction of Interested Citizens**  
Roxy Juul and Thornton Paxton
- 3. Review and Comment on the DRAFT Rocky Mountain Greenway Feasibility Study (Broomfield to Boulder)**  
Kristan presented two maps of the Rocky Mountain Greenway (RMG) area that showed multiple trail alignment options. These maps are from the RMG Feasibility Study (Study).  
Kristan talked about the status of the Federal Lands Access Program Grant (Grant) for building a trail into the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). There have been numerous conditions from City Council related to the trail project, including having a cap on Broomfield's grant match amount; performing soil sampling on the trail alignment within the Refuge and which route the trail will take through the Refuge.

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Soil sampling procedures are being developed. Funding for the soil sampling will come from the federal government or grant partners. Kristan explained that the Study identifies possible trail options for access to the Refuge. Two maps were discussed showing several ways to continue the RMG Trail through the Refuge. Kristan described preferred access Point 'F' and gave reasons as to why this location is preferred that included: 1) there are lower levels of residual contamination within the Refuge according to past testing results at Point F; 2) crossing Walnut Creek is avoided near Broomfield and Department of Energy testing facilities; 3) Point F provides connectivity to Broomfield's nearby neighborhoods; 4) the underpass at Point F accommodates the future Jefferson Parkway; 5) this location is noted in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge; and 6) the access at Point F is identified in the Broomfield Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan.

>Doug, isn't the Federal government going to build the trails inside the refuge? Are they waiting for us to decide?

>Kristan, Yes-the trails within the Refuge will be constructed by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). However, the USFWS wants to hear citizens' comments and the Grant Partners' recommendations on the access points into the Refuge. Also, the Study is being conducted by Central Federal Lands-Federal Highways Department and Broomfield is a participant in this Study. Comments will be provided to Federal Lands from Broomfield to Federal Highways. The USFWS has also indicated its willingness to hear what the citizens and elected officials think about the RMG alignment options and will try to accommodate these concerns/comments within reason. The FLAP grant had to assume an option for the trail but it's not necessarily the final alignment.

>Terra, when would soil sampling happen?

>Kristan, Once an alignment is selected and once City Council has signed off on the soil sampling protocol, the testing would be conducted. A contractor would do sampling along the trail alignment within the Refuge.

>Terra, would that include air quality testing?

>Kristan, The sampling that the Grant Partners want to conduct is related to soil sampling. There is a commitment to meet all requirements like dust control. I don't believe the conditions from the City Council included air quality monitoring.

>Doug, It appears that Point F is close to State Highway 128.

>Kristan, Point F is below the house that exists on Indiana so it is down the hill from the intersection of Indiana and State Highway 128.

>Joel, Point F stays in Broomfield. I like Point F because it allows for future connectivity.

>Todd, I like the connectivity from Point F also. Will St. Francis trail develop?

>Kristan, The St. Francis Trail is in Superior, and it may, although this trail is on steep terrain. For the purpose of the RMG, that steepness might be difficult to navigate and may not accommodate a variety of users. We can suggest it to Superior in the future in that becomes the preferred alignment.

>Joel, What would winter maintenance look like?

>Kristan, The RMG is a crusher fines trail, and Broomfield does not plow this type of trail. However, we have found that the snow typically melts in a day or two.

>Doug, I don't like idea of 10 feet wide because the trails that the RMG is connecting to aren't 10 feet. I think 8 feet is wide enough.

>Kristan, The RMG trail standard is generally 10 feet but there are situations where this dimension is 8 feet or even less on some of the connecting trails where single track or two-track trails are involved.

>Doug, Is there any concern going by the shooting range?

>Kristan, We would put the RMG close to the west side of the Broomfield/Jefferson County boundary or, if possible, unincorporated Jefferson County.

>Doug, I support Point F also, but I have concerns about what happens once the RMG gets into Boulder. It connects to a single track. The High Plains trail alternative is not appropriate.

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>Ray, Is there any reason the RMG is not going around Great Western Reservoir and then cutting over to the west?

>Kristan, The Police shooting range and Public Works storage area are in that location. Eventually, Great Western Reservoir may be expanded to allow for more reuse water storage.

>Ray, Are there plans for a neighborhood here one day? (Just above Point F trail alignment along the north edge of Great Western Open Space)

>Kristan, Several development plans have been proposed north of the Point F alignment. However, none of the proposals have been approved. There is also some potential for land acquisition in this general area.

>Ray, I would rather see Point F instead of Point E, I think Point E will bring too much public outcry. F seems more appropriate.

>Ray, Are other municipalities looking at what we're proposing as an option?

>Kristan, Other local governments are looking at the Study, and the Grant partners are discussing alignments. Our Environmental Services staff in Public Works is familiar with site and knows a lot about its history and the cleanup of the Rocky Flats site. We are working closely with them and agree that Point F is a preferred access point.

>Todd, What is the case for option E?

>Kristan, It works well with the existing overlook, and you can go directly into the Refuge. This option is also less expensive than Point F.

>Todd, If sampling was done on the Refuge and the results were acceptable, would that change your staff's recommendation?

>Kristan, The environmental issues are important and also include avoiding the crossing at Walnut Creek as stated earlier. The trail connectivity, compliance with the CCP and OSPRT Master Plan, compatibility with the Jefferson Parkway, and trail connectivity are all important points that make Point F more acceptable.

>Terra, My main concern is the environmental issue. I like Point F more than Point E, I'll be interested to see what sampling says. From connectivity perspective, I think Point F is best.

>Liz, Will the FLAP program cover the D alignment since D is not going through Rocky Flats until the end?

>Kristan, The Grant covers the underpass and the trail connection to the Boulder trail. The trails within the Refuge are the responsibility of the USFWS.

>Liz, On the F alignment, once we get to the multipurpose building, will there be a connection to trail elsewhere?

>Kristan, The RMG will go to the underpass at D and into Boulder. The F alignment is proposed to connect to the multipurpose building as shown in the Study.

>Liz, How does Westminster feel about this given existing trail they built? It would be backtracking.

>Kristan, I have talked to Westminster staff to hear their perspective. There is discussion among all the Grant Partners, and there is not agreement at this time on the alignment.

>Liz, If we do recommend Point F, we should coordinate with other entities.

>Liz, For width--I like the 10-foot width, because the trail is going to go across multi-use areas, we should be able to get maintenance vehicles and emergency vehicles out there. My guess on City Council's reaction to OSTAC preferences is that OSTAC should make a proactive recommendation. Council will want to see reasoning and will be happy to have a thought-through suggestion.

>Patrick, I'm good with Point F, I like that the RMG goes through the Skyestone neighborhood. The RMG will provide access for the people there, and it is good that the developer can build some of the trail

>Todd, Are they going to build fencing to prevent people accessing places they shouldn't?

>Kristan, I don't know what Refuge staff is planning specifically but fencing may be necessary in certain locations.

>Terra, Will the RMG bypass Superior?

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>Kristan, At this time, Superior has decided to not participate in the Grant. Superior can choose to connect giving some of the options shown on the maps. I believe that the Superior Board of Trustees has expressed concern about any public access to the Refuge.

Patrick motions to recommend Point F alignment; Doug seconds per the reasons noted above that included: 1) there are lower levels of residual contamination within the allowable levels within the Refuge according to past testing results at Point F; 2) crossing Walnut Creek is avoided near Broomfield and Department of Energy testing facilities; 3) Point F provides connectivity to Broomfield's nearby neighborhoods; 4) the underpass at Point F accommodates the future Jefferson Parkway; 5) this location is noted in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge; and 6) the access at Point F is identified in the Broomfield Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan. It was also noted that the RMG should definitely connect to the multi-purpose building. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Discussion and Recommendation on Open Lands Priorities**

Kristan described how a list of priorities was created for property acquisition. It includes open lands and open space. Kristan took the previous list and focused on key values. Each site is ranked. After discussing the properties, Doug moved to approve the priority list; Terra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Review and Approval of the September 21, 2016 OSTAC Meeting Minutes**

Doug moved to approve, Terra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. OSTAC Updates**

- Birds of Prey, October 15, 2016, 1:30 p.m. at the Broomfield Community Center - 90 attendees
- Brewhaha! at Arista - 1,500 attendees
- Multi-Modal Study Underway
- Select two OSTAC volunteers for the McKay-Lambertson Public Art Project: Todd and Terra volunteered to represent OSTAC on this project.
- Coyote Research - collaring results
- Determine final OSTAC meeting date for 2016

#### **7. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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**Minutes Prepared by Holly D'Oench.**

**Approved by OSTAC on December 8, 2016.**