



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
February 24, 2011*

Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the planned 112th Avenue extension project and the OSTAC accomplishments for 2010 and goals for 2011. The committee also reviewed the Highway 287 underpass trail counter, potential design ideas for signage kiosks, a prairie dog management update, and a brief update on the 2011 Broomfield Trail Adventure.

Roll Call

Present:

Rob Bodine
Patrick Tennyson
James Haedrich
George Zack
Annette Cislo
William Olney

Absent:

Kevin Jacobs
Walt Spader
Dennis Thompson

Others in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Director of Open Space and Trails
Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Planner
Kevin Standbridge, Assistant City and County Manager

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting 6:05 pm.
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens and new OSTAC members and Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda by Interested Citizens:

Judy Enderle, on behalf of the Broomfield Open Space Foundation, greeted the committee and provided a brief introduction of the BOSF and their goals. There will be a fundraiser breakfast for the Foundation on March 12th at

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Applebee's. Judy invited the committee to the breakfast and encouraged them to invite friends, family, and neighbors. Judy also spoke about a "Backyard Habitat" program that is sponsored by the BOSF and Broomfield. The BOSF chairperson for this event is Ellie McKinley. This program will take place on Saturday, April 2nd at the Broomfield Community Center.

Chris Petrizzo, Lac Amora resident and Broomfield Wildlife Master

Joel Hollis, resident, He noted that he wants to stay involved open space and trails issues.

CJ McKeral, resident, and Broomfield Wildlife Master

Jaan Raamot, resident

Rob Cannan, trail user and advocate for trails

3. 112th Avenue Extension

Kevin provided background and an introduction to the 112th Avenue Extension project. The proposed alignment for the 112th bridge and road will need to pass through the Dry Creek Open Space that is located near US 36 and the 1STBANK Center. Construction would likely begin sometime in 2013.

The Open Space Charter amendment allows for this type of use on open space if the open space fund is reimbursed for the land needed for the road improvement.

There were prairie dogs on this site prior to the tularemia outbreak in the fall. If prairie dogs return to the site prior to construction, the prairie dogs will be relocated if space is available or brought to a wildlife recovery program according to Broomfield's Prairie Dog Policy.

>George-despite the tularemia outbreak on that site, will there be an environmental/wildlife review of the site prior to construction?

>Kevin, yes and if there are prairie dogs we will work through the steps in the Prairie Dog Policy;

>Annette-did you say that the existing Old Wadsworth bridge will go away once this project is built?

>Kevin-yes;

>Annette-are there bike parking/locked storage areas around the 1STBANK Center?

>Kevin-yes, the 1STBANK Center does have bike facilities and at the next meeting, we can follow up with the number of racks, etc. for you.

>Annette, on the east side of US-36 there is an area where people are parking to use the pedestrian overpass to get to the RTD facility, 1STBANK Center, and other areas in Arista;

>Kevin, we are aware of this and some of the garbage and debris is becoming a problem, we are not ticketing there at this time. (Note-since this meeting, Broomfield has placed recycled asphalt on the parking area, added bollards to protect a fire hydrant, erected signage in areas where parking is not allowed, and cleaned up the trash)

>George, in regards to the open space property, is it correct that there will be a reimbursement to the Open Space Fund for the use of the property for the bridge and road?

>Kevin, yes, when the time comes either the City or CDOT will reimburse the Open Space fund as needed for the right-of-way acreage.

>Rob Cannan (interested citizen)-is there a review period for the plans?

>Kevin-there is not a formal review process for the project like one might see with a federal project that would have a complete EIS; however, the City will be happy to answer any comments/questions but there will not be a formal comment period; the formal comment period has already taken place in this area as a part of the US-36 EIS.

>Kevin, the at-grade crossing of the railroad at 112th Avenue will remain intact, as it would be prohibitively expensive to change that.

4. Discussion of Draft Open Space and Trails Goals for 2011 and Review of 2010 Accomplishments

Kristan introduced the goals and accomplishments; and encouraged OSTAC to provide comments and suggestions.

>George, would like to have a meeting with Westminster due to the Metzger Farm, perhaps at the site in warmer weather; because of the Egg Farm project, it may be good to meet with Lafayette and/or Boulder County again;

>Annette, over the years we have never met with Boulder County, we should try to meet with them at some point;

>George, in regards to the Lake Link Trail potential connection to the Ruth Roberts area and the trail under 287, who is responsible for building that?

>Kristan-the trail project could be built jointly with Boulder County or a single governmental entity could build the trail; as a part of the upcoming Rock Creek Grasslands public meeting we can review the trail connections here and through the Pony Estates/Wildgrass area. This meeting date has not been set yet, but that would be a good public meeting to attend to discuss these connections;

>Rob- it has been a while since we met with Westminster, we should try to set something up with them again; perhaps we could meet with Adams County as well or send representatives to each others meeting;

>Kristan, to summarize, we will try to set up meetings with Boulder County and Westminster next year if possible;

- >Rob, interested in continuing to have an OSTAC task force to meet with CIP and determine the top priorities among the projects;
- >Kevin, several CIP trail projects are moving forward this year – Wildgrass trails, and if the State Trails grant is received, the connection by Legacy High School to the Zuni St. Underpass could also move forward;
- >Annette, what are the potential acquisitions in the northeast area for consideration?
- >Kristan-this is the area we reviewed on the OSTAC field trip to the north along I-25; there are several properties that we identified as possibilities;
- >Annette, what are the 'spot surveys'?
- >Kristan, we would like to solicit more feedback from the community about the open space program, and perhaps use the Foundation to help with short surveys of open space visitors for example;
- >Annette, in regards to the signage issues and emergency response system, we should work with responders to address this and make sure that the access points are known.
- >Kevin, we are doing this now, but we can certainly add this into our goals; we are now in the process of assigning addresses for trailhead and trail access points and putting this information on the trail signs;
- >Annette, in regards to supporting the Nature Program, are we just endorsing them, or are we doing specific things to support them?
- >Kristan, the Nature Program is supported by the Recreation staff as they take care of the registration for the Nature Program's classes/events, Open Space staff also provides materials such as the animal mounts, coordination with events, storage, and things like that; we could spell this out more specifically in the goals;
- >Annette, would like to see us involve social media with trail and open space issues; explore non-printed media, more videos or interactive media;
- >Annette-in regards to working with the BOSF, we could use the resources and creativity of this group for things like grant writing;
- >Kristan, we can ask the Foundation about their interest in something like grant writing workshops and then we could pursue opportunities for this with GOCO or other agencies; we can also forward grant applications to the BOSF when we get them;
- >CJ, asked about the Miller family property which is at the southeast corner of Sheridan Boulevard and 136th Avenue, how would this be acquired and/or used if it was acquired?
- >Kristan/Kevin, we do have a right of first refusal on this property, but this acquisition would likely become a park property, not open space;
- >George, in regards to Great Western Reservoir Open Space, when do you foresee any projects or improvements for this property?
- >Kristan, when the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge funding allows for the construction of trails, it will likely become a priority to complete the trail across the northern edge of Great Western; we do not have a timeline for that at the moment given the lack of funding for improvements at the Refuge;

>Rob, the construction of C-470 through there could greatly affect the alignment of any trail.

5. Review of US 287 Underpass Trail User Counts

Pete informed the committee about the CDOT sponsored trail-counter that has been installed at the Highway 287 underpass, on the west side. This counter provides data electronically and we are now receiving the first months of information. Pete reviewed some of the results of the data collection with the committee.

6. Signage and Kiosks

Kristan reviewed the concepts for open space kiosk signage and possible design options for the installation.

The kiosk signs could include features such as trail mileage maps, site characteristics, history, wildlife, trail regulations, and Broomfield Nature Program information.

>George, of the features on the signs, which would be static as opposed to things that could be updated?

>Kristan, the maps and site information would be static, but there would certainly be space for updates on events or postings about wildlife, and that type of thing;

>Annette, could it have information on both sides?

>Kristan, this is possible, there are many different designs;

>Rob, could this sign be more unique to Broomfield and less utilitarian?

>Annette, I agree, we should put some money into graphic design and make these have more character and look unique;

>Bill, how will you deal with homeowners that do not want obstruction of their views?

>Kristan, this is something we have to weigh and work-out; in most cases we have been able to resolve neighbors concerns; most of these sites are likely to be in larger open space properties, and not very close to homes;

>CJ, maps sometimes have graphics and contrasts that are very difficult for people who do not have perfect eyesight, would like that to be taken into account in the design;

>Rob, a large piece of plexiglass like this can deteriorate significantly and need to be replaced; there could be hinges too or more than one panel; do we have an idea of how many signs and locations we are looking at?

>Kristan, we will look at maintenance issues with the plexiglass; the numbers of kiosks will be phase in over time as the trail system develops and budget allows; the kiosks are proposed primarily for major trail entries and the larger open space properties.

7. Review Changes to the Prairie Dog Management Administrative Procedures in Response to EPA Regulations Regarding the Application of Aluminum Phosphide

Pete provided a general background for the committee on the new EPA regulations of aluminum phosphide and how they would affect the current Broomfield policies. Staff has prepared an update of administrative procedures to meet the new guidelines from the EPA.

>Annette, could we be more specific in the procedures about whether the regulations apply to private or public applicators? It is does not seem exactly clear who the guidelines apply to;

>Pete, yes, we can be more specific about this; the EPA guidelines apply to all applicators, but we have some policies already in Broomfield that have particular guidelines for signage or buffer zones;

>Annette, concerned about the signage -- what will these signs look like?

>Pete, the EPA has some guidelines for the signage and what needs to be posted, but we can show the committee the signs at the next meeting;

8. Update on the 10th Annual Broomfield Trail Adventure on June 4th at the Broomfield County Commons

Pete reviewed the plans for the 10th annual event with the committee and asked for feedback on ideas for the event.

>Rob, will this event be combined with the Children's Wellness Day again this year?

>Pete, No, this year the CWD will be scheduling their event later in the year, and they would like to hold the event in the same location each year, unlike Trails Day; we do want to coordinate with them and we hope to have them participate in the event.

>Jaan, will the event overlap with any of the local high school graduations on that day?

>Pete, I don't think so but we will check on this; we do not have much flexibility with the date because the "National Trail Day" is on the first Saturday in June each year, and we want to be part of that (Please note – none of the local high school graduations are scheduled for June 4th).

9. Review and Approve Minutes of the January 27th, 2011 OSTAC Meeting

Jim motions; Bill seconds. Minutes approved

10. Updates and Reminders

- Upcoming OSTAC Meetings: No meetings in March or May. Next meeting April 28th
- Mountain View Estates: Concept Review, Designation of OSTAC representative for Project Review: Jim H. volunteers
- March 12th 2011, Broomfield Open Space Foundation Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's

6. Other as Desired by OSTAC

Wildlife Masters Program: Rob asked about the Wildlife Masters program. Kristan explained that Broomfield has adopted the Wildlife Master program that had formerly been supported by the CSU-Extension. Broomfield plans to continue the program. The Wildlife Masters answer numerous questions about wildlife issues from Broomfield residents.

Alexx and Michael's Pond: George asked about the situation with the burning of trees at Alexx and Michael's Pond. Kristan responded that there have not been any more reports of that activity, but that staff will follow up on this at another meeting. Kristan will provide pictures of the site after the burned and dead trees are removed. She will present pictures to OSTAC at the next meeting.

Hoopes Property Controlled Burn: Kristan mentioned that a second prescribed burn is being planned for weed management at the Hoopes property located west of Lowell Boulevard and north of 144th Avenue. (Please note: The controlled burn was not conducted because of weather conditions, particularly the high winds).

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

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on April 28, 2011.