



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes
June 23, 2011

Meeting Summary

The Open Space and Trails and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committees held a joint meeting beginning with site visits to the proposed Palisade Park development at Huron Street and State Highway 7 and Sheridan Blvd. adjacent to Broomfield County Commons to review proposed changes to pedestrian crosswalks. After discussing these projects, the committees discussed several other topics of mutual interest.

After the joint meeting the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee discussed the potential properties for open space acquisition. The committee also reviewed the CIP Project Priority List for 2012 and reviewed a request for a Lake Link Trail bench memorial.

Roll Call

Present:

Patrick Tennyson
William Olney
Walt Spader
Dennis Thompson
George Zack

Absent:

Kevin Jacobs
James Haedrich
Annette Cislo
Rob Bodine

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
Dave Shinneman, Director of Planning
Nancy Harold, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Doug Malcolm
Dick Miller
Kathy Dolan
Jaci Gould
Martha Derda

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Sarah Davenport
Larry Crawford

Agenda Minutes

JOINT Meeting with PRAC

1. Site Visits to Palisade Park and Sheridan Blvd. crosswalks.
2. Call to Order of Joint Meeting
3. Introduction of Interested Citizens
Jaan Raamot.
4. Discussion on Palisade Park

Dave Shinneman, Planning Director, summarized the basic information on the proposed Palisade Park project, including the potential dedication of parks and open space within the project. The group also reviewed the old barn on the site and discussed the possible refurbishment of the barn as a part of the project. The original approved PUD for the site included the barn as part of the public land dedication. The developers are in the process of amending the approved PUD. As a result, the developers are also re-evaluating how the revised PUD will meet the public land dedication requirement and if and how the barn should be included in this proposal.

>Dennis, regarding the barn, it seems that there is a tremendous amount of expense involved and it seems to be unsightly, considering it would be right next to higher end homes in that neighborhood;

>Kevin, (provided history on the barn and its historical use as a speakeasy, and reviewed the eventual annexation of the property); the Historic Preservation Committee has expressed some interest in saving this structure; the developer looked at possible ways to save the barn as a part of the original development proposal that was approved several years ago;

>Dennis-it still seems like something that is not necessarily needed is being offered;

>George, from a historical perspective, we are talking about a speakeasy, correct?;

>Walt-the developer was asked or encouraged originally to preserve the barn during the development review process, but perhaps there is a point along the way where it will be determined that there is not enough value in this structure to justify the cost;

>Dennis, would like to see the decision for this to be back on the table for discussion and reviewed again, as we already have the farmhouse and several other historic structures preserved;

>Larry, let's look at different uses and the money being used for a better recreational use;

- >Dick, agreed, would like to see a better use of the resources for Parks and Recreation;
- >Kevin, there have been times were it seemed that the community was developing and changing very fast and there was an interest on the City Council and in the community in preserving links to the past;
- >-Larry, perhaps moving the structure could also be a possibility;
- >Dave, the costs can be very high for moving these structures, sometimes more than building them from scratch;
- >Kevin-we have a pretty full site at Zang Spur Park; I'm not sure where it could go;
- >Dick, another problem is that kids will get into this structure and it will become a liability for those uses;
- >Sarah, likes the barn and wanted to find out more about the costs, documentation to date, and Historic Preservation Committee's perspective on the barn
- >Kristan, the developer is gathering some additional information on the barn regarding preservation costs. Staff can present this information and any comments from the Historic Preservation Committee to members in the future. The public land dedication approach is in the process of being developed.

4. Discussion on the Potential Removal of Sheridan Blvd. Crossings

Kevin described the issue of the crosswalks at entry points into the Broomfield County Commons along Sheridan Blvd. Kevin outlined the different Sheridan crossings in question and what type of facility is currently there. Kevin also informed the committees about what types of accidents and concerns are occurring in these locations and the potential causes.

Kevin also discussed a possible new traffic signal at 10th Avenue along with the potential removal of crosswalks at 9th, 12th, and 14th. Crossing could still take place at these locations, but with the removal of the crosswalks, pedestrians would be more cautious and less entitled, given the traffic and higher speeds on Sheridan.

- >Doug-drives this stretch every day and thinks this is a very good idea, currently, there is some hesitance to stop at the crosswalks because of fear of being hit by another car;
- >Dick-does the current traffic on 10th Ave. warrant a light?
- >Kevin-it does not, but it is close, it may well meet the warrants in the future;
- >Dennis-it is surprising that the warrants are not met at 10th as this is a busy intersection;
- >Sarah-could we have more of a police presence in these areas?
- >Kevin-we have added some police patrol there, but the problems remain;
- >Sarah-could we have blinking lights at each crossing?
- >Kevin-it would make it confusing with a lot of stopping and starting;
- >Walt-we just can't always see the blinking lights, because there are so many locations with pedestrian crossings;

- >Kevin-our traffic engineer does not recommend using the blinking lights for speed limit areas above 35, the stops are too unsafe at that speed;
- >Kevin-these crossings do not work well for a potential underpass either, as trail users are not concentrated at any single crossing, unlike with regional trails where trail users are focused into one crossing area; there is also very little room along Sheridan for construction of an overpass/underpass as there are many homes nearby;
- >Dick-the light at 13th coming out of the Commons has a very long wait period; this does look like a good plan though;
- >Larry-it is a good plan for this area; people will adjust – if you are walking you will not put yourself in harm's way;

5. Discussion of Projects of Mutual Interest

-Arista:

Nancy described the proposed Arista parks including the dog park and sensory park, and reviewed the overall site plan for the committees.

>Larry, is there any shelter within the actual dog park?

>Nancy, there is a shelter in the regular park and there are trees and a possible trellis in the dog park;

>George, is this a replacement for the current dog park at BCC?

>Kevin, no, it is not. We plan to have three dog parks eventually that are spread throughout the City – one in Arista, one around BCC, and one in Anthem.

-Rock Creek Underpass East of 96th Street and US 36:

Kristan described the proposed Rock Creek underpass and the potential alternatives in the area for crossing the railroad tracks in the area of Midway Boulevard and 96th Street. She explained that the cash-in-lieu from the Terracina project will be used to construct this underpass in the future. The underpass is part of the trail system that connects to the Coalton and Rock Creek Regional Trails, the Lake Link Trail and to the FlatIron Crossing Mall area.

-McKay Landing/Lambertson Master Plan:

Kristan described the potential parcels which could contribute to a regional open space and park area around McKay Lake.

>George-would like to see the trails connected in this area, with the Lake Link Trails and the Quail Creek Park, along with McKay Lake;

-Tom Frost Nature Education and Picnic Pavilion: Kristan informed the committees about the GOCO grant that has been awarded for a shelter and education pavilion in this area.

>George-asked about orange fencing and art bench?

>Kristan-the orange fencing was in place for the owl nest in the tree and has now been taken down as the owls have left the tree; the bench was stolen and has not been recovered; there are plans to replace it.

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Nancy announced the "Great American Picnic" for the 4th of July celebration, and all of the events and attractions that are a part of this event.

Other:

>Dick, asked for a status update on Metzger Farm.

>Kristan, we are currently completing construction documents for the bridge and other improvements; we should be bidding the work in the fall and hopefully will begin the improvement work in early winter. The buildings on site will require some structural and aesthetic improvements, but we are not doing major renovations to open the interiors of the buildings to the public. Staff would be happy to take anyone out there for a site visit if they would like to see the property.

-Kristan announced the Colorado Cares cleanup project scheduled for July 30th at Metzger Farm.

-George asked about Department of Justice-ADA OPDMD (Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices) regulations

>Kristan informed the committee that staff would be returning to OSTAC with an update on the regulations and a draft of Broomfield's policies on this issue at an upcoming meeting.

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

OSTAC members present included George Zack and Dennis Thompson.

6. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting

7. Introduction of Interested Citizens and Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda

Jaan Raamot

Joel Hollis

8. Review of Potential Open Space Acquisitions

Kristan described the possible acquisitions of the Wilde Property, the Egg Farm Property, and the Mid-America Property.

-Wilde Property (Aspen Street and 144th Avenue):

>Dennis-so the current plan/PUD on this site requires a trail access connection?

>Kristan, yes,

-Egg Farm (west of Wildgrass and south of State Highway 7):

Kristan provided an update on the Egg Farm property and informed the committee that staff has developed a counter-offer to Lafayette/Boulder County, and will be presenting the concept to City Council at an executive session.

-Mid-America Property (Lowell and Midway):

Kristan described this property and its location adjacent to the Broomfield County Commons, and discussed the possibility of acquisition. Staff plans to present this project to Council for consideration at an executive session.

9. Review of Capital Improvement Project Priority List for 2012

Kristan introduced and discussed the prioritized CIP projects for the committee. Kristan briefly described each project on the list and the project list was handed out to the committee.

10. Request for Bench Site along the Lake Link Trail

Kristan informed the committee about a proposal to use an existing bench located along the Lake Link trail that would have a series of memorial plaques for deceased dogs. Committee members expressed concern about the idea and had reservations about opening up memorial benches for a variety of uses from dogs to cats to other pets. It was suggested that possibly the concept could be incorporated into a dog park. The members also expressed concern about having too many memorials of any kind in the open space. Members present did not support the memorial pet bench concept.

11. Review and Approve Minutes of the April 28th, 2011 OSTAC Meeting

George motions; Dennis seconds. Minutes approved

12. Updates and Reminders

-No July OSTAC Meeting

-Colorado Cares Clean-up Day at Metzger Farm – July 30th and 8:30 a.m.
(meet at the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church at 121st and Lowell Blvd.)

10. Other as Desired by OSTAC

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy.

Approved by the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee on September 26, 2011.