

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes March 22, 2012

Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the Open Space and Trails accomplishments for 2011 and received updates on the Metzger Farm construction plans, the Denver Metro Area Coyote Behavior Study, and the 2012 Broomfield Trail Adventure.

Roll Call

OSTAC
Present:
William Olney
Dennis Thompson
Annette Cislo
Rob Bodine
George Zack
James Haedrich

Absent:
Bob Gaiser
Mike Shelton
Patrick Tennyson

Others in attendance:

Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Coordinator Kevin Standbridge, Assistant City and County Manager Kris Middledorf, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Agenda Minutes

- 1. Call to Order, 6:10 p.m. by Rob Bodine
- 2. Introduction of Interested Citizens:

Jaan Raamot and Jay McKeral

3. Discussion of OSTAC Accomplishments for 2011

Pete provided an overview of Open Space and Trails accomplishments for the 2011 year. The committee reviewed the 2011 land acquisitions, trail construction projects, and summaries on signage, volunteer projects, educational programs and other achievements.

Dennis and George inquired about the 40% open lands goal in regards to the current status, progress, and the general feasibility of meeting the goal. Pete informed the committee that Broomfield currently has 32.6% of the planning area in Open Lands and that 1,780 acres would be needed to meet 40% of the current planning area. Aside from open space acquisitions and conservation easements, Open Lands can be comprised of a variety of land uses including parks, golf courses, athletic fields, and school parks among others. Therefore, things like public land dedications from private development or dedicated parks can contribute to the progress of overall Open Lands. While it is difficult to predict future acquisitions and land dedications, there are still many properties within the City that have potential for open space/open lands acquisition. Kevin also mentioned the possibility of properties which are not within Broomfield's borders, but are adjacent and could be potential sites for acquisition.

Annette asked about children's nature programs that take place in the Anthem neighborhood and expressed some concern about having children in areas where we have experienced coyote conflicts. Annette suggested making sure that the children were closely supervised by adults and were not walking along the tall grasses where coyote conflicts have occurred. Kris Middledorf stated that Colorado Parks and Wildlife supports the children's coyote education programs because they do not want to promote a message that the trails are unsafe or that children should be afraid of wildlife. All of the programs are supervised by adults and take place in groups. Pete mentioned that the grasses along the trails in Anthem continue to be mowed on the sides of the trail so there is not cover close to the pathways and the programs have been handing our the Coyote SMART cards to educate children on what to do if they encounter a coyote.

The review of the 2012 Goals for Open Space and Trails was moved to the April 26th OSTAC meeting.

4. Update on the Metzger Farm Open Space Construction Project

Kevin provided an update on the Metzger Farm and the construction improvement projects slated for 2012. Broomfield's City Council approved the construction plans at the March 20th meeting and the Westminster City Council will cote on this at their April 9th meeting. These construction plans feature a trail system on the property with a new bridge, a fishing dock, a parking area, and a variety of smaller improvements. Pending approval by Westminster, a groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for the end of April or early May.

5. Update on the Denver Metro Area Coyote Behavior Study led by Dr. Stewart Breck

Pete informed the committee about the upcoming coyote study that Broomfield will be participating in along with other metro area communities including Jefferson County, Lakewood, and Aurora. The study will be led by Dr. Stewart Breck of Colorado State University and the National Wildlife Research Program. The study will also partnered with, and supported by, Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

For the study, coyotes will be collared in each community and the data will be tracked to learn more about their behavior within urban/suburban environments. Pete discussed with the committee how the trapping would work, the design of the collars, the timeline for the study, and the public notice process.

Annette suggested that the study be promoted publicly through the Enterprise or other media outlets to get the word out. Pete stated that a press release was being prepared and would be sent to the Enterprise. Kris Middledorf also discussed the role of Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the study and the personnel that would be involved.

6. Update on the Broomfield Trail Adventure on June 2nd, 2012

Pete reviewed the plans for the Broomfield Trail Adventure to be held in the Westlake neighborhood and the plans to honor former City Council and OSTAC member Ralph Johnson. Pete and Annette reviewed the plans for the main walking loop and the short walking loop at the event. Pete noted that the current construction taking place at Alexx and Michael's Pond should be completed before June. Staff will continue to provide OSTAC with updates on the event as the planning continues.

7. Review and Approve Minutes of the January 18, 2012 OSTAC Meeting

George motions for approval; Dennis seconds. Minutes approved.

- 8. Updates and Reminders
 - -Broomfield Open Space Foundation Backyard Habitat Foundation, March 31st
 - -Coyote Consultant Report, final draft expected in April
 - -Public Art Proposal for Ridgeview Open Space, the Public Art Committee will come to upcoming OSTAC meeting to review with the committee
 - -Bald Eagle Nest near NW Parkway
 - -Apparent Prairie Dig die-off on Drive-in/Wasatch Property
- 9. Other as Desired by OSTAC
- -George asked about the status of the ADA-OPDMD policy for the trail system and if any adjustments have been made yet. Pete explained that the City is still developing a policy and are working on something more comprehensive that will cover

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all public areas in Broomfield. Staff will follow up with the committee as this policy is developed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on April 26, 2012.