



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
April 26, 2012*

Meeting Summary

The committee discussed possible public art locations with representatives from the Public Art Committee and reviewed Open Space and Trails goals for 2012. The committee also reviewed the Anthem Coyote Report and received updates on the Denver Metro Area Coyote Behavior Study and the 2012 Broomfield Trail Adventure.

Roll Call

OSTAC

Present:

William Olney

Annette Cislo

Rob Bodine

George Zack

James Haedrich

Patrick Tennyson

Jay McKeral

Bob Gaiser

Absent:

Mike Shelton

Others in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director

Karen Gerrity, Cultural Affairs Director

Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Coordinator

Kris Middendorf, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Lynn Jeffers, Public Art Committee member

Tom Duckett, Public Art Committee member

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order, 6:10 p.m. by Rob Bodine
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens and welcome to new OSTAC member Jay McKeral.
3. Discussion with the Broomfield Public Art Committee about the Proposed Public Art Project at Ridgeview Open Space

Karen Gerrity provided a brief introduction of the Public Art Program in Broomfield and introduced Lynn Jeffers from the Public Art Committee. Lynn provided background on other public art benches that have been installed in Broomfield, including 11 benches that were installed in 2005, 3 of them on open space properties. Lynn explained the process of planning for new art pieces, locations, and themes.

The Public Art Committee is currently looking to develop some entryway pieces of art in the community. The committee has reviewed the Ridgeview Open Space for possible art pieces with a general theme of 'art in unexpected places', but a more specific theme has not been chosen. Lynn showed some possible spots in the Ridgeview Open Space where there would be limited impacts to the views of surrounding residents. Lynn stated that the committee is seeking feedback and opinions on open space locations from OSTAC.

>Kevin-what is the process of getting proposals from the artists?

>Lynn-the proposals that will be sent to the artists have the general theme and parameters set but creativity is left to the artist in many ways;

>Kevin-what themes or parameters do you anticipate?

>Lynn-we have looked at local natural history and things like the archeological finds of bones in the area, and we will develop a theme;

>Kevin- (described some of the local findings by the Natural History Museum, including fossils of reptiles and dinosaurs);

>Rob-what is the review process for the potential benches?

>Lynn-there will be a process to get some feedback from the public and then small models or "maquettes" can be made. There would be review of the models at advisory committee meetings and City Council meetings and those meetings are all open to the public; we plan to have educational public art components at the Broomfield Trail Adventure as well;

>George-what is the history or context of the issue of benches or art in the open space? It seems like the issue has been active for some time; also, is there direction from City Council on memorials in open space and the naming of areas/amenities in tribute to someone?

>Annette-would there be one artist or multiple artists?

>Lynn-one artist, one theme at a location;

>Annette-to address George's question, there was some significant hesitation about this when it first came up years ago. There is some desire to have the open space speak for itself, but minds were changed with the benches as they have been a nice amenity in the open space; there is still some hesitation about public art in open space though; we are hosting the Broomfield Trail Adventure in Westlake this year and would encourage public art locations in neighborhoods like Westlake as well;

>Lynn-we do have benches in Westlake and we will continue to look at Alexx and Michael's Pond; we look at a lot of different places and will continue to do so;

>Annette-how does this potential project relate to entryways and monuments?

>Kevin-this is separate from the City's efforts to create entryways and monuments; to George's question about memorials and naming, we have reviewed benches and naming with the City Council and there is not a set universal rule; staff works with committees to determine/approve these projects.

>George-am very comfortable with pieces of art on open lands, but I am more conservative in open space; I would like to preserve the natural views that exist on open space properties;

>Rob-what are the criteria for the site at Ridgeview that led to the interest? Why is the area along the ridgeline favored as a site?

>Tom D.-it is an entryway to the community; we would like to combine a character of subtlety with visibility;

>Lynn-there are concerns with the area further to the north because of the old landfill, methane vents, and lower terrain;

>Rob-perhaps there could be an agricultural theme with hay bales or something like that;

>Jay-agree with George, although I like the entryway concept, I like the open space in that area as it is, but I will keep an open mind;

>Patrick-am open to the idea; it would be key that it does not adversely change the habitat or wildlife in the area; if it can add a dimension to open space that people can relate to, is not impactful, and would add beauty, I am open to looking at the project;

>Kevin-if it were more subtle and not in the key visual location, perhaps the committee would be more amenable; more information on what is being proposed will also be helpful;

>Rob-there does not seem to be a consensus among the committee;

>Karen-it seems that we need to flush out the details on our end and then update the committee with that;

>Lynn-we really are respectful of the fact that this is open space, and we don't look at this lightly;

>Tom D.-yes, we are seeking collaboration with the open space committee;

>Lynn-there are many, many kinds of art that could be utilized here, or at Metzger; it would likely be integrated or interpretive art;

>Tom D.-we are looking at this with our committee next Wednesday;

>Kristan-(shared a written message from Judy Enderle on this topic with board members. Her letter states that open space is not an appropriate area for art and explains why she has this opinion.)

>Kevin-asked that the public art committee come back with more details at some point;

>Tom D.-the art could encourage knowledge of open space through public artwork; we hope to come back and have a more definitive discussion; thank you;

>Karen will let Kristan know when the Public Art Committee will be proceeding with the Ridgeview site;

>Rob-thank you for coming. We appreciate you talking with us!

4. Discussion of ideas for Open Space and Trails Goals for 2012

Kristan gave a brief introduction to the proposed Open Space and Trails goals for 2012 and distributed a draft list for the committee to review.

>Annette-asked about item 1d (community ditch ownership analysis)

>Kristan-described that the north sections of the Broomfield Trail pass along the Community Ditch and research on the ownership and easements needs to be completed before the final trail alignment can be planned;

>Kevin-without the legal rights established, this trail will be unlikely to proceed, as neighbors may have opposition to it;

>Annette-regarding goal 2f (spot surveys on number of trail users), how are the spot surveys done?

>Kristan-it is non-scientific; something that perhaps the Boy Scouts could help us with;

>Kevin-do we still have the trail counter at US-287?

>Pete-yes, but it had some mechanical problems last year and it had to be replaced; the data was incomplete for some time during the replacement; we look forward to getting better data this summer;

>Annette-regarding item 3c (coyote programs), could we soften the wording to read "review recommendations instead of 'implement'"?

>Kristan-yes;

>Kristan- (described Wildlife Masters upcoming workshop and the updating of the information)

>Annette-would like to request that we have reciprocity with Boulder County with the training; Broomfield Nature Program should be able to get training from Boulder County as well;

>Kristan-Boulder County invited the Broomfield Wildlife Masters to attend the BOCO training; we can also look into training for the Nature program through Boulder;

>Patrick-regarding item 3k (foster volunteer work), is there more we can do to ensure that these groups (Nature Program, Wildlife Masters) are really active in the community?

>Kristan-we can talk with them and get their perspective; they did seem to be at their capacity the last time we spoke with them, but further discussions can occur;

>George-in regards to the ADA trail issues we have discussed, is this goal as well?

>Kristan-yes; we are actively working on that with several other departments and the City and County Attorneys office is now heading this project with a task force that Open Space and Trails serves on;

>Patrick-regarding Metzger area, what is the latest on the hydrology for the site and the drainage under Lowell?

>Kevin-the Lowell drainage project is expected to move forward in 2013-2014; the Phase 1 environmental work should take place in 2012;

>George-nothing on Great Western next year? Trails?

>Kristan-no, this trail is not in 2012 as we would want to coordinate this project with trails at Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge;

>George-what about the US-36 trail?

>Kristan-this is very exciting; the trail is moving forward through Broomfield; we will show the committee the alignment as it is finalized;

5. Discussion on the Anthem Coyote Report and Next Steps

Kristan provided a brief update on the Anthem coyote consultants' report. Broomfield staff will be working to implement the recommendations after the full review of the report. Kris Middledorf, Colorado Parks & Wildlife District Officer, described the relevant CPW policies and the thresholds for the lethal removal of coyotes for the committee.

>Rob-could we have coyotes warning signs that would possibly be color-coded for the potential level of danger?

>Kris/Kristan-we don't want to heighten the notion that the open space is dangerous to be in; we would favor something like sandwich board signage for "conflict situations", and the signs would be educational as well as provide safety;

6. Update on the Broomfield Trail Adventure on June 2, 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 noted that the current construction 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.

Annette noted that 'Smokey the Bear' will be attending the event. She asked for a volunteer to be Smokey and Patrick graciously agreed to help.

7. Update on the Denver Metro Area Coyote Study

Kristan described the coyote study and informed the committee that the first two trapping locations for collaring coyotes will be at Broomfield County Commons and the Metzger Farm Open Space.

Kris Middledorf described the trapping techniques, how the coyotes would be handled, and the basic objectives and features of the study.

8. Review and Approve Minutes of the March 22, 2012 OSTAC Meeting

George motions for approval; Annette seconds. Minutes approved.

8. Updates and Reminders

- July 4th Fireworks Launch Site Adjustment
- Brunner Farmhouse Sanolet
- Backyard Habitat, Broomfield Open Space Foundation/CCOB Project Photos

- Broomfield County Commons Habitat Restoration Project
- Broomfield Open Space Foundation/Butterfly Pavilion Joint Project
- Metzger Farm Open Space Groundbreaking
- Bald Eagle Nest and Owl Photos
- Kid's Fishing Derby, May 12
- Great Western Park Subdivision and SDP Amendment
- Wasatch Development Site and Status of Prairie Dog Colony
- Superior Open Space and Trails Committee Meeting – reschedule proposed

9. Other as Desired by OSTAC

-Rob asked about the Metzger farm property and the possibility of having a caretaker there. Kristan responded that Broomfield and Westminster continue to look into this option, but that there are some human resources issues to consider and no decision has been made yet. They are planning to have a caretaker once the construction is completed.

-George informed the committee about a new trail in Louisville located to the east of the Colorado Tech Center and west of Highway-287.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on June 28, 2012.