



Joint Meeting of the Open Space and Trails and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committees

*Minutes
September 19, 2012*

Meeting Summary

Dr. Stewart Breck provided an update for both committees on the Denver Metro Area Coyote Behavior Study. Both committees also reviewed the potential plans for amenities and improvements to the McKay Lake/Lambertson Farms area. The Public Art committee presented possibilities for a public art piece on the Ridgeview Open Space. Members were asked to comment on the concept of the Anthem developer relocating prairie dogs from the Anthem Prairie Dog Preserve to Great Western Open Space and several upcoming trail projects.

Roll Call

OSTAC

Present:

Annette Cislo

Rob Bodine

Patrick Tennyson

Bob Gaiser

Jay McKeral

Mike Shelton

Absent:

James Haedrich

William Olney

George Zack

PRAC:

Mike Moroze

Dick Miller

Kevin Jacobs

Public Art Committee:

Fran Milner

Mary Ann Burns

Cora Heyl

Others in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director

Kevin Standbridge, Deputy City and County Manager

Nancy Harrold, Recreation Services Director

Karen Gerrity, Cultural Affairs Manager

Dr. Stewart Breck, Colorado State University Professor/USDA-APHIS Researcher

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order Joint OSTAC-PRAC Meeting, 6:05 p.m. by Rob Bodine

2. Interested Citizens

Denise Price, Chris Petrizzo, Jan Stamey, Sheri Hoffman, Jaan Raamot

3. Update on the Denver Metro Area Coyote Behavior Study with Dr. Stewart Breck

Kristan introduced Dr. Stewart Breck and provided a brief overview of the study. Dr. Breck described the types of human-coyote conflicts that have been happening on the Front Range and the purpose of the research. Dr. Breck also described his personal background and his previous research in predator ecology and management.

Dr. Breck explained some other efforts that are coordinated with the current coyote research study, including a human dimensions survey and coyote conflict mapping in the Denver Metro area. Dr. Breck described how the human dimensions study will attempt to measure whether urban coyotes create more conflicts than rural as they face different pressures and feedback from humans.

Trapping for the current research study began in March 2012, and three coyotes have been successfully trapped and collared in Broomfield already. Trapping is expected to take place at two additional sites in Broomfield before the end of the year. Dr. Breck also shared the data that has already been collected from the collars with the committees and discussed the early findings. Dr. Breck also passed out a research article about the project and the September 2012 project update.

>Annette, is there a deadline to get all 30 traps placed across the Denver metro area?

>Breck-hopefully by the end of October or November;

>Annette-is there a mechanism to notify researchers about a collared coyote mortality?

>Breck-yes, there is a mortality switch that sends a signal when there is no movement for 4 hours.

>Mike-what is the typical litter size?

>Breck-we are seeing between 2 to 4 young usually, but sometimes it can be 6 or more;

>Sherri-what will happen with the Metzger coyote when the property is opened?

>Breck-does not think it will be a big impact when the property opens; a lot of these coyotes are very comfortable around people already;

>Sherri, how long will the study run?

>Breck, the collars will come off after about 400 days and we will try to collect data for that entire time period;

>Mike S.-do you think that the volume of people on a trail will deter coyotes?

>Breck-no, as long as they have a safe place to den, they do not seem to be bothered by people;

- >Mike S.-if you destroy a den site, do they move out?
- >Breck-yes, they are very sensitive to damage to the den and will usually move; they also often have more than one den site within their territory;
- >Jay M.- is the human dimension study like a human performance analysis?
- >Breck, no, I don't think so, the human dimension study will measure and compare the rate of conflicts and comfort of coyotes between urban and rural areas;
- >Rob, have wolves been studied longer than coyotes?
- >Breck, not really because wolves were just about eliminated, but the study of urban coyotes is still an emerging thing – we're seeing it in cities all across the country.

4. Update on McKay Lake/Lambertson Farms Regional Open Lands Master Plan and Review of Facility and Program Needs

Nancy described projections for parks across the community and the inventory projected by the Master Plan. Nancy passed out a spreadsheet that showed each park and the various amenities that each park includes and an analysis of areas of the city with current/future amenities planned and how these areas compared to the Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Trails Master Plan standards for amenities. OSPRT designated guidelines for different park amenities based on population and needs, and the McKay/Lambertson area can be evaluated with these guidelines to see what amenities are most needed in that area. This area also has the possibility of being a regional park or a 'destination' park that serves a greater population than the surrounding neighborhoods. A possible comparable site is Clement Park in Littleton, a regional park with terrific amenities and design. Broomfield staff also tries to consider build-out projections of population for park needs like ballfields and other amenities

- >Rob-What do we expect for parking at this site?
- >Kevin-developer will build some parking adjacent to the small clubhouse for the development; there will need to be more parking;
- >Nancy-parking is certainly something we will be looking at here, along with shelters and restrooms;
- >Rob-have we made contact with Westminster?
- >Kristan-yes, we have been coordinating with them on this and we will continue to work with them;
- >Rob-what about the Lexington/Lambertson trail in this area?
- >Kristan-this will be open soon, construction is almost done, with just landscaping remaining;

Dick-what is the timeline for plans?

>Kevin-we expect it to be about a year with staff work, public meetings, revisions, etc.

-The group requested the following research:

-Show the Westminster trail plan for this area around McKay Lake;

-Show the Lambertson Farms private recreation facility;

-Review the agreements between Broomfield and Westminster for the McKay Lake Area

5. OSTAC and PRAC approved the June 28, 2012 joint meeting minutes.

Joint Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting, 7:45 p.m. by Rob Bodine

2. Introduction of Interested Citizens:

Chris Petrizzo and Jaan Raamot

3. Update on Concept for Proposed Public Art Project on Ridgeview Open Space

Kristan introduced Karen Gerrity, Cultural Affairs Manager for Broomfield and several members of the Broomfield Public Art Committee. Karen and Fran Milner (Public Art Committee member) described the type of art project that was being considered and the location on Ridgeview Open Space that had been identified by the committee. The concept is to have a gateway/entry statement through the artwork that is respectful of the site. The committee received photos of similar public art pieces by the same artist team, Jean and Tom Latka. The pieces all incorporate nature themes. The project site is on the western edge of the Ridgeview Open Space, adjacent to US 287. The Ridgeview Open Space is located at the corner of Miramonte Boulevard and US 287 and extends north to the Boulder County/City and County of Broomfield boundary. Ridgeview Open Space is on the east side of US 287.

>Mike S.-is the art project a permanent display?; Moving the piece towards US 287 will make it more visible;

>Karen-yes.

>Mike- it will get a lot of art critics, and may get as many negative comments as possible, that is the nature of these types of things;

>Fran-we do go through this discussion with every piece of art and the art is subjective by nature; this is part of the reason the committee really reviews the sites and reviews them with the City Council as well;

>Rob-have noticed some public art in Longmont where there are some unique pieces of art. Perhaps we could have a theme for different art displays at different entry points;

(Annette departs)

>Patrick, the open space committee encouraged the art committee to come up with a piece that really complimented the landscape, and these examples really seem to do that (Gemstone in particular);

>Kevin-could the art committee describe the process for soliciting a piece of art like this?;

>Fran-sometimes we do not solicit entries if we are clear on something that we want; we can just commission one artist, do a call for proposals or buy a piece outright; otherwise we put a concept or theme out to an artist(s) and then review what we receive back;

- >Jay-to make something recognizable to Broomfield, you kind of have to replicate pieces or have something similar at each entry; it is a branding of sorts;
- >Bob G.-but this is art, not really branding;
- >Jay-but it would need to be similar or related to be associated with Broomfield;
- >Bob-it has to be able to stand out, because this is a brown dry field most of the year; liked the idea of an artwork that reflects the organic feeling of open space;
- >Jay-also likes artwork that would have an organic character that relates to the history of the site; perhaps a protruding fossil-like piece would be interesting there;
- >Mike-what is the cost of something like this?
- >Karen-the gemstone piece is around \$90,000;
- >Kevin-describes financing for these projects and the public art fund dedicated funds;
- >Jay-communities are doing this all across the country and if that piece is out of key view corridors of the mountains/vistas from the homes and is a tasteful display I think I would be open to this type of artwork, however, I am generally in favor of open space being open space;
- >Rob- was curious about the public process and asked about conducting a survey, would like to reflect the opinions of citizens and it is hard to tell what feelings in the community are towards public art like this in the open space; he also mentioned that he had talked to several neighbors and they liked the idea of a project;
- >Kristan- in general, public art is listed in our OSPRT Plan as a possible allowable use for open space, with an asterisk noting that there would be review of whether it is appropriate for the specific location;
- >Jay M.-Jean and Tom Latka's artwork seems to fit this site and I am comfortable with this artist team; would be less comfortable with a national process in this case;
- >Kevin- It seems that among the OSTAC committee members present and please note there are only three OSTAC members here, there is an interest in the type of art that has been shown and an appreciation that the artwork location has been moved out of the view corridors of the neighbors. He also emphasized that there could be different viewpoints from the other four OSTAC members. Is there a willingness on the part of the Art Committee to take the project to the next step and provide a little more information on the artwork concept for this site?;
- >Fran-perhaps we could spend a small amount of money say \$300 to fine-tune the project with the artist team to help both the Public Art Committee and OSTAC get a better understanding of the project, and then come back with something more specific without committing a lot of funds;
- >Fran, also we are always looking for good sites, so if the committee sees sites that seem to have potential for art, please let us know;
- >Kristan-we just discussed the master plan for the Lambertson Farms open lands and that might be a very good site for public art;
- >Karen, we are also looking forward to possibilities at the Metzger Farm;
- >Kristan-that is a possibility too. Broomfield owns and manages that property jointly with Westminster, so if both communities agree on the project, each government would be involved and the funding would be split equally between the two entities;
- >Kristan-when would be the best time to review the project again if the Art Committee decides to do some additional research?
- >Fran, the artist would probably need a month;

>Karen, we would also need to confirm that our committee wants to move forward with this site; so we may need some time;

>Kristan-we will tentatively plan for an update at the December meeting.

4. Review of Potential Concept to Relocate Prairie Dogs from Anthem to Great Western Open Space and Remove the "Relocation Site" Designation

Pulte Homes, the previous developer of Anthem, had discussed with staff the possibility of moving the prairie dogs in the Anthem Prairie Dog Preservation area to Great Western Open Space to avoid potential future conflicts with the adjacent residences and to minimize future prairie dog management work. This particular preservation site was designated before the Broomfield Policies for Prairie Dog Conservation and Management (Policies) were approved by City Council in 2003. Wheelock, the new developer of Anthem is now building out the project. At this time, it is not clear if Wheelock would want to pursue the project and pay for it. Even though the developer in charge of Anthem has changed, staff wanted to discuss the project concept of relocating the prairie dogs in Anthem to Great Western Open Space to find out if OSTAC thought the project had any merit and if further research should be completed on the idea. It will be necessary to determine if adequate space is available at Great Western Open Space for the animals. Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff reviews relocation sites to determine if the location is appropriate. A count of the existing prairie dogs within the Anthem Preservation area would also be necessary.

>Rob-have been out on that site, there is a lot of open space to the west in Boulder and the Egg Farm that has prairie dogs

>Kristan-in Anthem there is a berm, landscaping, and fencing to prevent some of the migration of prairie dogs into the neighborhood area;

>Jay,-if the developer is going to fund this project and they can be relocated to Great Western Open Space, this may be feasible;

>Mike S.-in favor of the concept of a relocation to Great Western and the approach in which the developer would pay for the relocation;

>Patrick-in favor of the relocation as long the habitat at Great Western would support the colony;

>Kristan-we will talk with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Wheelock and if the idea seems viable, staff will complete some additional research and then come back to OSTAC with more information.

5. Updates on upcoming Trail Projects

Kristan informed the committee about several upcoming or potential trail projects, including the US-36 Bikeway Trail, the Ruth Roberts Connector Trail, the Legacy High School portion of the Lake Link Trail, and the Spruce Meadows portion of the Broomfield Trail. Kristan also informed the committee about the potential Refuge to Refuge Trail, which would provide a connection between the Rocky Mountain Arsenal property and the Rocky Flats property upon completion.

September 19, 2012

Page 7

6. Review and Approval of the June 28, 2012 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

7. Updates

-Metzger Farm Opening Celebration

Jay asked about the Russian olives on the property and Kristan responded that staff is working to get grant money to remove them (except along the driveway) and to plant new trees in the areas where the Russian olives were removed in the drainage areas.

-Community Survey being sent out

Rob asked what types of questions will be on the survey. Kristan responded that there is one question on coyote management and one question on Broomfield's existing goal of 40% Open Lands in the community. Results will be shared with OSTAC in the future.

8. Other topics as desired by members

Jay spoke about attending the annual Colorado Open Space Alliance conference and recommended the conference to any committee members in future years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on December 6, 2012.