



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes
October 22, 2009

Meeting Summary

The committee held its regularly scheduled OSTAC meeting and heard a presentation from Boulder County Open Space staff on the proposed DRAFT Rock Creek Grasslands Management Plan. OSTAC also discussed the August field trip to the northeast area of Broomfield to look at potential open space acquisition sites.

The committee also met with the Town of Superior's Open Space Advisory Committee and reviewed the roles of each committee and discussed the Conoco Phillips project, Rock Creek Trail connections, and potential land acquisitions.

Roll Call

Present:

Annette Cislo
Pascale Fried
Dan Wilkie
Judy Enderle
Patrick Tennyson
Councilmember Bette Erickson
Councilmember Randy Ahrens

Absent:

None

Superior Open Space Staff and Advisory Board:

John Nibarger
Bob McCool
Jim Paine
Juanita Dominguez
Alan McBeath

Others in attendance:

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

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1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting

2. Introduction of Interested Citizens:

David Coward

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3. Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda by Interested Citizens:

David Coward lives in Anthem and stated that Anthem needs better trail access besides just riding along the road shoulder on State Highway 7 ("SH 7"), to get west towards Boulder and Lafayette. The current bridge on Highway 7 is very dangerous as it is so narrow, and there is no longer an option for a left-hand turn from SH 7 to Flagg Drive (westbound). He would like to ask that Broomfield and Boulder make a safe connection through this area a high priority.

>Kristan responded that Broomfield staff is working with Boulder County and Lafayette on the possibility for a trail connection across the Egg Farm property located on the west side of Anthem in Boulder County and along the south side of SH 7 that would provide for safer access for trail users.

>Randy-there is also an agreement with the Northwest Parkway not to have 160th connect to the west in this area (southwest corner of the Anthem development), however there may be an option for trail access through the open space to Lafayette in this vicinity or it may be feasible to use some of the future Northwest Parkway trail to make the trail connection to the west (please note the area that Randy is referring to is south of Anthem and north of the Northwest Parkway);

>Rob-would encourage trail users in Anthem to use Broomfield trails to the south as well;

>Pascale-asked about the agreement where the Northwest Parkway trail would be built when the bonds are paid off—what is the status of the trail and financing?;

>Randy-we should look into this because the bonds have technically been paid off so perhaps the trail could be built.

>Kristan-staff will follow-up on the Northwest Parkway issue regarding construction of the trail and will also continue to work with Boulder County and Lafayette on a trail connections to the west.

4. Rock Creek Grasslands Presentation, Jesse Rounds, Resource Planner, Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Jesse presented an overview of the Rock Creek Grasslands Open Space (1,373 acres). The project area is generally located east of US 287 north of Broomfield and extends on either side along the Northwest Parkway. There is a history of agriculture and mining on the property since settlement. In the past decade agricultural uses have been phased out on these properties in favor of native grassland restoration. The process of developing a draft management plan for the sites was initiated in 2005 and a stakeholder group

was identified. (Please note the OSTAC representative on this project was Pat Quinn) Management planning staff and the stakeholder group studied baseline environmental conditions for the site and sought to define potential permitted uses. Since this time, Boulder County has been working with all neighboring communities on the draft management plan, including Lafayette, Louisville, and Broomfield.

There are two proposed potential trail connections to Broomfield trails within this plan. One is a connection to the Ridgeview/Lake Link Trail along Hwy. 287, and the other is near the Wildgrass development where there is an existing underpass beneath the Northwest Parkway. There will be a public process to help determine the final trail alignments and other features of the project, and Broomfield residents will be able to comment. Right now, the presentation is providing OSTAC members with a very preliminary overview of the draft plan. Boulder County staff still needs to work out planning issues among its own staff, talk with the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee and hold public meetings to refine the plan.

Rob stated that he would prefer a connection near Wildgrass where there would be more of an aesthetic and outdoor experience and a possibility for natural education. Pascale stated a preference for having the trails further away from the highway as well, because the highway is so loud and the opportunity for experiencing the native grasslands is there. Pascale stated that most of the concerns about trails in Broomfield that she hears from citizens relate to the potential of connecting to the north to the Boulder trail systems. Randy would prefer to see the connection from Anthem to the Rock Creek Trail (to the north at the Egg Farm property) and also preferred an eastern alignment that would use a portion of the Wildgrass trail for the trail project under consideration in this area. Randy asked for OSTAC to be added to the email list to be notified about upcoming public meetings.

In summary, the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee asked for:

1. Consideration of moving the trail on Ruth Roberts to the east so that there is more of a buffer between the trail and US 287. The map was at a very large scale so it may also be helpful to explain the distance between the proposed trail and US 287.
2. OSTAC needed more information on how the east trail (option 1 or option 2) connected to the trails to the north in the area of Wildgrass.
3. There were some concerns about lack of public access from Pony Estates to the trail.
5. Joint Meeting with the Town of Superior Open Space Advisory Committee Members and staff introduced themselves to each other. John Nibarger presented an overview of the Superior Open Space program and some of the projects the group is currently focusing on. There is an open space sales tax that provides funding and there is no sunset on the tax. John outlined the key

acquisitions and open space properties in Superior and provided background on how key properties were identified and pursued. Superior has partnered on several key property acquisitions with Boulder County and Boulder City within the town limits.

The board mentioned that the site to the west of Flatirons by the Superior wastewater plant is slated to become a disc golf course, a dog park, and a mountain bike skills course.

Rob Bodine provided an introduction to Broomfield's Open Space history and the development of the program. Randy described the development of the open space sales tax and the open space use change amendment Kristan presented slides illustrating Broomfield Open Space and Trails program, recent accomplishments, and upcoming goals and projects.

>John N.-asked how the Council and Open Space Committee coordinates together on decisions and priorities;

>Randy-Council will discuss potential acquisition decisions in executive sessions and will look for OSTAC's recommendation on the project. Two Council members attend OSTAC meetings as ex officio members but do not vote on decisions of the committee;

>John N.-The Superior open space committee has developed a priority list for open space sites;

>Jim P.-Superior has now designated Council members to meet with each advisory committee to build communication;

>Kristan-another feature that has really helped in negotiations is having committee members and residents speak at meetings with the City Council or Land Use Review Committee when there are open space issues.

Conoco-Phillips was identified as a project that the two committees would like to coordinate on in the future. John N. suggested approaching Conoco-Phillips to ask them to have a meeting with the surrounding open space advisory committees. Kevin suggested having Louisville coordinate a meeting since they are working through the planning process and inviting Conoco Phillips to participate. Kristan said that she would contact Louisville open space staff to see if it might be possible to have a joint meeting.

Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge was also identified as an upcoming issue of joint interest and Pascale suggested coordinating with Boulder and Westminster as well to address the wildlife values on the Refuge site and on other open space parcels in the vicinity of the Refuge. Kristan noted that the group meeting on the Natural Resource Damage Funds grant process will be meeting again probably the first part of 2010 to discuss progress on the grants and to share information on other projects of mutual interest.

-BREAK-

5. Discussion/Follow Up regarding the Field Trip to Potential Open Space Sites in Northeast Broomfield at the August OSTAC Meeting

Kristan asked the committee for reactions and feedback on the sites visited on the field trip that were outlined as potential acquisition sites in the Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan.

>Judy-it was wonderful to see those sites and we should pursue any or all of them;

>Rob-can we list and map these sites so that we can remember them more accurately;

>Pascale-there were some bigger parcels that did not have a lot of weeds and I would like to pursue those; there would be a much shorter and cheaper process to bring them up to a nice level; the open space right along I-25 was less appealing to me;

>Kristan-it sounds like we need to do more of an analysis on these properties to understand the potential for acquisition and trail corridors;

>Annette-it would be nice to have the council members or candidates for that ward come up and see these sites;

>Randy-that area is in ward 5;

> Kristan-this will be a project to address in 2010 and staff will prepare information in response to OSTAC's request above.

6. Updates:

-Recognition of Councilmembers Randy Ahrens and Bette Erickson's Service to the Open Space and Trails Program and the Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee. The group thanked Randy and Bette for their outstanding service.

-The Field Russian Olive Tree Removal: Kristan explained that russian olive trees around the 10th Avenue Pond at the Field would be removed in the next week or so. Russian Olives are a noxious weed. Pascale suggested signage during the tree removal and Dan suggested notice posted in the Enterprise. Kristan said that there was not time to post notice in the Enterprise but that staff would put up signs around the project area. (Please note that this removal work has now been completed. Signs were placed around the removal area to inform citizens about the project. Trees will be planted in the spring most likely as the snow has made it difficult to plant the trees as planned)

-Dog Station Signage: Kristan showed OSTAC two sign wording options to encourage citizens to pick up after their dogs. OSTAC agreed to use both of the signs that were presented to see how they are received by the public.

-Palisade Park, OSTAC Representative: Rob volunteered to help with this project.

-Varra North Subdivision, OSTAC Representative: Pascale volunteered to help with this project.

-Update on the McWhinney Project: The project is moving forward without the request to allow for a modified plan for staff approvals of certain types of development.

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-Selection of December Meeting Date: December 3rd was selected for the next meeting

7. Approve Minutes of the August 27th, 2009 OSTAC Meeting
Pascale moves for approval; Dan seconds – minutes approved
8. Other Topics as desired by OSTAC
Pascale suggested setting up a meeting with Adams County Open Space Committee to learn about this program and mutual interests.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on December 3, 2009.