



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
June 25, 2009*

Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed and discussed the Draft Co-Existence with Wildlife Policy. The committee received an update of the Broomfield Sustainability Committee meetings.

Roll Call

Present:

Rob Bodine
Pascale Fried
Patrick Tennyson
Annette Cislo
Dan Wilkie
Judy Enderle
Councilmember Bette Erickson

Absent:

Councilmember Randy Ahrens

Others in attendance:

Peter Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Planner
Kristan Pritz, Director of Open Space and Trails
Kevin Standbridge, Assistant City and County Manager

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens:
Tom Przytarski
3. Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda by Interested Citizens:
None.
4. Presentation on the Draft Co-Existence with Wildlife Policy and Comment/Review from OSTAC members

Kristan introduced the Draft of the Co-Existence with Wildlife Policy ("Policy") and presented a slide show outline of the Policy for the committee.

>Annette-we should engage the local area veterinarians with the Policy and education efforts; when pets are attacked by coyotes, most people will go to their vets instead of just contacting the city; the vets could be another way to reach people with the education

about coyotes and find out about incidents; is also concerned with the hazing and the taser guns may be too much and would suggest that a wildlife biologist/CDOW review the map/tracking information; the emailing of information should be used as opposed to mailing information when possible; >Kristan-yes, we share the mapping information on reported coyote pet attacks/losses to get there advice; also, the Policy will be reviewed by a wildlife biologist once the complete draft is prepared;

>Judy-In Aurora, there were a number of conflicts at an elementary school and staff realized that it was becoming a "hot spot" for coyote conflicts; upon investigation an open dumpster was found at the school which was likely attracting the coyotes; staff got the dumpster closed and the conflicts have gone away;

>Pascale-we should look at the state laws or regulations for harassing wildlife; this should be included too;

>Patrick-suggests that the policy continue to add other species too, such as beavers, bees, and even insects; can we continue to expand the policy in the future?

>Kristan-yes.

>Tom Przytarski-very concerned whether the protocol for dealing with coyotes in the policy will actually be followed by the staff; want to avoid another situation like the killing of the coyotes at the Commons; also wants to make sure that when an attack is reported to Police that the reporting party is required to substantiate the claim of an attack;

>Kevin-like any City policy, the staff will be held accountable if protocol is not followed; we expect that this protocol will be adhered to;

>Judy- in regards to the BCC coyote incidents, were the ramifications and the pack dynamics considered?

>Kevin-there was extensive consultation with the CDOW in the case; we rely on them and their recommendation in these areas and they are the experts;

>Kristan-we also want to be clear that the shootings at BCC were not an attempt to thin the population; this was a response to a public safety issues based on CDOW advice;

>Annette-could animal control staff possibly follow up on missing pets that are posted publicly? Perhaps they could ask questions and provide information;

>Kevin-it is something we could look into, but it may be difficult to address this; would hesitate to overstep boundaries as it is a sensitive situation when a pet is lost;

>Dan-the blue open space and trails signs are small and have a lot of content on them; it is hard to see the rules about pets on leash and others; we probably need clearer/larger rules posted in some areas such as Broomfield County Commons; prefers to not see the coyote signs posted on the trash cans as the location is not as visible;

>Bette-would prefer that coyote signs be posted on the trash cans to avoid having another sign post in the open space;

>Dan-concerned about cats being loose too, not just dogs; outside cats kill thousands of songbirds and people should be aware of that; perhaps we could provide some education on this topic;

>Kristan-the concern about cats killing birds could be addressed in the Policy within the birds section;

>Pascale-cats should be mentioned with dogs within the pet warnings and concerns; regarding the education and outreach--- literature and education to local vets is a good idea; other Broomfield staff should receive coyote education too (Police, HHS, Public Works, etc.), perhaps something like Mary-Ann Bonnell's presentation; an education program at a school, in an auditorium, would be a really great way to reach kids too, the school education is especially needed when there has been a human attack or incident; regarding hazing methods, it would be good to find out what techniques are working in

other communities; it seems appropriate to use high-intensity hazing only after low-intensity hazing has been ineffective—so high-intensity hazing is a last resort;

>Annette-regarding Animal Control, there is a recording for animal control issues when you reach the Code Compliance answering message, are they separate departments now?

>Kristan-yes, the Animal Control Unit is within the Police Department now and Code Compliance is within Community Development—as they both used to be under Code Compliance in Police, Code Compliance staff probably want to make sure citizens know that animal issues go to Animal Control and not Code Compliance; that is probably the reason for the message;

>Annette-in regards to the Enterprise coverage, we could try to be more proactive about taking a directive with a story and avoiding the splashy headlines and misinformation; we could try to direct the message;

>Kristan-our understanding is that the headline is written by another Enterprise staff person and not necessarily the reporter that we have contact with, but we will continue to try to get the proper information reported;

>Annette-supportive of the Policy; but training on the Policy's protocols should be required for Broomfield staff; the Police and other departments should be very clear on the Policy protocol; perhaps the CSU Wildlife Masters or Animal Control could continue the public education and have information tables on issues like wildlife at Broomfield County Commons every so often—this would be a direct way to reach open space/trail visitors;

>Pascale-should continue to use the coyote mount for public education;

>Rob-we seem to really rely on the CDOW; do they accept or understand the reasoning of some of the opposition to the incident at BCC?; do they look at other viewpoints or public opinions?; how can we involve the public in this process?

>Patrick-CDOW has a statewide policy for things like coyotes, which may not meet local opinions or concerns;

>Kevin-we could ask a CDOW rep to come to one of our meetings to explain what they do in their jobs;

>Kristan-we can have the CDOW come to a meeting to describe their jobs; CDOW staff does work with the local jurisdiction; as Kevin mentioned—there was a lot of discussion with CDOW and Broomfield staff on the appropriate way to handle the two coyote issues this past winter; however, now is the time to discuss what OSTAC thinks about the Policy as CDOW has already reviewed the Policy; the CDOW staff is working with us on the Policy; the Policy will also be reviewed by the public once the Policy goes through OSTAC/PRAC and the City Council;

>Kevin-the staff is not a filter for OSTAC's comments, there can certainly be disagreement on the Policy and OSTAC comments can be passed onto the Council too;

>Dan-interested in a regional policy for the coyote issue; would hope that other agencies share the same management perspective;

>Pete-there are about 15-20 agencies that participate in the Local Urban Wildlife Working Group, and generally the policies that are being developed are very similar in management practices and objectives;

>Bette-would concur with Tom Przytarski that the staff must stick by the Policy here; the protocol should be known and followed throughout the staff;

>Patrick-has seen the management in other areas of Colorado and Wyoming where there is a very different policy for coyotes, and I applaud Broomfield for this Policy; in the future I would like to see the Policy be broader and include more species of wildlife, such as beavers, badgers, bees and wasps, and even insects;

>Judy-would like to provide written comments to the staff on the draft policy in the interest of time.

5. Update on the Results of the first Meeting of The Sustainability Committee from OSTAC

Kristan briefly described the Sustainability Committee and asked Judy to provide a brief summary of the initial meetings that have taken place. Judy reported that the committee's main goal is to create a definition and vision of sustainability for Broomfield. Three meetings have been held. The committee has discussed how the community will look in 20 years without any sustainability planning and has sought to address key issues. The committee will reach a consensus on the goals and vision and will present this to the City Council. Kevin stated that the committee is also attempting to gather data to set current benchmarks, and that potential stimulus funds could benefit the sustainability efforts. The University of Colorado is helping with benchmarking Broomfield's carbon footprint.

>Rob-hopes the ideas will be specific and practical

>Judy-yes, they will be specific and the financial implications will be addressed;

6. Approve Minutes of the April 30, 2009 OSTAC Meeting (see attached minutes):
Pascale motions for approval; Rob seconds. Approved unanimously.

7. Updates:

- Status of Segway legislation – Kristan Pritz
- Church of the Nazarene – tentative Land Use review Committee hearing on September 28 (Kristan Pritz)
- Broomfield Trail Adventure overview (Pete Dunlaevy)
- Wildlife Photos from Brunner Reservoir and Metzger Farm (Pete Dunlaevy)

8. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC:

Rob would like to see an aerial of the trails at Lambertson Farms.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on 8/27/09.