



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes
August 27, 2009

Meeting Summary

The committee took a field trip to view property in the Brainerd Drive area and the northeast area of Broomfield for possible open space acquisition. The committee also discussed recommended edits to the Co-Existence with Wildlife Policy, and commented on an update on the proposed Willow Run Open Space improvements and project budget.

Roll Call

Present:

Annette Cislo

Pascale Fried

Dan Wilkie

Judy Enderle

Rob Bodine

Patrick Tennyson

Councilmember Bette Erickson

Absent:

Councilmember Randy Ahrens

Others in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Director of Open Space and Trails

Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Planner

Agenda Minutes

1. Open Space Field Trip – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The committee visited several sites including the Lustig Property off of Brainerd Drive and areas in the northeast corner of Broomfield along either side of Interstate-25. OSTAC concurred that acquiring the Lustig property for a trail corridor would be positive.

2. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

3. Introduction of Interested Citizens:
Joel Hollis arrived at 8:30

August 27, 2009

Page 2

4. Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda by Interested Citizens:
None.

5. Review and Comment on the DRAFT Co-Existence with Wildlife Policy

Kristan Pritz reviewed the summary of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. PRAC made the following comments:

- Add a table of contents to the Policy
- Add information about the prohibition of the discharge of firearms in Broomfield (except in very limited situations) and the code reference
- Add information on how inappropriate wildlife feeding is enforced and what the penalties are

Add information on vegetation that is not as popular with the rabbits
Add a clarification that when lethal action is deemed necessary because of a human attack, more than one coyote may need to be removed

Kristan will add this information and provide PRAC with the final draft.

Kristan reviewed Judy's comments on the draft and requested OSTAC direction on the requested changes below.

Judy followed up with background on the requested changes. She explained that she has hesitation to defer to the Colorado Division of Wildlife ("CDOW") on decisions over the possible lethal control of coyotes or other wildlife. Kristan stated that staff would continue to support a position of deference to the CDOW on these issues. Pascale responded that the CDOW has the legal jurisdiction to decide on these matters, so it may be irrelevant to suggest that the City could disregard CDOW positions. Annette stated that it seems like the CDOW has made a shift towards public education and interpretation, and use lethal control for management as a last resort. Judy stated that she has had very positive experiences with CDOW and does not want to come off as being against the CDOW in any way. The consensus was to leave the policy as it stands in regards to coordination with the CDOW.

Regarding 3.6.6 of the policy where human attacks and subsequent lethal control are addressed, Judy suggested that the text read that a human attack "may" result in lethal control instead of having the word "will" used. Judy and Patrick preferred "may", but the majority of members preferred that "will" remain in the text. The word "will" will be used in the Policy.

Judy suggested that item #8, on page 16 of the Policy have the wording changed to read something like "the final Broomfield response rests with the Police Chief" and to change references to "decision" to "response" so it is not confusing on who has the final decision on the use of lethal control (CDOW or Broomfield). Paragraph #8 will be revised to read: "The City and County Manager or his designee will provide a response to the proposed CDOW action to the Police Chief or his designee who will communicate the response to the CDOW. In absence of City and County Manager staff, the final

Broomfield response to the CDOW proposed course of action rests with the Police Chief.

Judy requested that the Policy include a reference to the number of songbirds killed by domestic cats. Kristan stated that the Policy could cite the number of birds killed by house cats. Patrick volunteered to provide this information.

Rob asked that the staff continue to be proactive with education and outreach with coyote issues as we move forward. Kristan responded that we have the Coyote public service announcement running on Channel 8, information and presentations on the website and staff will continue look into other ways to get information out to the public as well.

6. Approve Minutes of the June 25th and July 30th, 2009 OSTAC Meetings
June 25th Minutes: Judy moves, Pascale seconds -- approved
July 30th Minutes: Pascale moves, Patrick seconds -- approved

7. Updates

Kristan reviewed the following updates:

-Willow Run Open Space Fence and Native Shrub Barrier Update: Kristan reviewed the costs associated with the proposed improvements and the total proposed cost estimate of \$82,000. The fence cost is \$23,000. Pascale stated that to do nothing would be unfortunate since we know there is a problem and we can address it. Judy mentioned that the Humane Society may be able to help with the fence – she will look into this. Dan mentioned that the fence will serve other functions rather than just the prairie dogs, such as the trail and motor vehicle access. OSTAC requested that staff emphasize in the city council memo and presentation that the fence not only addresses prairie dog migration but also limits negative impacts on the open space by preventing unauthorized motor vehicle access and focusing trail access in three primary locations. OSTAC requested that staff proceed with a pre-bid memo to council for the project with the barrier, shrubs, and irrigation included.

-Anthem Trails Update and Coyote Education: Kristan mentioned recent coyote issues in Anthem and the use of volunteers in the Anthem Ranch neighborhood. Guidelines state that volunteers may:

- Monitor coyote activity in the area and note the movements of coyotes through the areas of concern, and note any potential conflicts with residents or domestic pets;
- Assist the neighborhood by providing education and guidance about coyotes and to help provide a presence for residents that may be frightened by potential coyote encounters; and
- Utilize low-intensity hazing techniques, such as making noise using whistles, air horns, or bells, flashing lights or spraying water, if coyotes are seen in the neighborhood or on a trail.

August 27, 2009

Page 4

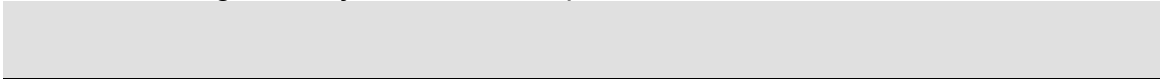
Staff will also continue to request and pursue trail connection(s) from Anthem to the Egg Farm property.

-Brunner Farmhouse Shade Structure: The Brunner Farmhouse Committee is planning to add a small shade structure over the picnic area on the east side of the farmhouse.

-Lambertson Farms Trails: Kristan provided a trails plan for the property and discussed the connections in Lambertson Farms located at W. 136th Avenue and Zuni Street. Annette mentioned that it is very weedy in the 136th underpass area. Kristan said that staff is working with the developer to get the open land areas mowed and to get the areas in good shape before the property is accepted by the City.

8. Other Topics as desired by OSTAC
None.

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



Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on October 22, 2009.