Meeting Summary
OSTAC provided comments on a proposal to place a vegetable garden at Brunner Farmhouse and upcoming public art displays. Next, OSTAC heard presentations on the 2019 Stearns Lake bald eagle reports from Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies, ERO, and CORE. Finally, OSTAC received updates on the Do Your Doody dog waste station program, OSPRT (Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails) Master Plan and Raptor Policy, Aspen Creek North development review, trail counters, Boulder Area Trails app, coyote activity and outreach, sewer line installation at Willow Run Open Space, pedestrian bridge connecting Anthem Highlands and Prospect Ridge Academy, the Civic Center presentation, and other upcoming Open Space events.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)
Present:
Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair
Todd Cohen
Doug Grumann
Terra Lenihan
Michael McLane
Chris Kassel (alternate)
Councilmember Stan Jezierski
Councilmember Liz Law-Evans

Absent:
Patrick Tennyson, Chair
Chris Petrizzo

Interested Citizens:
Deb Hayward, Eagle Watch Volunteer and Broomfield resident
Roxy Juul, Broomfield resident
Ellie McKinley, member of Broomfield Open Space Foundation, Broomfield Bird Club, and Broomfield resident
Debbie Mowery-Evans, Eagle Watch Volunteer and Broomfield resident

Other staff, presenters, and consultants in attendance:
Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director
Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Manager
Ellie Lanaghan, Open Space and Trails Specialist
Kevin Standbridge, Deputy City and County Manager
Cheryl German, Cultural Affairs Operations Manager
Shari Burton, Brunner Farmhouse Advisory Committee Member
Tim Eudaley, Brunner Farmhouse Advisory Committee Member
Dana Bove, Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies founder
Ron Beane, ERO Resources Inc. Senior Wildlife Biologist
Heidi Gerstung, ERO Resources Inc. Ecologist
Brian Smith, CORE Consultants Project Manager
Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Ray Churgovich, 6:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of Interested Citizens
   Roxy Juul commented that the pedestrian bridge going in at Hoyt and Midway was looking good. Kevin added that the project is currently on schedule to be completed by summer.

All other citizens held comments for items on the Agenda.

3. Vegetable Garden Project at Brunner Farmhouse (640 Main St)
   Kevin introduced Shari and Tom, who are board members on the Brunner Farmhouse and Gardens. Shari and Tom explained a proposal to place a vegetable garden around the farmhouse. A vegetable garden has been part of the original plan for the farmhouse since 2005, and it will bring history to the community by modeling farming practiced from 1910. The CSU Extension for Broomfield is supportive of the project, and will provide guidance and programming. The garden will promote agriculture, become a teaching area for the community, support agritourism, and provide charitable donations to FISH from the crops. The 1,800 square-foot garden is proposed to be installed on the north side of the farmhouse, in the partially-irrigated, vacant field. The garden will consist of raised garden plots that are fenced in to discourage vandalism and wildlife damage.

   OSTAC members were supportive of the vegetable garden proposal, and suggested a higher fence with natural wood to deter vandals, walking paths on crusher fines through the gardens, and to start reaching out to FISH now in order to start coordinating the food donations. Terra offered to share lessons learned from her school garden project at Emerald Elementary.

   Ellie McKinley commented that The Broomfield Open Space Foundation used to have the Brewfest in that space, and there won't be room for it with the garden there. Kevin explained that staff would be happy to work with the Foundation on this and a meeting with representatives from the Brunner Farmhouse Committee and Foundation will be organized to look at the site in more detail.

4. Proposed Public Art Projects across Broomfield
   Cheryl described upcoming public art projects. The “Water Is Life” statue will be placed outside of the new Community Center, and a broom-corn art piece will be suspended from the ceiling inside. A mural at the 136th Avenue and Zuni Street underpass will be inspired by “Starry Night” and painted soon by Legacy High School students, the “Illuminate” statue will be placed at the Midway-Hoyt pedestrian bridge, the “Brozovich Beacon” was repaired, and a pollinator vinyl wrap was placed on a traffic cabinet at 136th Avenue and Main Street. “Inspiration Moves Me Brightly” statues around the Community Park pond will need to be relocated due to the pond expanding.

   OSTAC was very supportive of the public art pieces and suggested placing “Inspiration Moves Me Brightly” to the County Commons near the Paul Derda Recreation Center. OSTAC would like to see more vinyl wraps, when possible.

5. Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies (FRNBES) 2019 Bald Eagle Report
   Dana introduced the Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies volunteer eagle monitoring group and made comments on the CORE eagle report for 2019. Dana explained that the Stearns Lake pair have their nest in a new tree, and that bald eagles normally have strong fidelity to their nest trees. He added that the Stearns Lake pair have repeatedly rebuilt the nest in the same tree every year despite it repeatedly collapsing. Dana claimed that the pair have only abandoned their original nest tree twice, once in 2014 and again in 2019 with both happening during apartment construction years. Dana added that FRNBES data
shows that the eagle’s behavior changed after the start of the Broomfield Business Center construction, with the adults perching further east more often.

6. Broomfield’s Annual Bald Eagle Monitoring Report
Ron explained that ERO has been monitoring the bald eagle pair at Stearns Lake for two and a half years. The purpose of the monitoring has been to identify behavioral reactions to disturbances related to construction and other human disturbances, and to implement stop work orders or modify work as needed. The monitoring protocol has evolved over time to include specific disturbance behaviors and to match with data collected by FRNBEs for comparison. In 2019 there were no stop work orders, but other disturbances occurred (helicopters, ditch maintenance, increase in other raptors). Two young fledged on June 13, but one was killed on the Northwest Parkway shortly after. In October, the pair began constructing a nest in a new tree that is about 0.8 miles southeast of the historic nest tree, but they continue to night roost in perches near the old tree just northeast of Del Corso Park. The new nest has collapsed some, but the adults are rebuilding it back up. There is ongoing landscaping work within 660-foot buffer zone. ERO will continue monitoring once per week for two hours at dawn or dusk to get a handle on night roosting behaviors, and has been coordinating efforts with CORE to spread out monitoring hours. Eagle Watch volunteers will be starting their sunset check-ins in February. Kristan added that all of the monitoring sheets are available on the Open Space and Trails website.

OSTAC suggested working with Boulder County and that a larger discussion of what monitoring looks like moving forward, especially with less disturbance from construction and potentially more from other human activities. Ron agreed that he would like guidance from OSTAC on this, and Kristan confirmed that this could be discussed further. Ray also mentioned light pollution and the potential effects of the old nest tree being lit up at night.

Ellie M. asked if Boulder County is monitoring the nest, and if anyone has been tracking the hours and funds spent on monitoring so far. Kristan explained that Boulder County did close the trail near the nest, and that staff can reach out to them about potential monitoring efforts. Ellie L. added that the Boulder County rangers can be called to write tickets for trespassing on the trail closure. Ron added that he can find out the total time and cost of monitoring. Brian said that CORE has spent 12,000 minutes monitoring.

Guyleen stated that she was concerned about the lopsided nest in the new tree and Ron explained that the pair are doing a lot of work in the main part of the nest. Last year’s nest was a bit lopsided as well, and the weight of all the material can pull other parts down.

Brian added that recently an EMT training class was being held inside of the trail closures.

Ron added that ERO has also done some monitoring of another eagle frequently perching at 120th Avenue and Lowell Boulevard, west of Metzger Farm. Bird Club members were noticing people going off trail and driving onto the open space to see the eagle closer, so staff has put up fences and signage to help keep people out. ERO has only seen one eagle, and also had sightings along the Big Dry Creek corridor. It is possible that eagles may build a nest along the creek, and ERO is trying to figure out how often eagles are using these areas in case further management decisions need to be made.

Ellie M., Dana, and Michael all stated that they have seen a pair of eagles in this area.

7. Garrett Companies’ Annual Bald Eagle Monitoring Report by CORE Consultants
Brian explained Garrett’s avoidance, minimization, and mitigation efforts to protect the eagles under the permit, as well as monthly monitoring and a donation to the Birds of Prey Foundation. One fledgeling was unfortunately hit on the Northwest parkway. Garrett employees cleaned up trash that had blown out of the site, and work on the regional trail within the 660-foot buffer began in July. Brian explained the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was not concerned about the Garrett Companies’ eagle take permit after the
remaining eaglet fledged in July. Garrett then elected to withdraw their permit application and USFWS officially terminated it in August. The nest slowly deteriorated from winds, and although the pair is nesting in a new tree on Boulder County Open Space they still roost in the old nest tree at night. There is not much construction work left, with the buildings being almost finished and only landscaping and irrigation needed within the 660-foot buffer. No heavy equipment will be needed, and there is approximately four weeks left of work to be done. There is also a dog park going in adjacent to the existing playground on the west end of the Garrett site. Garrett has agreed to the following night roosting protections: 1) If construction occurs within the 660-foot buffer outside of the time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., then a monitor must be present if eagles are roosting from start of work to 9 a.m. and again at 4:00 pm to end of work; 2) Loud/heavy equipment work will be monitored; 3) The approved Letter of Understanding stop work authority applies; 4) The screen fence will remain in place until CCOB approves a request from Garrett to remove the fence after project completion; and 5) Timely reports will be provided by Garrett to OSTAC.

8. **Do Your Doody Dog Waste Stations: Broomfield Leadership Academy Project**

Ellie L. presented her Broomfield Leadership Academy Project: Do Your Doody dog waste stations. The program will kickstart a dog waste station sponsorship program to increase the number of stations around Broomfield, promote responsible dog waste pick up with educational stickers for all stations, and additional messaging will be pushed out on social media shortly. The first two stations were purchased with BLA funds and will be installed around Community Park on Thursday, January 30. Danee Brouillard and Sarah Brennan-Green were also on the team, and the project could not have been done without them.

Liz suggested that the group could contact Sam Taylor at the Chamber of Commerce to ask him if businesses may be interested and could perhaps have a competition for the stations.

9. **Review and Approval of the December 5, 2019 OSTAC Meeting Minutes**

Doug motioned to approve the minutes; Michael seconds; Minutes were passed unanimously.

10. **OSTAC Updates**

- **Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan and Raptor Policy**

  Kristan explained the planned public outreach efforts for the Raptor Policy including a survey, stakeholders involved in a Raptor Roundtable for feedback on outlines and drafts, regular OSTAC meeting reviews, at least one City Council study session, and potentially an information table at special events. There will be a lot of public meetings for the Master Plan update. Staff will send the draft survey questions to OSTAC to review and provide comments.

  Dana suggested that staff refer to City of Boulder’s raptor policy.

  OSTAC agreed with the overall approach and recommended that the definition of a raptor be added to the survey for clarification.

- **Aspen Creek North Development Review**

  Kristan explained that the project is tentatively scheduled for planning and zoning review on February 10, 2020.

- **Trail Counters**

  Pete explained that staff has been putting up three trail counters in bollards along each major trail near Glasser Reservoir, Ridgeview Open Space, and the Sheridan underpass at Highland Park. The
cameras will be moved after a year or two. The data will be used to show trail usage rates and areas of need, and could be useful for applying to grants.

Todd suggested they could be used on social trails to track usage there as well.

- Boulder Area Trails App

Pete explained that the app provides a seamless map of trail systems from twelve different communities in the Boulder area, and was released in Apple and Google App stores this month. An Intergovernmental Agreement among all participating government agencies will be signed, and City Council is slated to approve this on February 11.

- Coyote Activity and Public Outreach

Ellie L. explained that coyote activity has increased this month, with two unattended dogs attacked. Coyote Crew volunteers canvassed the neighborhoods where attacks occurred. The volunteers will have information booths at the library next week. Information on coyotes was also sent out on B in the Loop and on ads in the Broomfield Enterprise.

Todd suggested that staff post coyote information on Nextdoor.

- Sewer Line Installation

Pete explained that a new sewer line will be installed through Willow Run Open Space, south of the trail. Public notice has been sent to the residents. The trail will be closed during the construction.

Michael suggested that staff create a detour route during the trail closure.

- Pedestrian Bridge near Prospect Charter School across Community Ditch

Kristan showed photos of the new pedestrian bridge that now connects Prospect Ridge Academy to the Anthem community.

- Potential Dates for Civic Center Presentation

Kristan explained that the meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27 at the library before the normal OSTAC meeting. It will start at 5:30 p.m. Kevin added that staff is anticipating a 15-minute presentation with time for comments.

- Upcoming Events

Ellie L. presented the upcoming Open Space events:

  - Friday, January 31 - Winter Moonlight Walk at Lac Amora Open Space from 6-8:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday, February 5 - Open Space Speaker Series “Colorado Corridors for Wildlife” at Broomfield Library from 7-8 p.m.

11. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

Terra asked about the work going on at Ellie’s Pond. Liz explained that she thought it was culvert maintenance, and Kristan said she would ask Park Services about the work. Terra also asked about parking at the bike park at Anthem Community Park. Kevin explained that the bike park is open, but there is not currently parking and there is a need for other improvements. The project will be going to Council soon and parking is anticipated to be part of the proposal.
Michael added that the cleanup of the house by the old drive-in at 120th Avenue and Lowell Boulevard was phenomenally done, and that McKay Lake Park had a lot of visitors on MLK Day.

No other topics were desired by OSTAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Ellie Lanaghan.