



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
January 24, 2019*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC reviewed and discussed the Midway Pedestrian Bridge and Industrial Lane improvement projects with Ed Thompson, Kristan invited OSTAC to recommend ideas on how they would like to be involved in the upcoming update to the Open Space, Trails, and Parks Master Plan, and Pete gave a status presentation on the prairie dog relocation site at Great Western Reservoir. Open Space staff also gave updates on oil and gas development, the nesting bald eagles near the Broomfield Business Center, landscaping at Tom Frost Trailhead, the draft Transportation Improvement Program project list, leash law signage, the Boulder Area Trails app, a new orienteering course to be placed at Broomfield County Commons, volunteer trainings and opportunities, and upcoming open space events.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Patrick Tennyson, Chair (had to depart at 8:02 p.m.)
Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair
Todd Cohen (arrived at 7:55 p.m.)
Doug Grumann
Terra Lenihan
Michael McLane
Chris Petrizzo
Chris Kassel (alternate)
Councilmember Guyleen Castriotta
Councilmember Stan Jezierski

Absent:

None

Interested Citizens:

Jake Frisch, Broomfield resident
Jennifer Mickelson, Broomfield resident
Michael Smith, Broomfield resident
Nicole Huntley, 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 Technician
Kevin Standbridge, Deputy City and County Manager
Ed Thompson, Capital Improvement Program Project Manager
Sarah Grant, Community Development Transportation Manager
Anthony Pratt, Otak (a.k.a. Loris and Associates) Landscape Architect

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Patrick Tennyson, 6:01 p.m.

2. Introduction of Interested Citizens

Citizens held their comments for items on the agenda.

3. Presentation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements to Industrial Lane

Ed Thompson gave a brief update on the Midway Pedestrian Bridge project. A construction agreement was approved by City Council on October 23, 2018, for the structural design and manufacturing of the pedestrian bridge with Big R Manufacturing. The project is now at 90% design, and has been submitted for review by staff and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF). The design will be complete in February or March and the project will go out for bid in the Spring. If council approves the construction agreement, construction will begin in the Summer pending BNSF approval.

Ed went on to introduce the Industrial Lane project. Ed reviewed the goals from the 2019 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Plan and how the Industrial Project ties into creating safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian trails. The project team will also strive to work with businesses in order to minimize the impacts of the project and leverage opportunities to make other improvements in the area. Industrial Lane received 27 specific public comments in the Bicycle Pedestrian Assessment, making it the second-most commented on area behind the Midway Bridge. Currently, the corridor has a single, westbound bike lane and a segment of 8-foot sidewalk along the south side of the road (on the western and eastern ends of the corridor). The 2019 CIP Budget for the project is \$2,035,001. A consulting agreement was approved on November 28, 2017, for conceptual planning with Otak (a.k.a. Loris and Associates). Otak worked with City staff to evaluate improvement options that included different types and combinations of bike lanes, sidewalks, and multi-use paths. The evaluation resulted in two options presented to the public at the Walk.Bike.Broomfield Open House held on August 15, 2018. The public expressed a preference for a separated trail versus bike lanes in the roadway. The project is being designed and constructed in two phases in order to make progress now within the approved budget. The public wanted to prioritize trail construction from Nickel Street to the East Park pedestrian underpass first. An amendment to the Otak consulting agreement was approved by Council on November 27, 2018, to complete the final design. Otak is working on the 10% design plans and a design kickoff meeting for staff is scheduled for January 30th. Design is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2019. Construction would occur in 2020, if approved by City Council. Ed explained some challenges to project, including budget, right of way, drainage, landscaping and irrigation.

Ed noted that the project is flexible and the design can respond to comments from OSTAC since the design is in its early stages. He asked members to join him at the tables with a roll plot of the design plan so he could review the overall layout for the project and members could walk around and view the plan.

Patrick asked the group to make formal comments and questions.

>Doug, Why will the project start on the south side and not the north side?

>Ed, We will need to navigate a BNSF right of way on the north side, which takes time. The south side offers an opportunity to clean up some right of way issues with other private landowners. This typically involves an appraisal and an offer of fair market value to the landowners for access.

>Anthony, This process requires striking a balance between getting the right of way, and doing right by the landowners and businesses near the project so that the project impacts their properties in a minimal way if possible.

- >Ray, Where does the Broomfield Trail come into this?
- >Kristan, The trail will go up Hoyt, along Lilac, and connect to the area along Community Ditch out to Highway 287.
- >Guyleen, Do you anticipate needing a budget amendment?
- >Kevin, We have a lot of work to do to get to that point.
- >Michael, I would like to see the power lines buried.
- >Ed, That is something we'd like to do too. It is hard to commit to at this time, but we would like to do that.
- >Kevin, We do get funds to underground utilities, but we will have to review how this undergrounding fits into to other priorities for undergrounding utilities as well.
- >Ed, We will also be planning Phase 2 with Otak to make sure we can get a 12-foot trail all the way out to Flatiron Crossing. This may also be part of what Sarah is working on through federal funding for the budget.
- >Michael, Would efforts start at same time as the pedestrian bridge?
- >Ed, The bridge should start in the summer, but this project will still be in design and would happen later.
- >Michael, What is the construction timeline for the bridge?
- >Ed, Five or 6 months roughly, it will depend on the contractor's schedule.
- >Kevin, This timeline has been shortened by getting the acquisition of the bridge approved by Council beforehand.
- >Ed, Yes, the bridge will be ready to be installed as soon as we get a contractor.
- >Ray, Do you have a good pool of interested contractors for the work?
- >Ed, Yes, we have worked with a few before on other projects and some are already interested.
- >Michael, There is no lighting on Industrial Lane right now, will this be part of the project?
- >Ed, We will have to think about the budget, but it is something that should be considered. We will be installing lighting across the bridge and for the public artwork *Illuminate*.

4. Discuss Priorities for the Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan

Kristan gave an overview of Broomfield's current Comprehensive Plan (Comp) and Open Space, Parks, Recreation, and Trails (OSPRT) Master Plan. She explained that the Comp Plan goals generally reflect the OSPRT Plan, and that there is a need to update all the maps and statistics in both plans including: acquisition maps for open space and parks, the Trails Plan based on the Bike-Pedestrian Assessment, base data maps, spreadsheet for reaching the 40% open lands goal. Staff also wants to take priorities from the Bike-Pedestrian Assessment and incorporate them into the OSPRT Plan, and focus on creating code amendments for: Public Land Dedications (PLD) - including multi-family requirements, affordable housing, and cash in lieu, types of park and open space dedications that are acceptable, detention pond issues, trail

and open space standards and specifications, and the Natural Resources Report and 20-Day Letter. Another priority is to establish parameters for the wayfinding signage plan.

>Sarah Grant, Broomfield has \$5.4 million for transportation projects, but we still have to apply to Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) through a specific process. We are trying to build off of a pilot program for wayfinding through active transportation and trails in Broomfield to help people navigate through low stress areas in our community. We may or may not apply for this project but it is currently in the running.

Kristan added that some other priorities for the OSPRT Plan update include: addressing the relationship to public art and cultural or historic activities in the open space and parks, establishing priorities in the planning process for projects such as trails, land acquisition, volunteerism and public education, wildlife, habitat, maintenance, agricultural sites, and conducting a community survey to focus goals as needed. Kristan concluded by saying that OSTAC was very engaged in the last update to the plan, and asked OSTAC how they would like to be involved in this updating process moving forward.

>Doug, What is the deadline for the updated Master Plan?

>Kristan, After we establish the scope, we will hire a consultant team and then have a general timeline. The public process can really affect how long the project takes.

>Kevin, This is realistically at least a year and a half long project. (Kristan noted that this project could be even longer given all the other staff projects that are ongoing right now)

>Michael, Where do we address wildlife issues, such as expanding and finding a new home for prairie dogs. How does this factor into open space planning?

>Kristan, Wildlife is included in the Comp Plan. There is a section with goals, and the OSPRT Plan has a section on habitat, but as the community develops this becomes even more important. This topic definitely needs to be reviewed the Update of the OSPRT Plan.

>Pete, Wildlife is covered in Chapter 9 of the OSPRT Plan.

>Chris K, This seems pretty overwhelming.

>Kristan, It is really a very helpful process that helps with setting the stage for future planning.

>Chris K, We will not be reinventing the wheel here.

>Kevin, This will be more of an update.

>Kristan, I could see us starting with reviewing the existing Comp and OSPRT Plan d goals, making refinements as needed, and then figuring out strategies to tackle these goals.

>Patrick, For the Comp Plan Update, we broke up into groups based on the different sections and made comments from there. It was really fun coming back together, talking about it as a whole, and taking it to the public. Some great things come out of it.

>Kristan, And we really do use the OSPRT Master Plan, especially for land acquisition and trails.

>Terra, Is there anything about oil and gas in here?

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>Kevin, I suggest check-ins with City Council along the way about whether the OSPRT Plan does or doesn't go along with oil and gas.

>Terra, We should also collaborate as much as possible with Teen Council and other advisory committees such as the public art and cultural committees.

>Guyleen, There is the new Environmental Stewardship committee as well.

>Doug, So would our tactics also be to split up like Patrick did before?

>Patrick, It seemed to work well to me so that we covered more ground, and the consultant will have some ideas as well.

>Chris K, What are the conflicts where we could do the most good, to figure out where our time is best spent? For example, affordable housing. How do we help?

>Kevin, Waiving the public land requirement is really a policy issue for City Council, and Council takes advice from many advisory committees to make a decision.

>Patrick, The implications of this can be large.

>Kevin, The idea of affordable housing is to bring cost down and waive different fees, including land dedication fees. How do you make it so that people can afford to find housing? You may have smaller lots, less finishes to homes, higher density, etc. The builder makes a commitment to keep costs down long term. The concept is to allow for diversity and workers at all levels in the community.

>Patrick, At the same time, 24 acres per one thousand units is needed to meet the 40% goal.

>Michael, This might be a citywide issue of buying more property.

>Kevin, That is part of the discussion. City Council appointed a Housing Advisory Committee that has been working on this issue, and they will be presenting to council soon.

>Terra, When was the plan last updated?

>Kristan, It was 2005 for OSPRT, and the current Comp Plan was approved in 2016.

>Chris K, Should we start with reading the Comp Plan?

>Kristan, Yes, it would be helpful to review it.

>Pete, The open space website has the OSPRT Plan as well.

>Doug, Is the general consensus that we want to be involved?

>Michael, Yes, and getting out to the public is key.

>Patrick, I would be open to the methodology that is found to be the most effective by the consultant.

>Kristan, We had so many people comment on bike-pedestrian assessment. The Communications Department is very good at engaging the public in a variety of ways.

>Guyleen, Maybe we could split up the chapters and look for things that are outdated. There are 11 chapters and a conclusion.

>Kristan, Kevin mentioned that I should go over the latest Community Survey at an upcoming meeting. It was incredibly positive towards Open Space and Trails. We will be in touch.

>Kevin, The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will have a similar discussion in March. When are you thinking this Request for Proposals will go out?

>Kristan, Likely in May or June if all goes as planned.

5. Status of the Great Western Prairie Dog Relocation Site

Pete Dunlaevy presented a summary of this winter's comprehensive report on Great Western from SMITH Environmental. SMITH conducts brief quarterly reports on the site, and one comprehensive report annually. Pete showed a map of the relocation site with the 65-acre boundary for relocations, the area occupied by prairie dogs in 2017, and the areas currently occupied by prairie dogs. Approximately 6.4 acres were occupied in 2017, and 86.1 are occupied in 2018.

Close to 550 prairie dogs have been relocated to the site in the last year. They have come from a variety of projects: the Nordstrom site for Extraction's pipeline trapped 12, Jefferson Academy trapped 15, and North Park at McWhinney trapped 298 prairie dogs. The United Power utilities site and the Midway bridge are ongoing. We have seen a decrease in population over the winter months due to natural factors. Low densities across the Great Western site keep the vegetation levels good, but this also limits areas for relocation. The total population for the site is 731 prairie dogs, with a sustainable density of about 8.5 prairie dogs per acre.

SMITH also conducted a habitat assessment for the site and looked at the vegetation. The site does not have terrific habitat, as the site was previously overgrazed agricultural property and the plants are mostly non-native. The percentage of bare ground is very low, although considerable clipping is visible. The report also found myrtle spurge, which is a Class A noxious weed and state mandate requires us to remove it. We will have an update on plantings at an upcoming meeting. The report did not find any signs of disease or illness in the colony. The opinion of the consultant and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is that Great Western is close to capacity, and with active relocations occurring at Midway and United Power, there is some concern that there will not be room for the prairie dogs at Lowell and Midway when the time comes to relocate them. We are actively trying to figure out if there is anywhere else to relocate prairie dogs. We have been talking with Jefferson County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about relocating prairie dogs to Rocky Flats, and they are generally not opposed, since it is a federal property.

>Stan, Are relocations paid for by the developer?

>Kristan, Yes.

>Patrick, What is the status of the Midway and Lowell project?

>Pete, It seems like they are getting close to developing, but it is getting tight at Great Western for relocations. A lot went into developing the relocation boundary polygon. Some of the shape comes from 500-foot buffers from adjacent properties, and there are some areas on the site that get too wet for prairie dogs. There is a possibility of expanding the size of reservoir in the future so we did not want to reintroduce prairie dogs too close to the reservoir. We have been talking with David Allen in Public Works to gauge the likelihood of expanding the reservoir, and to determine if there is a possibility that we could allow for more relocation space further down south towards the reservoir.

>Doug, What about the land on other side of the reservoir?

>Pete, We haven't looked at that option yet as Westminster has expressed interest in keeping that area prairie dog free, but we will definitely look at what might be possible there. There is also some possibility of finding another site here in Broomfield. Typically what we have though is old agricultural properties that would need habitat enhancement before becoming acceptable for relocation. Many larger vacant properties also tend to be up north where residents tend to be more resistant to prairie dog relocations. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is very sensitive to comments from adjacent landowners who don't want prairie dogs adjacent to their properties. We would need CPW approval and City Council's as well before we could proceed with a new site.

>Chris P, What is the ideal density for prairie dogs?

>Pete, Ten prairie dogs per acre is low, but a density above 20 per acre starts to tax the landscape and it also depends on the available habitat and its quality. During relocations we try to trap coterie together and keep them intact for relocation, as this increases their chances for survival. Great western now has some differing densities with clusters in some areas and room to grow in others.

>Patrick, Ten prairie dogs per acre also statistically affords healthier breeding populations. Denser levels can lead to future problems with broods and disease.

>Pete, My impression is that CPW is more interested in ensuring successful and sustainable relocations rather than the total number of prairie dogs saved, and prefers lower densities with room to grow.

>Michael, I thought we were looking at a site to the north by Nordstrom Open Space.

>Kristan, We have money in the budget to restore that site, but an oil and gas well pad is going in there now.

>Kevin, Once the pad is complete and operating, we may look at the site for relocations.

>Kristan, There is not a lot of room there and this site does not help us in the short-term.

>Pete, Over the next month we will continue trapping at the United Power and Hoyt-Midway Bridge sites, and then re-evaluate Great Western to see if there will be room for the prairie dogs at the Lowell and Midway site. If there is no remaining space, we would pursue other options or potentially trap and donate the prairie dogs to a wildlife recovery program.

>Nicole Huntley, There are 250 dogs at the Lowell and Midway site, approximately.

>Pete, It is a lot, and there will be other relocations in the future as well.

>Doug, Have we explored options for increasing predation at Great Western?

>Pete, We have installed raptor perches at the site, and there are numerous coyotes, bullsnakes, rattlesnakes, raptors and foxes in the area. We will also continue dusting every fall to try to prevent a plague outbreak from occurring. We will have a more comprehensive update with all of the prairie dog issues at an upcoming OSTAC meeting.

>Ray, Has there been more discussion about putting tablets for the plague vaccine at Great Western?

>Pete, That product is still in the research phase and not commercially available at this time. Great Western is not considered a viable site for the research currently, according to CPW. We have requested to be kept in the loop on this possibility though.

>Patrick, Sounds like there are some good options, with Rocky Flats and a potential for widening the Great Western relocation boundary.

>Pete, We will look into the process with CPW for expanding the boundary. The Jefferson Parkway will be coming through here somewhere as well, which is something to consider.

6. Review and Approval of the December 5, 2018 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

Michael motions to approve the minutes; Ray seconds; minutes are passed unanimously.

7. OSTAC Updates

- Oil & Gas

Kevin explained that Extraction has been moving forward with constructing the pipeline off of the Hoopes property across towards Huron Street and 160th Avenue and up to the McWhinney property. Then they will place a pad for Livingston parcel, and another three pads after that.

OSTAC and staff discussed wildlife and oil and gas related issues.

Kristan went on to explain the Designated Outdoor Activity Area (DOAA) status to use with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission in order to protect open space and park lands from development. Staff have documented the level of public use at Broomfield County Commons, and it cost \$57,000 dollars to prepare the application information regarding adjacent landowners and mineral owners to meet Colorado Oil and Gas Commission notice requirements. To date, staff has not had any appeals or strong questions about this application. The next application staff will pursue will be The Field, as we completed work on documenting the level of public use last year and will hire a company to proceed with preparing notice packages to adjacent landowners. City Council is in general agreement to proceed with applying for The Field. It is tough to do more than one application at a time, but staff will have trail counters this year and continue collecting public use data this spring. We will also be considering a joint application with Westminster for Metzger Farm as well.

>Ray, Could there be a joint application with Boulder for the open space north of Lac Amora?

>Kristan, This idea came up at the Council meeting as well.

>Michael, I am happy to help with the counts again this year.

>Terra, Have you heard of other communities applying for this DOAA status as well?

>Kevin, None that we aware of beyond Longmont for one location.

>Kristan, We will also be updating City Council on the Rocky Mountain Greenway Soil Sampling Plan soon, and have been waiting for the Westminster Hills land to be transferred to Jeff CO/City of Westminster, as it is currently owned by Woman Creek Authority, in order for the soil sampling to occur there.

- Bald Eagle Agreement with Garrett Companies

Kristan updated OSTAC on the issues of stop work and the new draft agreement with Garrett. She explained that the desire was to present the agreement to OSTAC this January, but that the developer and Broomfield needed more time to look at it and work out details. The hope is that the plan will be presented in February. Kristan went on to add that the 2019 Monitoring Plan is actively being implemented, and reports are being added to the website. The eagles are on site on a regular basis. They are regularly near the nest and seem to be getting ready to lay eggs.

Ellie explained that the volunteer Eagle Watch program is also being implemented, with a training for 9 volunteers on Tuesday, February 29, and sunset check-ins starting on Friday, February 1. The Eagle

Watch volunteers consist of Wildlife Masters and one representative from the Front Range Nesting Bald Eagles Studies.

>Doug, So monitoring is occurring, but we have no ability to stop work.

>Kristan, Yes, that is true under the old agreement at this particular time--January. But that has never been a problem with other disturbance issues that have occurred outside of the stop work period in the past. (Note there are provisions for stop work that apply to the time period from March 1 to April 30 in the current approved agreement))

>Doug, So you feel confident that we do not need to have the stop work ability in place?

>Kevin, We do want it in place, but have been working in good faith with the developer to develop a new agreement regarding this issue.

- Tom Frost Trailhead Landscaping

Pete showed pictures of the current parking lot and landscaping designs for the trailhead at Tom Frost Reservoir. The landscaping will be planted in early summer, and the plans include an information kiosk, portolet framing, a bench, trash/recycling receptacles, two cottonwood clusters for a total of six cottonwoods, three bigtooth maples, shrubs, native seeding, and organic soils. There will also be a crush-refine path to the south so that maintenance vehicles may get off of the parking lot to reach the trail. The project is going out to bid now.

>Ray, Did we remove prairie dogs from this area?

>Pete, The Broomfield County Commons Open Space Master Plan allows for only the 35-acre prairie dog preserve to the northwest of the trailhead. Broomfield trapped and removed prairie dogs on the Missionary Alliance parcel, adjacent to this site two years ago, and have followed up with management since then to keep the site clear.

>Kristan, The Missionary Alliance parcel was a piece of land purchased for the right of way for the sidewalk/roadway and open space. This current plan has decreased the number of cottonwoods to accommodate comments from some staff members regarding water concerns.

>Pete, We originally had 9-10 cottonwoods in the plan but went down to six in order to keep them in clusters for stronger irrigation and to increase their chance of survival.

>Kristan, Our arborist felt that the sawtooth maple trees would survive well.

>Ray, When the large trees are planted, what diameter will they be?

>Kristan, I think approximately 2 inches or so.

>Kevin, We do want them to be smaller, as they tend to survive the transplant much better.

>Pete, I can send you the final specs if you're interested.

- Potential TIP - Grant Project List

Pete gave an overview on the draft Grant Projects List for the Transportation Improvement Program. There is a pool of money to apply for grants for a variety of projects including: North Area Mobility Study: US-287 Corridor Study (bus rapid transit), Broomfield Transit Needs Assessment and Pilot, US-287/120th Avenue Corridor Multimodal And Safety Study, Call n' Ride and Marketing, US-36 Bike and Ride Shelters and Marketing, Midway Multimodal Corridor Study, Priority Low-Stress Active Transportation Routes and Wayfinding Pilot, Industrial Lane Improvements (complete Commerce to Flatiron, Phase 2), 112th Avenue/Uptown Avenue, Industrial Lane/Commerce Intersection Improvements.

>Sarah Grant, This list is a working draft, and we will also hold a public forum to prioritize different projects. The caveat with this is that the funding would be federal money, so there would also be federal requirements, and increases to the cost and time required to implement the project.

>Ray, What is the US-36 Bike and Ride Shelters and Marketing item?

>Sarah, They are enclosed shelters at bus rapid transit stations that provide an extra layer of security to lock bikes. That project is partnered through Commuting Solutions as well, so that helps with the funding too. We have three shelters left to build for this project, which will cost about \$130,000 a piece to construct.

- Dog Leash Sign

Kristan presented the design for a new dog leash sign to be placed at Del Corso Park, and potentially other open space sites. She explained that the graphic artist is very creative and wanted to ask OSTAC for their comments on it. The sign aims to use humor to cajole people to work with us on this issue. The sign reads: "NOTICE TO ALL DOGS: Woof, bark*. Ruff, ruff, bork, woof. --Wag! Wag! TRANSLATED FOR DOG CARETAKERS: Listen, you always have to wear your leash**. Also, if you poop in the park, have your caretaker pick it up and throw it away. --Thanks! **Violations subject to warnings and/or fines *Grrrrrrrrr."

>Terra, I think it is great.

>Guyleen, I like the humor.

>Chris P, Is it too strong to say that violators *will* be fined? At lac amora off-leash dogs are a huge issue, and I worried people will not be concerned about the warning.

>Kevin, The objective of code enforcement tends to be compliance. Residents typically will get a warning before being issued a citation.

>Pete, The citation does also require a mandatory court appearance.

>Todd, Maybe that should be included on the sign.

>Kristan, We will check into adding this wording.

>Todd, I think is fine because it will get people to talk about it, but maybe there should be a second sign about the court appearance.

>Kristan, I am not sure we will ever get all of the people with dogs off leash. We will try to accommodate these suggestions on one sign.

>Todd, People react to different things. Some people will talk about this and hear about it through word of mouth, but others may laugh it off and keep taking their leashes off their dogs.

>Terra, It could be added to the asterisk.

>Doug, Do we have a web page to show people where to go off leash? It should also be on the sign.

- Boulder Area Trails Application

Ellie reviewed a new collaborative project called Boulder Area Trails. It will be a mobile application including the trails, trailheads, and regulations of Boulder County, City of Boulder, Broomfield, Erie, Lafayette, Longmont, Louisville, Lyons, Superior, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Broomfield contributed \$1,000 to the project and continues to collaborate by providing data and insights for the

application's development. The project has also been funded by a Great Outdoors Colorado grant and is being contracted with Timmons Group. There may be opportunities for us to connect this mobile app with our own interactive web map in the future. The app is expected to be released this May.

- **Orienteering Course Installation at Broomfield County Commons**

Ellie explained a new proposal from Rocky Mountain Orienteering Club to place in-ground markers at Broomfield County Commons Open Space this spring as part of an Eagle Scout project. Orienteering is a sport that involves navigating between different points using a map and compass. The new course will be allowed under the following conditions:

- Signs and course paths are only placed along existing trails at Broomfield County Commons,
- No more than 10 signs are placed for the course,
- Signs remain flush to the ground to allow for mowing and other maintenance practices.
- All course signs are placed with Broomfield staff present.
- Maintenance and upkeep of the course is the responsibility of RMOC, and is subject to removal if not well-maintained.
- A Public Private Improvement Permit is filed and approved.

The in-ground markers will be "orienteering orange" with a 7-inch diameter and lay flush with the ground. They will be placed 150-250 meters apart along the trails.

>Doug, What is the purpose of this course?

>Ellie, Orienteering is a fun activity that encourages people to enjoy the outdoors and learn about their surroundings. This course is designed to be a beginner's path to teach people how to use a map and compass to navigate. Part of the Eagle Scout project will also include workshops to engage the public in how to use the course.

- **Volunteer Updates**

Ellie gave an update on upcoming open space volunteer activities and training opportunities:

- Coyote Crew Training Session
 - Monday, January 28
- Broomfield Eagle Nest Watch Training Session
 - Tuesday, January 29
- Urban Wildlife Rescue talk with Jack Murphy
 - Monday, February 11

- **Problem-Based Learning Activity at Centennial Elementary**

Ellie gave an overview on a new volunteer project at Centennial Elementary that is being organized by Annie Lessem and Janis Lievens of the Broomfield Open Space Foundation (BOSF). The project will help guide third and fourth grade classes, along with the school's Student Leadership group, to solve the problem "How do we get more families to experience Alexx & Michael's Pond Open Space?" Children will be guided through the decision-making process based on project limitations, such as items/activities appropriate for open space and a budget of \$1,000. The project will need volunteers to help facilitate small groups of students through this process once per week on Thursdays from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

>Kristan, BOSF is very excited about funding this project, but they do want to see a concrete proposal from the children before providing the funds.

>Pete, We will need to consider flood plains, mowing, irrigation, and other maintenance issues as well.

Chris Petrizzo, Ray Churgovich, and Terra Lenihan expressed interest in volunteering for this project and will be provided with more information.

- **Upcoming Events**

Ellie presented the upcoming Open Space events for February and early March:

- Open Space Speaker Series: Ferruginous Hawks of the West with Ariana Dickson, Graduate Student at Boise State University
 - Wednesday, February 6 from 7-8 p.m. at Broomfield Library
- Winter Moonlight Walk with Nature Program
 - Friday, February 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Lac Amora Open Space
- Birds of Prey Foundation Presentation
 - Saturday, March 2 from 1:30 to 2:30 at Broomfield Auditorium

8. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

No additional topics were desired by OSTAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Ellie Lanaghan.