



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
January 26, 2023*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members received an update on the Prairie Dog Policy, Nissen Channel Drainageway and other updates such as Anthem Community Underpass, Water Tank Technical Analysis, status of Development reviews and OS&T Events.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Michael McLane, Chair
Renaë Stavros, Vice-Chair
Teng Keng (TK) Vang
Alexis Sweet
Scott Whitmore

Absent:

Patrick Tennyson
Dave Holmstrom
Chris Petrizzo
Councilmember Todd Cohen
Mayor Pro-tem Stan Jezierski
Beverly Burbach, Open Space and Trails Administrative Analyst

Interested Citizens:

None.

Other staff, presenters, and consultants in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director
Peter Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Manager
Lexi Brewer, Open Space and Trails Specialist
Jean Hardouin, Open Space and Trails Administrative Analyst
Michelle Regan, Project Manager, DTJ Design

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Michael McLane at 7:35 p.m. for the meeting.

Michael called the meeting to order and welcomed any members from the public.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None

3. Prairie Dog Policy Research

a. Mapping of Colonies

Pete compared the areas for prairie dogs from the previous analysis to the current analysis.

b. Ordinance Changes to prairie dog policy

Changes are designed to better define violations and close loopholes. We will be reviewing in detail the proposed changes at an upcoming meeting.

c. Potential Fencing Options

Staff looked at the Heritage Park Fencing in Louisville - the fencing often rips and tears so this type of fencing generally does not hold up well.

At Anthem Ranch, a mesh, stiff poultry type wire fence is used with trenching. Although not 100% effective, this fence is more durable, transparent thus lessening visual impact, and requires less maintenance. However, this type of fencing is expensive. This fence was constructed by the Anthem Ranch developer.

Staff will continue to have ongoing discussion regarding best options.

Michael, Any comments from residents in Willow Run regarding prairie dogs?

Kristan, we do get comments about prairie dogs but more comments come in about getting the site mowed to address weeds.

Michael, what is recommended if citizens do complain about prairie dogs?

Pete, the options really depend on the situation. At times the pro forma permit may apply when health and safety issues are involved. However, fencing or another option may be appropriate in another location. Pete, no matter what type of fencing we use, it will still need to be maintained and managed.

4. Nissen Channel Floodplain and Southeast Community Loop Trail Update

a. Open House

Only two people attended the open house that was held at Paul Derda Recreation Center. Another mailing will go out regarding next steps before the project starts, according to the Engineering Manager for this project.

b. Next Steps

The project Will be in two phases starting on the east side of the project near Lowell Boulevard and then moving west towards WalMart along the drainageway.

Rena, how were people notified regarding open house? She is concerned that some of the residents are not getting the notices.

Pete, a mailing was sent regarding the open house, not sure what else has been put up on social media.

Rena, maybe get the project management to help get the word out.

Pete, we will also confirm the timeline and extent of the project.

Pete, a lot of trees will need to be removed but there is a robust replacement of trees once construction work is completed.

Michael, is there a status on the Wasatch SDP near Perry Street and along 120th Avenue?

Kristan, we have not seen a recent SDP submission.

Scott, the project map is very helpful showing the phasing and the landscape plan - do citizens have access to that map?

Pete-will check what is on the project page.

Michael, where is the senior housing on the map?

Kristan, we can ask for this information to be added to the map as it would be very helpful, the senior housing is on the south side of the main trail in the drainage project.

**Please note that OST staff shared the OSTAC requests to 1) have another notice sent to residents before the project starts, 2) to add the Senior Housing to the base map, and 3) to put the landscaping map on the CIP website. The Project Manager agreed these tasks will be completed. Pete confirmed in an email right after the meeting that this project extends from Lowell west to the Walmart.*

5. Review and Approval of the December 8, 2022 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

Michael requested a motion to approve the OSTAC December 8, 2022 minutes; Scott motioned and TK seconded; Minutes were approved unanimously.

6. OSTAC Updates

- Events - Kristan:
 - *Winter Bike to Work Day* - February 10, Friday
 - *Markel and Wottge Open Space Plan*: Open House, February 16, Thursday @ Aspen Creek School, 5500 Aspen Creek Drive, 5-7 pm
Lexi, At the open house there will be handouts including several conceptual designs for each site and corresponding survey. The event is being publicized in multiple places. Information about the meeting is also being included in the Aspen Creek school's weekly parent emails. Kristan, we will be discussing the results of the Feb. 16 meeting and follow-up with OSTAC at a future meeting.
 - *Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Leaders Visit*, March 12-15
 - *Boards and Commissions Dinner*, April 12, Details Coming on location and time.
 - *Anthem Community Park Underpass Project* (out to bid and tentative Council contract review March 7 if all goes as planned- **Staff has learned that this project is now delayed due to the need to address a maintenance agreement with the Northwest Parkway and FRICO.*
- Anthem Community Park Bridge (construction documents being prepared, November 2023 construction is proposed to start when Community Ditch water delivery ends)
- City Council Discussion of the Water Tank Technical Analysis
Kristan, noted that the tract for the tanks was never part of the original open space tract- council looked at alternative sites at a recent study session, Michael went to the meeting as a resident, not representing OSTAC and commented.
Michael, he noted that the site analysis criteria should also look at impacts of the project on open space
Rena, was there a visual analysis shown at the meeting? How is open space protected?
Michael, yes, from all sides but not from above for the view analysis
Kristan, the Charter has provisions that address the protection of open space.
Rena, does the charter spell out a process?
Kristan, yes, a specific process for open space is outlined in the Charter.
Scott, the resident mentioned that the height of the dome for the partially buried tanks is concerning.
Kristan, the design for the tanks will be included in the SDP proposal
At a future meeting, OSTAC will be asked to look at the trail, overlook, fence and paint color of the tanks for example. A proposed pump station may also be part of the project scope for OSTAC review.
- OSTAC Applications for Youth Member and Youth Alternate Member (14 to 18 years old) due January 31, 2023
TK, do you know if we have any applications yet?
Lexi, we don't manage the application process so we don't know this information at this time. This is handled by the Clerk's Office. We hope so and have done some specific outreach to the schools to make sure youth know about this opportunity.
- Rare Bird Update
Lexi, staff received photos of a rare bird caught by a local photographer at Broomfield County Commons, we just wanted to share these photos.
- Eagle Watch Volunteer Recruitment
Lexi, we believe that the eagles are getting ready to nest at Stern's lake, watchers will volunteer to watch everyday at the same time for consistency starting in February through April.

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- May 4th Joint OSTAC/PRSSAC Meeting; OSTAC Meeting (*New Meeting Date for Joint meeting only, OSTAC will still be on April 27*)
- Development Review Update
 - *Harvest Station (northeast corner of Commerce Street and W. 118th Avenue-no formal address yet)*

Pete, this project will have a park with playground and other amenities that are privately owned with a public access easement on a park at the corner of W. 118th and Commerce.
 - *Wadsworth Junction, 11495 Wadsworth Blvd, SE of Highway-36 and 116th Ave.*

Pete, the project includes trails that will connect to the RTD park-n-ride, US 36 pedestrian bridge, and future Airport Creek underpass.
 - *LaPour at Arista, former Johns Property (located south of Parkland Street and east of US 287 near Arista - no official address yet)*

Staff continues to work on trail connections to Arista and US 287. This is a commercial project so there is not a public land dedication.
 - *Broomfield Town Square (BTS) 150 Main Street*

Kristan, this project will go to council in the coming months. We are looking at what the changes are to the current ADA ramp off of DesCombes and the future location of the Main Street Underpass that will be in conjunction with a drainage project that is part of the BTS project and a Broomfield project.
 - *Siena Reservoir Pump Station and Drainage, 15600 Lowell Blvd.*

Pete, they will remove trees but now have tree replacement as part of plan. Have added a small connection along the driveway to keep the trail flowing - plan is to drain the reservoir for improvements as soon as June. Timing is a concern because of wildlife. Staff is trying to get a slightly wider trail as this is a popular area for walking, running, and cycling.
Kristan, we will have an update at the February meeting for this project.
 - *Avian/Bird Flu Outbreak*

Pete, we have a collaborative effort to get information out. Josh's Pond seems to have a large grouping of infected birds. Signage was put up for safety/notice and includes a way for residents to report sightings. There is a report of some cases of the flu jumping to mammals. Also, the disease is impacting raptors, which is concerning. Our website has a link to information and the reporting form on the Public Health website.

7. Other Topics as Desired by the Public

None.

8. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

None

Michael asked for a motion to adjourn; TK motioned, Alexis seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Jean Hardouin.