



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
January 27, 2022*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members were given a briefing on the Broomfield Town Square, the Simms Technology Park, the Raptor Management Plan, the Midway Boulevard Multimodal Plan, and the ARTery Mural Project. The committee was provided an update on the Broomfield Trail Adventure and other department projects and topics such as: the Marshall Wildfires, applications for OSTAC committee members, the Open Space and Trails Technician position, Lac Amora trail project, and upcoming events. Lastly, the committee was asked to appoint three representatives to the Development Review Sub-Committee.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Terra Lenihan, Chair

Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair

Chris Petrizzo

Patrick Tennyson

Nathan Kral

Ryan Gelston

Renae Stavros

Michael McLane

Mayor Pro-tem Stan Jezierski (joined at 8 pm due to another meeting and after the development review discussion)

Councilmember Todd Cohen (joined after the development review discussion)

Absent:

N/A

Interested Citizens:

Roxie Jull

Other staff, presenters, and consultants in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director

Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Manager

Jack Pritchard, Open Space and Trails Specialist

Beverly Burbach, Open Space and Trails Administrative Analyst

Lynn Merwin, Planning Manager

Shelby Jablon, Senior Planner

Jeff Romine, Director of Development Finance and Economist

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Terra Lenihan, 6:00p.m.

Terra called the meeting to order and welcomed any citizens from the public. Terra started the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

Beverly Burbach took attendance.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None.

3. Progress on the Broomfield Town Square, generally located north of West 120th Avenue and east of Main Street

Lynn Merwin introduced the Broomfield Town Square project. She provided a background on the project's origins, the general layout and phases of the development. Lynn talked about the different aspects of the current project including the lake expansion, trails, incorporation of pollinator friendly plant species, multi-use buildings, including the market hall in the former Safeway store, and the possibility of wildlife habitat along the lake buffer. In future plans, there is potential for expansion of the library and additional housing into this area. She gave the committee an update on the project status; currently the project is in staff and agency review with construction anticipated to begin late 2022/early 2023.

Chris, with regards to the lake, do you know what the planned depth is? How was this depth decided?

Lynn, the development team has prepared a lake report, this is on the Broomfield Voice Page, and shows that the deepest point will be about 7 feet deep. There are pros and cons discussed in the study, but they are being thoughtful given conservation concerns and maintenance when deciding how best to design the lake.

Chris, you mentioned that there will be a transfer of land to the developer, how does that work? Will the City give them the building or sell it?

Lynn, yes, a land transfer is planned as established in the 2019 agreement between Broomfield and the master developer approved by City Council. Part of the Broomfield contribution to this town square project is that Broomfield will be giving them land valued at \$20 million. The land transfers will be phased in during future development. The lake and the north end of the site will remain owned by the city.

Ray, what will happen to the existing businesses in the Safeway shopping area?

Jeff Romine, going back to Chris's comment, clarified that the land will be conveyed at no value, but it will be assessed at \$20 million once transferred. Also, I should note that the lake and the pond will be two different levels as the pond will continue to operate to handle rainwater runoff collection. Back to Ray's question, there are no longer businesses in the Safeway building, the existing businesses in the parking lot and wing buildings are not owned by the city. Therefore those are not part of this project.

Ray, I heard that there will be potential discussions about affordable housing. Does that mean that it has not been approved and is not part of the current plan?

Jeff, we have an agreement in place that states that the developer has committed to 20% of the housing being affordable, they could also provide cash in lieu, but have indicated that they intend to build those houses on site versus taking the cash in lieu. However, they may not be the final housing developer so this could change over time. The city could also buy down single family houses to allow for affordable housing as well. More discussion to come, but the shared commitment is there.

Rena, looking at the area where the beach is, is the path part of the first phase of development?

Lynn, yes, it is. The first phase covers the trails, buildings, plaza and the beach. Some of the accessory elements such as the boat house, other restrooms and perhaps the townhomes would follow in future phases.

Patrick, I wanted to applaud the team and congratulate everyone on this project. I was part of the first planning group, in 2016, so it is great to see it continue.

Lynn, thank you, it is great to know someone who was in the first planning group.

Chris, I want to echo that, I continue to be impressed by the City of Broomfield. I wanted to add into consideration an opportunity for homes, for those who lost their homes in the Marshall Fire.

Jeff, Council asked me this question a couple of weeks ago and we as a staff are doing what we can to help serve that short term need as well as our long term needs. There has also been discussion on improvements to Baseline, Flatirons Crossing Redevelopment and this project to address those displaced by the Marshall Fire.

Terra, thank you for addressing this concern and those who have lost their homes. In addition, I am excited for this work.

4. Progress on Simms Technology Park, Great Western Park Filing No. 6 PUD Amendment, SDP, and Final Plat, located at Simms Street and W. 112th Avenue

Shelby Jablon gave an overview of the proposal for the Simms Technology Park. The project consists of 14 buildings, 4 pad sites for future development, and no residential housing. There will be public trails, pollinator plantings and open land used for a road per the CHARTER allowance. Kristan noted that a road does not require a change of land use according to the CHARTER language regarding a change of open space use. However, payment for the land used for the road is required and the developer agreed to make this payment.

Michael, that is going to be a gorgeous trail!

Terra, you had mentioned that Brocade was concerned about the trail going through their property, but I think this will be a benefit to them and their employees.

5. Status Report on the Raptor Management Plan Research

Pete discussed the status of the Raptor Management Plan. The plan is currently in the first phase: surveying rehabilitation centers to get summaries for direct human causes of raptor injuries and discussions with surrounding cities to identify their current raptor management plans and policies. Pete reviewed the summary of these findings with the committee and discussed how the data will be used to develop the plan. He also shared the project's future phases and goals. Pete talked about creating an event for the public and noted that the team is open to ideas for this event.

Chris, so excited to see that there is a willingness to do this, I wanted to see if the plan could include the role of off leash dogs and their impact on the raptors environment. Perhaps patrol or public outreach to bring awareness to this issue? He recounted an observation of an off leash dog attacking a prairie dog that a hawk was also trying to prey upon and how finally the hawk gave up on trying to feed.

Pete, thank you for that. I will follow up on that. I would also like to add if you see a pattern of this off-leash behavior a call to dispatch will help. They will patrol based on where calls come in.

Terra, I would like to reiterate that as well. I like Chris's idea on public outreach for this to help explain why dogs should be leashed.

Chris and Todd, there is no data on dogs attacking the birds?

Pete, I don't know about that specifically, I will follow up.

Patrick, looking at event ideas, having a wildlife biologist come to give insights will bring a lot of attention to the challenges raptors face. So it may be a good idea to use several different sources of information together- perhaps a fair- to bring awareness.

Pete, that would be a great idea.

Kristan, animal services would be a good perspective to have as well at the "Raptor Fair."

6. Overview of the Midway Boulevard Multimodal Plan

Pete gave the committee an overview of the Multimodal Plan by highlighting the overall goals and background. He provided a map of the project areas and discussed the phases of the plan.

Michael, can you explain the gap between the two zones just east of the intersection of US 287 and Midway Blvd.?

Pete, in the gap, the facilities there are completed and adequate for what we are looking for from this project, although we understand that the intersection is still a very busy one and not an easy one to cross.

Kristan, do you feel the same Michael?

Michael, that is one of the areas that scares me, but I will look again.

Pete, there are still possible intersection improvements to that area, but the sidewalks are in place and are 8-foot wide on the north side already.

Michael, is that where the barriers are? Because they are not easy to maneuver around with a bike.

Pete, I will follow up with that, there could be painting and striping still to be added there. As well as signage to allow for more distinction.

Kristan, after looking at the GIS map there may be some 8 ft. sidewalk pieces here and there, but I do see mostly 6 ft. wide sections so we will look at that. I also want to mention the Broomfield Voice page, we encourage you to leave comments there as well as there is a survey you can take.

Rena, I have been down most of this stretch on foot and on bike and I am fascinated by the design. Are they trying to stay consistent or will it be a different design for each segment?

Pete, I think there will be different designs because each segment has different constraints.

Michael, on the description we saw you listed freight and rail for multimodal definition, that could scare some people. You may want to remove that.

Pete, we will ask about that. Thank you all for your comments.

7. Presentation on the ARTery Mural Project

Pete introduced the ARTery project, stating that the project is trying to incorporate a low-stress network of walk and bike paths with engaging art and culture. He gave an overview of the project phases; the project is currently in the first phase. This project is being developed by Creative Broomfield.

Chris, I saw money to uninstall as the art is expected to last 1-2 years, is there a timeline for that?

Pete, I know the question has been asked, but I think the idea is 1-2 years, but they will attempt to maintain the art, to prolong its life as long as possible. If it fades or is degraded, we don't want to have unmaintained art along the trails negatively impacting the user experience. This money is earmarked to address that concern.

Terra, would this be just a 1-2 year, one time thing, or would it be recurring?

Stan, I think there is a lot of support for this work.

Terra, will someone from Open Space have a chance to be involved in this?

Pete, we (staff) have been involved at some level, with some trail connection ideas, but I do think that as it evolves we will be able to come back to OSTAC with updates and some review.

Terra, in the past we have been able to form a group to provide feedback, is that a possibility?

Kristan, I think that if you are interested in working on this we can follow up with Megan.

Terra, would anyone be interested in this?

No members were able to sign up for this project.

Kristan, I would like to get OSTAC feedback on the submittals to help with the installations and their locations. Staff will coordinate OSTAC follow-up with this approach with the Cultural staff so OSTAC members are informed about the project.

8. 2022 Broomfield Trail Adventure Potential Location and Update on 2022 Broomfield 100 (Review and Comment)

Pete discussed the location for the Broomfield Trail Adventure (BTA): Anthem Community Park/Siena Reservoir, at 15663 Sheridan Parkway. He discussed the goal and the date of the event. Pete noted that there will be printed passports again this year for the Broomfield 100 and mentioned the department's attempts to engage younger audiences. The proposed route will extend through the Anthem 24 open space south of Anthem Community Park.

Terra, I am glad this year's route will go that way, there is some good native vegetation in that area.

Patrick, Pete and Kristan worked hard to preserve that with the developer.

Stan, Do you have any concern with the trails being close to the active fracking sites?

Kristan, There are houses being built southeast of the Livingston pad, recreational activities are occurring at Anthem Community Park, and existing sidewalks/bike lanes are located adjacent to the Livingston pad site along Sheridan Blvd. We did not see a concern with the route. The public also uses the trail that extends through Anthem 24.

Stan, does it open us up to criticism from folks that are concerned about the pad sites?

Kristan, There could always be a concern raised by someone.

Stan, I do not have any concerns at this time.

Kristan, I am happy to talk with any citizens that bring questions forward. I will double check with Jennifer Hoffman, City and County Manager and Andrew Valdez. Strategic Initiatives Manager to make sure that there are no concerns with this location.

9. Request for Appointment of OSTAC representatives to Serve on the OSTAC Development Review Sub-committee (3 to 4 members requested) (Vote Requested)

Kristan discussed the need for a development review sub-committee based on the requirements set forth by the new Bylaws. She summarized some of the duties and responsibilities of this group.

Renae, the time commitment is not extreme. The committee generally tours sites or virtually meets to review plans, these meetings are usually less than an hour. I enjoyed it.

Michael, Renae and Patrick said it, I would love to continue as I have enjoyed it.

Terra, we need to officially have a vote.

Patrick, I would like to still serve.

Renae, I would like to still serve.

Michael, I would like to still serve.

Terra motioned to approve the sub-committee of Patrick, Renae and Michael; Chris seconds; Sub-committee approved and motion passed unanimously.

10. Review and Approval of the December 9, 2021 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

Patrick motioned to approve the December 9, 2021 minutes; Michael seconds; Minutes were unanimously.

11. OSTAC Updates

Marshall Wildfires

Kristan discussed the Marshall Fires, their tragic impact, and the city's response to questions about fire concerns and preparation for future.

Michael, will this be reflected in the updated master plan?

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

January 27, 2022

Page 6

Kristan, we are starting that and yes some of the elements from what we do here regarding fire mitigation measures can be brought into the plan.

Todd, we do hope to have a meeting on this once the reports are in, so if there is comment from this committee it would be beneficial.

Terra, if we work with Superior and our Open Space neighbors that would be beneficial as well.

Applications to Serve on OSTAC (January 28 applications due by 5:00 p.m.)

Kristan let the committee know that there are some members with terms coming to an end. These members may reapply and applications are due on January 28 at 5 p.m.

Ray, How much interest have we had from the public?

Kristan, we have 9 people that have applied.

Michael, could volunteer hub track terms?

Kristan, we can suggest that.

Renae, I like in person interviews better than the video interviews.

Terra, I think many people feel the same way.

Stan, great feedback, is it harder to apply that way?

Renae, I think the in person interview is hard, but I think a virtual meeting may be more successful.

Stan, great feedback.

Todd, yes great feedback.

Michael, echo Renae's comments.

Open Space and Trails Technician Position (Kristan)

Kristan gave an update on the Tech Position. 80 applications, 12 spark hire interviews and 6 selected for virtual interviews. Hope to make a decision by the February meeting.

Chris, this is a new position correct?

Kristan, this is a new position.

Lac Amora Trail Project (Jack)

Jack gave an update on the Lac Amora Trail project.

Events

Jack discussed the following events:

- Night Skies, February 4, Anthem Community Park/Siena Reservoir, 15663 Sheridan parkway 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Telescopes, Constellations, and Storytelling), Co-sponsored with the Broomfield Open Space Foundation [This event was ultimately postponed due to weather].
- Winter Bike to Work Day, Feb. 11 6:30-9:30 a.m.

Other topics as requested by Citizens

None

12. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

Patrick, I wanted to update the group on the fact that there are still fish in the Tom Frost Reservoir from the Kids Fishing Derby and that they continue to thrive in that pond. The fall fishing derby was a success based on that.

Kristan, about Metzger, we had our Broomfield Westminster Open Space Foundation meeting and the committee would like to get the farmstead opened up more frequently. David Allison suggested working with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to get actors on the land to portray characters from the

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

January 27, 2022

Page 7

time period that this farm was in operation. The board also stated that they are interested in preliminary work to open the house for public outreach and events.

Also, tomorrow we will be meeting with the OS, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan team to begin work on that, more to come.

Chris, tip my hat to Patrick and his team at the Butterfly Pavilion because the pollinator vernacular has become very commonplace.

Patrick, thank you, I am grateful to Broomfeild for being so welcoming to the idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Beverly Burbach.