



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
January 28, 2021*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members heard a presentation on the Draft Plaster Reservoir Open Space Management Plan and a review of the Capital Improvement Program projects slated for 2022 and 2023. The committee also reviewed the 2020 Accomplishments and 2021 Goals for Open Space and Trails, and a summary of the Development Review Checklist for Open Space and Trails staff.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Patrick Tennyson, Chair
Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair
Terra Lenihan
Michael McLane
Renaë Stavros
Doug Grumann
Chris Petrizzo
Ryan Gelston
Councilmember Stan Jezierski
Councilmember Liz Law-Evans

Absent:

Todd Cohen

Interested Citizens:

Shirley O'Leary
Rich Dancey
Nancie Brackett
Wendy Bangs

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
Kelly Behling, CIP Project Manager
Rebecca Hannon, Project Manager and Certified Ecologist, Smith Environmental
Rebecca Baker, Civil Engineer/Floodplain Manager
Laura Hubbard, Laboratory Supervisor-Water
Jonathan Diller, Senior Engineer, Smith Environmental

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Patrick Tennyson, 6:02 p.m.

Patrick called the meeting to order and welcomed any citizens from the public.
Kristan Pritz reviewed the Google Meeting tips.

Kristan introduced and welcomed Jack Pritchard, as the new Specialist for the Open Space and Trails Department, and noted some of his related work experience and education.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None

3. Presentation on the Draft Plaster Reservoir Open Space Management Plan and Discussion

Kristan introduced the proposed Plaster Reservoir Open Space Management Plan and emphasized that this is a DRAFT version of the plan, and stated that comments from the public are still welcomed. Kristan introduced the following project staff: Rebecca Baker and Kelly Behling with the Broomfield, and Rebecca Hannon and Jonathan Diller with Smith Environmental and Engineering.

Rebecca discussed the timeline for the project and provided a summary of the public engagement process and an overview of the community survey. Rebecca reviewed the survey results to date. Jonathan discussed the flood capacity assessment and the associated recommendations. Rebecca also discussed recommendations on ecological management, water quality, passive recreation, and other maintenance possibilities. Recommendations and overall strategy for the project emphasized public safety, maintenance and habitat enhancement.

-Rena, do we have information on who the respondents were? Were they all residents? Were they from adjacent neighborhoods or just general residents?

-Rebecca H., we did not collect that location information, however, responses seemed to be local and generally from the surrounding area.

-Terra, I really like the idea of the turtles and the sign collaboration.

-Doug, Why was the osprey platform recommended versus the raptor platform? I also support the turtle ideas and have seen turtles out there.

-Rebecca H, Ospreys are easier to get to nest on a platform, other raptor platforms can be put in as well. We were thinking that more on the west side for a new platform.

-Patrick, Do we know about the depths across the reservoir, or the types of aquatic wildlife that might support different raptors? I am thinking a little bit about the potential food sources for the osprey.

-Rebecca, The deepest point is probably only 5 feet, and the bottom is pretty flat. With dredging equipment, we could create deeper points and habitat. Speaking about the ospreys, we do not believe there are large fish in Plaster, but there are some other lakes, and nearby McKay etc. that are stocked. There is no guarantee the osprey will nest, but we thought it was worth a try.

-Johnathan, there will be a topography and mapping of the depths across the reservoir included as part of the final plan.

-Patrick, Thinking about herbicides and the impact on wildlife, how do we manage the implications of herbicides and are they safe for the creatures? Do we have the license requirements?

-Rebecca, Disclaimer: I do have a license to apply herbicides, but I do not have the aquatic license, so you will have to work with someone with a license specifically for aquatics. Anyone applying herbicides is going to use one that is tested and labeled to be used in the aquatic environment. They must adhere to the label. You would just want to get someone certified to apply. You can also get by without chemicals, but it

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

January 28, 2021

Page 3

will be a lot of work as cattails have some sturdy roots. Non-chemical maintenance will typically involve more labor and cost.

-Patrick, thank you, Broomfield always is diligent about things like this.

-Doug, asked for a clarification on the amount of cattails to be removed by the viewing deck and in other areas on the west side of the reservoir.

-Rebecca, we would be removing up to 75% of the cattails on the viewing desk, and removal in that area was asked for in the surveys.

-Rena, is the west area referring to the cattails from Lowell up to the reservoir?

-Rebecca, yes, you're correct as they are dense in that area. You could remove more, but I would hesitate to remove too many cattails in this western area. They do serve a stabilization and filtration purpose, and they have ecological value.

-Ray, with the phosphorus levels being high, have there been considerations about looking at the golf course and their fertilizers?

-Rebecca, we would have to verify the source, and it could be the golf courses, along with other contributors. A discussion with the golf course on this issue can certainly occur.

-Ray, regarding the 100-year flood, how did Plaster Reservoir hold up? Does that impact this plan?

-Rebecca, not many issues with flooding were brought up by the surrounding residents.

-Doug, the floods were downstream and the reservoir level did not change very much. The outlet really released the water downstream without holding much back.

-Jonathan, one of the items not on the slide was updating the flooding model. The role of how floods are addressed down stream will be addressed in the future.

-Patrick, any citizen comments on this project?

-Patrick, it does not seem there are any more comments, Kristan what are the next steps?

-Kristan, next steps are to finalize the draft and bring the final back to OSTAC on February 25th, for a recommendation to approve the plan. Please email/call me if you have any further comments. Thank you, team.

4. Review and Discussion of 2022 and 2023 Proposed Capital Improvement Program Plan

Kristan provided an introduction on the upcoming CIP Plans stating that the 5-year plan was discussed at the last meeting, but staff wanted to highlight the 2022 and 2023 projects specifically for the Committee. Pete discussed the specific projects proposed for 2022 and 2023, and showed vicinity maps for each project.

-Ray, regarding the Airport Creek underpass, how is the railroad when it comes to working with us?

-Pete, they are aware of our desire and there is an existing drainage culvert there, which we will be attempting to retrofit for pedestrians. It will be easier to go under than over, but it will certainly require coordination with them and we are prepared for that.

-Kristan, with the Midway bridge we had a good experience with the railroad. The same CCOB engineer for that project will also be coordinating these two underpass projects. We have received 3 proposals for the design and will be selecting a consultant next week.

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

January 28, 2021

Page 4

-Doug, regarding the Wildgrass/E-470 tunnel, there is a social trail, but then some fencing and private property. Could we get the fences removed, before we formalize the public trail?

-Kristan, you are talking about the Boulder County side of the trail?

-Doug, yes there is no way to get to Anthem right now.

-Kristan, we are working with oBoulder County Open Space and Lafayette Open Space to get access through their land. We would be going up to the Rock Creek Trail first, rather than directly to Anthem. The connection to Anthem will be where the existing trail connects, at the old Egg Farm site off of the Coal Creek Trail.

-Doug, it seems there are oil and gas roads in the Nordstrom area already for use. Where is the potential of using the Extraction road between Huron and the Broomfield trail at Sheridan?

-Kristan, the existing oil and gas road on the Davis and Nordstrom Open Space would serve as the trail. McWhinney plans to dedicate land between the west side of Davis and Sheridan , and it makes design sense to use this parcel for a trail connection as well as some of the other uses planned for this property that include park/athletic fields. I can check if there is any interest in allowing pedestrian access on the Extraction Haul Road but my hunch is that there are likely concerns about opening up the haul road to public access at this time given our negotiations with Extraction and potential Council concerns.

-Terra, on the Commerce Street trail, I wonder if there is any chance of the mobile home park in that area getting greater trail access? Are there any park plans in that area? They really do not have a park they can use currently?

-Pete, that is a good question, the connection to Commerce Street will be helpful as it will connect surrounding sidewalks as well -- not in the most direct way, but will help. However, the land in this area is not owned by Broomfield, but we have been looking for possible park sites and trail connections wherever possible.

-Kristan, although it is not one of our Open Space projects, I think transportation is making some improvements in that area too. We can contact Transportation Planning and Engineering to see what they may be building near the mobile home park. We are also working on a 'creative corridor' to help link the public up with art and history. There is a push to link this area to the RTD and civic center.

-Terra, on the Markel property there were two connections proposed and I would like to advocate that we do both, if we can, including the connection over to the school.

-Pete, yes -- this is something we will try to include. When we get to this project we will use a public process to get opinions from the surrounding community as well.

-Patrick, you mentioned a project in 2022 with the Nissen Reservoir Channel Trail, but I was curious about the potential trail from the west point of that behind Walmart and over to Sheridan Blvd. Is that still a possibility?

-Pete, we at this time do not have a solution for getting through the storage facility just west of Wal-mart. Broomfield acquired that property along Sheridan (the Kabert property) which gets you to the storage facility, but we still have no way to get through the facility.

-Kristan, I wanted to mention that the Kabert property was purchased with CIP funds therefore it is not officially Open Space. The land could be used for other purposes, but as of now the trail is proposed for that land. We may be able to get through Kabert by going to the south of the dog facility, but no matter what, we do have to go through the storage facility somewhere.

-Patrick, thank you we will keep working at it.

-Michael, any thoughts of using Yates Court? Could be a use until we get access?

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

January 28, 2021

Page 5

-Pete, we have thought of that and looked at it in the past, but it is a quiet street and we would not expect the neighborhood to want that to be a public trail connection.

-Kristan, the trail was suggested by a resident and the immediate neighbors met on site with staff. They feel that backing out of their houses could be a danger since the trail would cross close to driveways.

-Stan, I have heard that some residents do want a connection there.

-Kristan, that is interesting, and we can revisit the idea. It was not a formal neighborhood meeting or review of the concept.

-Stan, seems to be a split opinion in that area.

-Kristan, would the committee like us to attempt to make this proposal to the neighborhood?

-Michael, yes.

-Stan, yes.

-Kristan, could we add that to the 2023 CIP plan and address the project through a public process?

-Stan, yes.

-Michael, yes. I am impressed and would love to see them all move forward.

5. Open Space and Trails Administration

Kristan discussed the goal setting process that Open Space and Trails goes through with the City Council. She highlighted the key goals the department has for 2021. Kristan also discussed the 2020 accomplishments of the department.

Kristan discussed the development review process and highlighted the key factors reviewed and negotiated by Open Space and Trails staff.

6. Review and Approval of the December 3, 2020 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

12/03/20 Minutes: Michael motioned to approve the minutes; Ray seconds; Minutes were passed unanimously.

7. OSTAC Updates

Pete provided an update on the Lowell Boulevard crosswalk and underpass, north of 136th Avenue. Water was backed up in the underpass and it was decided to use sump pumps to remove water. This will also bring an electrical power connection to the underpass and allow for lighting to be installed. It was also discussed that there could be a crosswalk to bypass the underpass if need be.

Pete discussed the City Council memo for Naming of Sheps' Crossing slated for Feb 9th council meeting.

Pete provided and updated the progress on the trail counter at Shep's Crossing. The area for the counter to be installed has been reviewed, and should be installed in the next month or so.

Pete discussed the Carolyn Holmberg/Rock Creek Open Space Management Plan. This plan was approved by the Boulder County Commissions with some minor adjustments. Pete addressed these adjustments and noted some items that will continue to be reviewed and evaluated. Kristan stated that the Plan was approved by the Boulder County Commissioners as well.

Pete discussed the STRAVA bike and pedestrian application. He gave an overview of the process and informed the committee that the department has applied for a STRAVA Metro application, which could be used by staff and the Committee in the future.

Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

January 28, 2021

Page 6

Kristan discussed the City Council memo for the 30x30 Pledge Proclamation, slated for the February 9th meeting, and requested a motion from the committee to make a recommendation, if desired. Michael motions to support the pledge, Terra seconds, motion approved unanimously.

Terra discussed the signage honoring native and indigenous people and the possibility of a future speaker on this topic in the Open Space Speaker Series.

-Chris, that is so cool you made that connection and I really support that idea!

-Patrick, really fantastic and long term could be a community opportunity.

-Terra, I agree, there is so much to learn here. We can do a better job of honoring and bringing the issue to our attention.

-Doug, look at the relationship between smallpox in indigenous populations and COVID today. We've experienced only a small fraction of that loss.

-Kristan, we will look at the Fall Speaker Series to connect to that topic, and will work with the committee and regional experts to review any interpretive signage regarding that history.

Kristan asked if there was anyone who was willing to volunteer to serve on the Broomfield Open Space Foundation. Please pass along to interested friends.

Kristan mentioned the February 3 Open Space Speaker Series. Patrick will be presenting on the Butterfly Pavilion along with Kyle Harris, Baseline Manager on the Pollinator Pathway concept and its importance to biodiversity.

Kristan discussed the OSTAC meeting dates for December and March. OSTAC was given the option between December 2 or 9, and December 9th was preferred. The March meeting is currently planned for 25th, but this is the spring break week for Boulder Valley schools. Kristan asked members to let staff know if they cannot attend. So far, only one member cannot make the meeting so we plan to have the meeting on March 25.

Kristan noted that while the Dillon Point project was discussed at the City Council meeting, a final decision was not reached, and further discussion is planned for February 11 at a Special Council Meeting.

8. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Pete Dunlaevy and Beverly Burbach.