



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Minutes
February 24, 2022

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members were given a briefing on Broomfield's Fire Mitigation planning/research, and a status report on the Simms Technology Park. The committee was given a Presentation on the design for the Airport Creek Underpass, an update on the Wayfinding project and updates on the OSPRT (Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails) Master Plan joint meetings, wildlife management and upcoming events.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Terra Lenihan, Chair

Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair

Chris Petrizzo

Patrick Tennyson

Renae Stavros

Michael McLane

Ryan Gelston

Nathan Kral (arrived at 6:45)

Mayor Pro-tem Stan Jezierski (joined 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

Ed Thompson, Capital Improvement Program Project Manager

Shelby Jablon, Senior Planner

Clay Shuck, Acting Emergency Services Manager and Director of Recreation, Parks and Senior Services

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Terra Lenihan, 6:03 p.m.

Terra called the meeting to order and welcomed any members 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. Overview of the City and County of Broomfield's Wildfire Mitigation Research and Planning

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Clay Shuck introduced himself and gave an overview of Broomfield's wildfire mitigation plan; including the process behind creating the plan and identifying the needs for an emergency management plan. He discussed the definition of mitigation and the factors that contribute to wildfire danger. Clay wrapped up with an update on the phases of the plan and its implementation.

Rena, Does Broomfield have a map of the emergency evacuation routes?

Clay, no we do not, there are some up in the areas where Oil and Gas wells are located, but it is something we are working on. I would also like to note, however, do not wait to be evacuated, get out if you have a fire. Also, there may be pre-planned routes, but the emergency response team may change them depending on the situation.

Patrick, is the building code being looked at?

Clay, that is a layer of mitigation protection, we are not at that layer yet, but it will be looked at.

Shelby, yes it is, one of the things we are looking at right now is the landscaping code, but there are more aspects that will be examined over time.

Clay, any code changes for that will be a few years out.

Kristan, could you send us the info for, VOAD (Volunteer Organization Assisting in Disasters) and the Emergency notification application?

Clay, yes.

Pete provided VOAD and the Emergency application information to the group following the meeting.

4. Status Report on the Floodplain Work that is part of the Simms Technology Park, Great Western Park Filling 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 and discussed the need for work in the floodplain to allow for this proposed project. Kristan added that the team is working to ensure that the habitat in the creek areas will be preserved as much as possible and that the city is attempting to minimize the impact on wildlife. Shelby also mentioned that the land for the trail that crosses a corner of the Brocade Property will be dedicated to the city and will make trail creation easier.

Chris, because this is a private development, there is a need for this?

Shelby, any development on this site would need to do this work in the floodplain.

Chris, do they pay for it?

Shelby, yes.

Michael, since the land is dedicated to us there is no concern for the trail connection?

Kristan, I know we were hoping to have a connection made to Simms St but it does not sound like that will be happening as the Brocade owners do not want to allow for this connection across their property. They are concerned about trail users parking in their building's parking lot to access the trail. There will still be access at the east end of the trail as it abuts Simms Street. However, this access point will not be on Brocade property but instead on Broomfield-owned property.

Shelby, yes, as of now that Simms Street access point for the trail will not be on the Brocade property.

Chris, is an environmental impact study done for this work?

Kristan, not a formal EIS (Environmental Impact Study) as in a federally required study, but we will be requiring an environmental analysis that will analyze impacts to vegetation, where the grading is and what

other environmental details will be impacted by the project. They will have to submit a 20-day environmental letter outlining potential environmental impacts and any mitigation to these impacts.

Patrick, is there a water detention area on site?

Shelby, they do have water detention, but aside from that the work would still be required.

Rena, how flexible are they in terms of where the improvements will happen?

Shelby, our hope is that they will be flexible, we plan on going to the site to highlight key areas for improvement.

Ray, is there a revegetation plan?

Shelby, we have not requested that at this time since we do not know the extent of the work, but it is a possibility.

Kristan, I would say that is a given that they will need to do some revegetation.

Chris, is that potential Preble's Jumping Mouse habitat?

Kristan, the developer will do a 20 day letter for this project to address the habitat and wildlife concerns.

Terra, 20 day letter is done 20 days before construction?

Kristan, yes but we will want them to research this topic during the development of their proposal for the floodplain work.

Ray, are there plans for replanting of trees in the long range to benefit raptors?

Kristan, this is something that we have discussed. At times we plant trees with some of our open space and trails projects. An example would be the Tom Frost Trailhead. (Additional information provided after the meeting in response to the question: We also have a citywide tree planting program. In most cases, trees need to have irrigation. In our volunteer projects, we plant small cottonwoods in drainage areas with the hope that a reasonable number will survive even without drip irrigation.)

5. Presentation on the Design for the Airport Creek Underpass located just west of the Broomfield Industrial Park Ballfields

Ed introduced himself and gave an overview of the underpass project. He discussed the project location, the need for the underpass as documented in the Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan 2005, Original Broomfield Neighborhood Plan 2008, and the Broomfield Bike-Pedestrian Assessment 2019, the design, and the methods for construction. He went into detail on the 3 alternatives for underpass construction including pros, cons and cost of each alternative. Alternative 1 was recommended for implementation. Comment was requested.

The following was discussed when considering the 3 alternatives:

- Connection to U.S. 36 from the underpass.
- Connection to the U.S. 36 Bikeway.
- Connection to 112th Avenue.
- The Wadsworth BLVD crossing.
- Usage of the underpass.
- Connection to the Big Dry Creek Trail.
- Park construction in the area.
- Cost of each Alternative.

Ray, will the tunnel be lit?

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Ed, yes.

Ray, there was a line item for \$420,000 to BNSF. What does this go to?

Ed, we would have to purchase an easement, and there is a submittal process that requires the hiring of consultants and plan reviews.

Michael, does BNSF play into the timing of this project.

Ed, yes it would. They do add time.

Terra, who is in favor of Alternative 1?

Ray, Patrick, Renae, Chris, Terra, Ryan, Nathan all in favor.

Ray motion to propose Alternative 1 with the proposal of an additional future trail connecting south to 112th. Michael Seconds, Motion passes unanimously.

6. Presentation on the Wayfinding Signage

Pete gave the committee an overview of the Wayfinding Signage. He showed the committee the proposed signage for the Lake Link Trail and asked about feedback. As well as thoughts on updating the colors for the current signage in Open Space. Pete also provided a timeline for this project.

Patrick, the teal is in the overall branding plan for Broomfield?

Pete, yes.

Ray, would this be a replacement for all current signs?

Pete, no this would be a phased in approach. However, we are starting to look at the replacement of several signs and would incorporate this new color plan.

Ray, with regards to the edge shape, there is no cost difference. Correct?

Pete, yes.

Michael, the rounded is less harsh.

Terra, I like the rounded, it matches the current signs.

Ray, I do like the overall look. Do we know how well attended the online presentations were for this project?

Pete, I do not think the online was well attended, but they did get good feedback at in person events.

Kristan, we are learning that meeting people at events or on the trails is a better way to get community feedback in many cases for our type of work.

Ray, We had previously discussed on-pavement signage?

Pete, we are talking about it, but I think they want to get the brand set first. These ground trail markers would be a future phase.

Kristan, to sum up, it sounds like OSTAC would like the new Open Space and Trails signs to have the teal edge and posts, and as existing signs need to be replaced, staff should also incorporate this approach?

Committee, yes.

Patrick, is it possible to get all the signage posts to be thick?

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Pete, these are thick due to the signage size, so thickness of the poles will depend on the signage size. The thicker poles are used for the larger ID signs.

7. Review and Approval of the January 27, 2022 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

Michael motioned to approve the January 27, 2022 minutes; Chris seconds; Minutes were unanimously.

8. OSTAC Updates

Thank you to Terra, Michael, Nathan, Ray, Renae, and Ryan for their Service on OSTAC

Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan: Proposed Joint Meetings:

Kristan shared the shared schedule for the joint OSTAC/PRSSAC meetings on the OSPRT (Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Trails) Master Plan. She also noted that a smaller subcommittee to help with some decisions will be created at the April meeting.

OSTAC-PRSSAC, March 24 (Th 6:00 p.m.)

PRSSAC-OSTAC, July 20 (W 6:00 p.m.)

OSTAC-PRSSAC, October 27 (Th 6:00 p.m.)

PRSSAC-OSTAC, January 18, 2023 (W 6:00 p.m.)

OSTAC-PRSSAC, April 27, (Th 6:00 p.m.)

PRSSAC-OSTAC, August 16 (W 6:00 p.m.)

OSTAC-PRSSAC, October 26 (Th 6:00 p.m.), if needed

Kristan, would the committee like to select a new Chair and Vice Chair at the March meeting or the April? Committee, decision will be made at the March meeting.

Baseline Neighborhood Wildlife Management (Pete) (Request for Comments)

Pete gave an update on the Baseline development regarding the Burrowing Owl.

Terra, what is the lifespan of a Burrowing Owl?

Pete, 10-15 years. This one is at least 6 years old.

Partick, would the developer make other burrows on private land unattractive to help them relocate to the proper spot?

Pete, perhaps, it seems based on previous research, that trapping has not been successful. There are a lot of burrows on surrounding land so we will see.

Kristan, would this happen in the next 12 days?

Pete, it will happen immediately after approval. Unless its mate returns or we enter the nesting season on March 15th.

Patrick, has it demonstrated a unique diet?

Pete, yes, the pellets are noticeably different between seasons. There is more fur and bones from small mammals this time of year, and exoskeletons from insects during the warmer months.

Request for an OSTAC Volunteer for the ARtery Sidewalk Murals and Stencils Project

Pete provided an update on the ARtery project and asked for volunteers for the ARtery Sidewalk Mural and Stencil project.

Ray, is this like last time? A voice in the review, but no vote?

Pete, I am not sure I will find out.

Terra, I would like to do it.

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OSTAC concurred that Terra is the OSTAC representative for this project.

(Follow-up: The OSTAC Rep is considered a juror on the selection panel. The Rep will provide scores for each submission that will be averaged across all panelists, and then the panel will come together to select up to three semi-finalists to recommend to the (new) Arts, History and Cultural Council. So, the selection panelists are not voting members - juror or panelist is a better term. The recommendation from the panel will be voted on by board members to adopt the recommendation.)

Progress on the Lac Amora Trail Project (Jack)

Jack gave an update on the Lac Amora Trail project.

Events

Jack discussed the following events:

- Dr. Ulyana Nadia Horodyskyj Pena, March 16, Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., The Summits, Songs and Science Projects (VIRTUAL)
- Night Skies, March 25, Friday, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Broomfield County Commons Red Field Pavilion, 13200 Sheridan Boulevard (Telescopes, Constellations, and Storytelling), Co-sponsored with the Broomfield Open Space Foundation
- Boards and Commissions Dinner, April 14, Thursday, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the Chateaux, 13600 Xavier Lane (More Details to Come)
- May 7th "Talon Talk" Event at Alexx and Michael's Pond
- Eagle Watch Volunteer Program-Eagles have laid their egg(s)! 2/21/22.

Ray, last year there were some complaints that the Boulder trail was not closed near the Eagle nest, and I noticed that it did not happen again?

Jack, they had issues with enforcement of that, but they did close Cradleboard and put signs up on the trail around the reservoir. It's a balance to try and keep people moving while not drawing too much unwanted attention to the nest while people are using the trail.

Kristan, we work with Boulder County Open Space so we will ask them about that process and decision making. (Follow-up: Pete provided a link to the information on the Boulder County website for the trail closure in an email sent after the OSTAC meeting)

Other topics as requested by Citizens

None

9. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

Pete, during the raptor presentation there was a question about pet interactions not on the list for raptor influences, and the consultant said it is under predation and will be addressed in the plan.

Kristan, in the last meeting there was a question about BTA (Broomfield Trail Adventure) location and after talking with the City Manager and the Oil and Gas staff person, we are going to proceed with the event.

Closing with February Quotation and Photograph

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Beverly Burbach.