



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
March 25, 2021*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members discussed naming options for the Harmer Open Space and Professors Park Properties and were given an update on possible locations for the Shep's Crossing Interpretive sign. The committee also discussed themes for the new kiosk at The Field Open Space, were given an update on the 2021 Trails Map review process, reviewed the locations and possible upgrades to social trails along the Lake Link Trail in the Ridgeview Open Space and finally learned about the visitor usage data being collected by trail counters at Shep's Crossing and along the Lake Link Trail.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair
Michael McLane
Doug Grumann
Chris Petrizzo
Ryan Gelston
Todd Cohen

Absent:

Patrick Tennyson
Terra Lenihan, Chair
Nathan Kral
Renaë Stavros
Councilmember Liz Law-Evans
Councilmember Stan Jezierski
Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Manager

Interested Citizens:

None

Other staff, presenters, and consultants in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Open Space and Trails Director
Jack Pritchard, Open Space and Trails Specialist
Beverly Burbach, Open Space and Trails Administrative Analyst

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Ray Churgovich, 6:01 p.m.

Ray called the meeting to order and welcomed any citizens from the public.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None

3. Discussion and Request for Recommendation on Name(s) for the Broomfield-owned Harmer Open Space and Professors Park Properties and Guidance on Naming Process Next Steps

Kristan introduced the Harmer Open Space and Professors Park Properties and gave background on how these parcels of land were acquired. She also discussed the background on the current naming options for the properties. The results for naming options between the OSTAC and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) were presented. The board was asked what they thought of the proposed names.

-Ryan, I say Harvest Moon is my favorite.

-Chris, I am lucky in that the top 3 are those I like, Big Bison is my favorite. I love Todd's suggestion about naming the site after a Native American, but this requires coordination with tribal representatives. It would be a great way to honor them, Big Bison seems the next best thing as it denotes a connection to Native Americans.

-Doug, I echo what Chris said. I am happy with what the group decides.

-Michael, For the same reasons as Chris, Big Bison and Harvest Moon, both denote Native Americans which is what I would like to see.

-Todd, I echo that this is an opportunity to recognize native tribes. I do not feel qualified to pick a name, so would PRAC be open to looking to the Native American tribe for help? Could we ask the native tribes what they believe would be most respectful?

-Ray, I echo Todd. I would be willing to help do the leg work to accomplish this.

-Kristan, thank you, to summarize Big Bison and Harvest Moon were referenced as preferred names from the naming matrix, but the group would like to seek a name that will honor Native Americans from this area. OSTAC members would like to work with PRAC on a Native American name. However, If PRAC would like to proceed on their own to name Professors Park given the need to also name two more parks in Palisade and to address the maintenance tracking concerns with these existing parks---what does OSTAC think?

-Ray, are we saying that the two could have different names? The park and the open space?

-Kristan, Yes, if PRAC believes they need to move forward with the naming of the Professors Park property given these concerns noted above, and acknowledging that the process to reach out to the tribes will take time that perhaps they do not have, two names would likely result. It is understood that OSTAC prefers to find a single name for the Professors and Harmer properties.

-Ray, Hopefully, we could work together on this, but yes we would understand that.

-Chris, I agree, but if we could have one name that is preferred.

-Kristan, does anyone have any concerns with two names? (committee shook heads no). I will pass on this information to Recreation Services so it can be shared with PRAC. This includes OSTAC's:

- Naming Matrix results;
- Preference to have a Native American name for both sites; and
- Understanding that PRAC may choose to move forward with naming Professors and the other Palisade park sites although one name is preferred; and
- Request to work with PRAC on proposing an appropriate Native American name.

Ray and Terra volunteered to help with the naming process.

*(Terra volunteered to help later as she was unable to attend the meeting).

4. Discussion of Shep's Crossing Interpretive Sign Locations and Request for Designation of Two OSTAC members for the Preliminary Review of the Draft Signs

Jack introduced the topic and showed images of the potential sign placement locations. He discussed the pros and cons of each location and asked the committee for their ideas and input. Jack asked for a couple

of volunteers to help with the review process of the signs. Kristan mentioned that the review process can be in person, reviewing printed versions of both draft signs, if the volunteers from the committee found that to be necessary.

OSTAC agreed to proceed and noted that ADA accessibility, impacts of a potential future Hunter Douglas development on the property adjacent to the sign locations, and avoiding the signage being placed too close to the artwork are important considerations. Michael and Chris agreed to review the signage. Jack will be in touch with them to get their comments on the graphics and narrative content of both panels.

5. Discussion of The Field Open Space Information Kiosk Signage Themes

Jack introduced the concept of a new Kiosk at the Field Open Space. He discussed its location, potential primary themes and asked for a general brainstorm on any additional themes or topics of interest to include.

-Chris, on the wildlife theme, for the open space I feel that this land belongs to the wildlife and the humans are visitors. I have an impression that many people do not feel this way, so could we put verbiage in there that highlights the fact that humans are visitors and the native habitat found throughout Broomfield's Open Space belongs to the wildlife?

-Kristan, we could look at some language like that, we also want to mention that you are entering a wild place and you have to open your heart and understand it is a different experience from walking into a parking lot.

-Ray, I love that idea! And to piggy back, this could be an opportunity to remind people there is a leash law, unless this information is stated elsewhere on the signage.

-Jack, great point, thank you.

-Doug, Kristan was the Open Space Foundation buying a kiosk?

-Kristan, they have supported the kiosk at McKay and Tom Frost, but I have not asked about supporting this kiosk yet, we will make that request. They have also provided money to support the interpretive sign at Shep's Crossing and have been very generous about supporting these types of educational improvements throughout Broomfield's Open Space sites.

-Chris, Jack are we saying there will be information on the kiosk describing the artwork benches?

-Jack, yes or perhaps a map of the locations so that people could engage additional signage or information associated with the artwork where it is found.

-Chris, would it be redundant to have it on the sign and the bench?

-Kristen, I do not think we have a lot of information about the artist and the materials on the benches so we could add this background information to this sign if it is desired by OSTAC.

Jack, thank you for the feedback, please reach out if you have other thoughts.

6. Update on Progress on the 2021 Trails Map and Designation of Two OSTAC Volunteers to Review the Draft Map

Kristan updated the group on the status of the new Trails Maps and asked for two volunteers to help with the review process of the map. Volunteers will review the maps as well as the language on the back of the map.

-Ray, what stage are we at with this?

-Kristan, we are nearing the printing stage.

Michael and Ray volunteered to review the map. Kristan thanked them and will pass this information on to Pete.

7. Discussion of Social Trail Development at the Ridgeview Open Space located east of US 287 and north of Miramonte Boulevard and Kohl Street

Jack gave an overview of the five social trails in the Ridgeview Open Space connecting to and from the Lake Link Trail. Concerns of drainage, erosion and wildlife impact were explained and feedback was requested of OSTAC.

-Ray, I appreciate whoever moved the trash can on this trail that winds down the hillside from Anne Crouse Park aka Water Tank Park, it is much more convenient in its current location. Given the switchback, is there any way to build stairs for the trail so that those who want to cut through the switchbacks can?

-Jack, we would have to look at the impact on native plants in that area, but this could help reduce visitors short-cutting the bends along the switchbacks.

-Ray, ADA will need to be considered.

-Kristan, I believe this segment is not ADA compliant due to the slope and trail surface texture. A staircase and training area could be very popular at the Iris location, but we still have the cyclists who want to use this location as well. Incorporating a design that could function for both of these uses would be an important consideration.

-Chris, what happened at Josh's Pond trail may happen here as well. A social trail could be created alongside the improvements (stairs or switchbacks), widening the trail and ultimately not reducing the targeted impacts.

-Doug, I think the "why" behind these trails needs to be considered because I like them the way they are. I understand safety concerns, but I do not see a reason why we need to develop them. Let's keep fun in all of these considerations too. If there are justified reasons to eliminate these social trails, like a clear impact to wildlife in the area, then I understand.

-Jack, that is helpful to know, we are trying to see if it is worth developing any alternative plans. This is the feedback we are looking for from the committee, to know which of these social trails (if any) are a concern that need to be addressed.

-Doug, bikers like single track, and as I have mentioned before I would like to see more opportunities for this type of recreation in Broomfield. But, I vote to leave them the way they are.

-Todd, could we use signage to limit the use of the social trail that enters the first drainage off of Quartz Drive, giving visitors a clear reason to avoid this unofficial trail. Maybe this would help them move on.

-Jack, that was our thought with the trail that goes into the wildlife area in the drainage; we do not want there to be visitor-coyote conflict if they den down in this valley again.

-Chris, I would like to see that trail closed off, to avoid wildlife disturbance. To the East of Josh's Pond there was a bike trail that went into drainage, but we were able to block it off and now the trail is recovering. We may not need to do much to solve this problem.

-Michael, I would like to see some stairs in Broomfield.

-Jack, thank you for this helpful feedback. In summary, we will continue to pursue the CIP project for Iris (including the concept of a training staircase); monitor the wildlife in the drainage area and any trail use impacts; and consider putting a bench at the end of the short trail that goes out to the overlook point. Beyond these follow-up items, we are hearing that OSTAC would like to hold off on any other social trail work. We will keep OSTAC updated on our findings.

8. Initial Trail Counter Data at Shep's Crossing & Lake Link Trail

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Jack gave an overview of the data collected from the trail counters at Shep's Crossing and Lake Link Trail. He noted that the fluctuating spring weather conditions (i.e. the major snowstorm) impacted visitation on the weekend of the 14th, and early the following week. This data collection is still in the very early stages, a more concrete understanding of visitor usage numbers will be shared in the coming months.

-Ray, that is awesome, thank you for sharing this information

-Kristan, would you mention the number of additional trail counters you are going to place?

-Jack, we have the aim of seven total counters being operational by the end of 2021. In addition to Shep's Crossing and the Lake Link Trail, we are looking at putting one on the Broomfield Trail, one on the U.S. 36 Bikeway, one at the Sheridan Underpass connecting Highland Park to Country Vista, and we are still determining the other locations. Eventually, these five additional counters will be added to the two already placed in the field.

-Ray, can this data be used to take counts of the parks to protect them from oil drilling?

-Kristan, I think you are referring to the Designated Outdoor Activity Area Process. Many of you helped by documenting use of the BCC open space. Based on current legislation/zoning, it will be much more challenging to put drilling on open space.

-Ray, thank you for sharing Jack.

9. Review and Approval of the February 25, 2021 OSTAC Meeting Minutes

2/25/21 Minutes: Michael motioned to approve the minutes; Doug seconds; Minutes were passed unanimously.

10. OSTAC Updates

Plaster Reservoir Aerator

Jack shared a photo of the Solar Bee that is at Plaster Reservoir which was asked for at the February OSTAC meeting.

Quail Creek Planting

Jack discussed the April 10, Saturday Morning, Urban Prairies Project Planting Day in an area east of Plaster Reservoir along Quail Creek. Volunteers can sign up through Volunteer Hub.

Status of the Eagles

Jack informed the committee that the Eagles did weather the storm, no hatching recorded in observations as of now, but the nest is being monitored.

-Chris, how do you identify male versus female?

-Jack, my observations are based on size, but this is something that I am not overly confident in. I know some of our volunteers, who know these individual eagles well from previous years of observation, can better identify the male and female.

Speaker Series

Jack discussed the upcoming Open Space Speakers Series, April 7, 7:00 p.m. *Coyotes of Broomfield*, Emily Beam and Joelee Cicak and April 28, 7:00 p.m. *The Summits, Songs and Science Project*, Dr. Ulyana Horodyskyj Pena (NOTE THAT THIS PRESENTATION HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED GIVEN SCHEDULING ISSUE)

Concept Reviews

Kristan informed the group that the OSTAC Development Review Team will be getting together soon.

Other topics as requested by Citizens

None

11. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Beverly Burbach and Jack Pritchard.