



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
April 22, 2021*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members were briefed on the Active Transportation Wayfinding Project and were given an overview of the Great Western Reservoir Open Space Fencing Replacement Project. The committee reviewed the two interpretive signs for Shep's Crossing, were given an update on the naming of the Harmer Open Space and Professors Park properties, introduced the idea of starting OSTAC meetings with a land acknowledgement to honor indigenous peoples and finally reviewed plans for the 2021 Broomfield Trail Adventure and Broomfield 100.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

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

Absent:

None

Interested Citizens:

Doug Grumann, previous OSTAC member

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
Trung Vo, Senior Planner and Project Manager, Toole Design Group
Marc Ambrosi, Senior Transportation Planner, City and County of Broomfield
Sarah Grant, Transportation Planning Manager, City and County of Broomfield
Erin Messner, Water Resources Manager
Cathy Harris, Water Resources Analyst

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Terra Lenihan, 6:01 p.m.

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

Beverly reviewed the google meeting tips and mentioned emergency maintenance on the City and County of Broomfield system beginning at 9 p.m.

The Committee welcomed new youth alternate member Nathan Kral and said goodbye to Doug Grumann, thanking him for his years of service to Broomfield Open Space.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None

3. Overview of the Active Transportation Wayfinding Project

Marc Ambrosi introduced himself, his team and the Wayfinding Project. Trung Vo introduced the details of the transportation project and engaged the committee in a poll on wayfinding in Broomfield. Marc continued with an overview of the project, discussed the history, public engagement, and phases of the project.

-Chris, can you give some examples of wayfinding?

-Trung, yes - signs, sign locations, directions or markers painted on the ground, maps, and even technological wayfinding such as apps on a phone or other similar digital resources.

-Ray, this is great. Are you worried about the public discussing additional trails instead of wayfinding?

-Trung, that is a concern but we want to hear all concerns and we will keep an open mind for all feedback even information that is not related to wayfinding directly.

-Marc, as a planner and having done these projects before, it is always key to listen and you never know what you may hear.

- Sarah, I would like to talk about a grant opportunity for the industrial lane project. This is new funding signed in by the governor that focuses on safety, active transportation, and connection for the last mile. The state would like to see that the community is supportive of this project. This is a quick turnaround, due mid May, would OSTAC like to provide a letter of support?

-Ray, I am in support of the project. It is a tough one given the location.

-Liz, Thank you Sarah for your hard work with this project.

-Sarah, thank you. I appreciate your time this evening.

-Michael, are there things we can do as individuals to show support for this project?

-Sarah, letters of support are part of this grant so my thought was to reach out to OSTAC.

-Kristan, we were hoping to get a motion in support of this letter of support.

-Sarah, this would provide funding for the construction of the first phase.

-Rena, Golden Bear Bikes is located right there too and they may be supportive of this project as well.

-Sarah, thank you for the suggestion.

-Chris, if the grant is not enough money, what is the plan to cover the difference? Is the City required to provide funding to receive one of these grants?

-Sarah, looking at the costs associated with the project, it is on the higher end of the grant, but it is not unreasonable. There is a sliding scale for matching the grant.

-Michael, is there an opportunity for me as an individual to write a letter?

-Sarah, yes, please submit a letter to Kristan or me.

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-Terra, when would the grant be funded and when would kickoff begin?

-Sarah, if all goes well we could see kickoff sometime early next year and construction completion at the end of 2022.

Michael motioned to support this effort. Chris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

-Terra, what are the next steps?

-Kristan, staff will get a draft letter to OSTAC for review and then we will ask Terra as Chair to sign it on behalf of OSTAC.

4. Great Western Reservoir Open Space Fencing Replacement Project located east of Indiana Street, south of State Highway 128, west of the Skystone Neighborhood, and west of Simms Street

Erin Messner introduced herself and her team. She gave an overview of the Great Western Reservoir, discussed current fencing, project goals and next steps for the project. Kristan provided more information on reasons for proposed fencing locations, these included both public safety and the protection of wildlife habitat throughout the property.

-Chris, in terms of public access, it is a public open space so the property to the South still allows recreational use. It seems like this can still be allowed. I am asking there to be consideration for this. Is there an opportunity to still allow some access?

-Erin, that is something we wanted feedback on. This follows, more or less, the current fence line, but we can see some social trails that have been created by the public.

-Liz, David Allan may have knowledge of the restrictions and requirements that go beyond Broomfield's jurisdiction and would dictate where the new fencing can be placed.

-Erin, you are correct, this was a reason we were looking at following the current fence lines. Our aim is to minimize impacts to the site by using best management practices to avoid disturbance.

-Ray, are these two proposals, one for the fence and one for the viewing area?

-Erin, yes. We have two separate budgets, the first is the fence and signage, the second is the viewing deck which would be its own project. We wanted to plan for it though since these two projects are related.

-Doug, could you provide a way for Skystone to access the Rocky Mountain Greenway? There is a fence, but also a gate that allows for public access. Be aware there are so many social trails in that area and people would just go under the fence to access that location.

-Kristan, there is a proposed trail connection to the south in the Skystone area. However, Westminster is doing a master plan for its open space to the south and wanted to consider in more detail the connection location, etc.

-Chris, there is a trail counter there; is that us?

-Kristan, that is Westminster's trail counter.

-Terra, I appreciate your presentation and the information on the water reuse system.

-Erin, yes, the information on this system is somewhat hidden, so it would be good to raise awareness of this sustainable initiative and use a project like this fence replacement to educate the community.

-Todd, I believe the CPW Wildlife Friendly Fencing guidelines also recommend some sort of flagging on the fence for increased wildlife visibility, have you considered that?

-Erin, I will look into that, could you give us some more detail?

-Chris provided some more detail on fencing requirements (flagging and high-visibility markers &/or top-strand of the fence).

-Erin, Thank you.

5. Review and Comment on the Final Draft of the Two Interpretive Signs for Shep's Crossing at Industrial Lane and Midway Boulevard

Jack thanked Michael and Chris for their feedback on the signs and gave a high level overview of the topics covered on both of the final drafts for the new signs.

-Jack, Liz, do you have any photos of the Industrial Lane area that we can use?

-Liz, I do, I will provide you with a selection of them.

-Jack, thank you!

-Ray, I thought the signs were great, lots of good information.

-Patrick, I love all the topics you have chosen, I am impressed with the history and the modernization elements. You really nailed it, I think.

-Jack, thank you it was a big team effort.

-Terra, the imagery is great as well. Easy to read with great colors.

-Michael, I am excited to see the photos from Liz.

6. Update on the Naming of the Harmer Open Space and Professors Park east of County Road 7, west of I-25 and north of State Highway 7

Kristan provided an overview and recap of the naming process. PRAC has decided to move forward with the name "Eagle Point" for Professors and is planning to use raptor-related names for the other smaller parks in Palisade. Our committee will continue to work towards naming the Harmer Open Space with a recognition and appreciation of the Native American connection to this land.

-Chris, does this need to be more of a city effort in terms of how the city approaches naming these places?

-Liz, I sit on both committees and I would not presume to speculate as to why they chose the names they did. There was not animosity or a reason that they did not want to honor Native Americans, they just seemed to prefer their name choices. Perhaps we can look at a discussion of how to come up with names that allow for more discussion earlier on in the acquisition process?

-Kristan, we could yes, but this is a rare occurrence. We do not typically name a jointly managed property like this. If it does come about again, I think we could sit down with both groups to discuss it in the beginning. This would make the process easier. COVID has made the logistics for the discussion process more challenging.

-Todd, I think what Chris is asking is that the City Council provide some criteria on how properties are named.

-Liz, that is fair, but I hesitate to add anything else to the council agenda right now.

-Todd, in the future.

-Kristan, there is some guidance provided to us already, but it is perhaps not to the specificity that Chris and Todd may be thinking of.

-Terra, this is a bigger conversation for Broomfield and the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) team would be a good team to take this on in the future. I see it being a bigger project for the city, naming is just one part of that.

-Kristan, would OSTAC like to continue with our research towards naming the Harmer Property with a Native connection or recognition? (Group said yes). Sounds good we will get back to you with this information.

7. Discussion of Idea of Starting OSTAC meetings with a Land Acknowledgement to Honor Indigenous People

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Terra discussed her idea to spend a couple minutes at the beginning of each meeting with an acknowledgement of the land, its history, and those that have come before us.

-Todd, does the city have a land acknowledgement statement?

-Terra, I know Boulder does, but not sure about Broomfield.

-Todd, the City of Denver and CU does this as well. (Todd Shared links to these Land Acknowledgements)

-Terra, has this come up at the City Council?

-Liz, not that I am aware of, there was a group of us that gathered before the meeting to say a prayer, but it was not a formal part of the meeting. I would like to know more. I have no opinion at this time; other groups have the option to come in and make a statement at a Council Meeting. Can you please tell us more about the purpose of a land acknowledgment?

-Terra, my understanding is that this is a way to honor those before us and to learn more about those people. I think it brings awareness.

-Liz, I think it is worth a discussion.

-Terra, this is a common practice in Canada and Australia. It is worth more discussion. What are the next steps?

-Kristan, would you like to look at some of these sites and come back to discuss or would you like to make a motion?

-Todd, what if I make a motion that we recommend the DEAI committee can research and develop a land statement for the city. Time frame can be subjective.

-Chris, I support the idea, but is that the way to go about it?

-Todd, that committee would have the qualifications to create a statement like this.

-Terra, do you not think OSTAC could create one of these?

-Todd, I do not think I could do this without a lot of research.

-Chris, can we create one and then have it looked at by the DEAI committee?

-Todd, I think the committee would want to take a first stab at it.

- Michael, I agree with you Todd.

-Rena, I like what you are saying so can we ask the DEAI committee to assist us on the creation of this statement.

-Patrick, I agree with Rena. It creates a priority for us and calls in their skill set.

-Todd, I withdraw my motion to allow Rena to put one forward.

-Kristan, the DEAI committee is a team of staff members, so please know the timeline may not occur in the next two months.

-Terra, this does not need to be urgent.

-Rena, I motion to request that the DEAI committee review a land acknowledgement that we would use to open our meetings. Recognizing that we do not have the knowledge to create one ourselves and with the knowledge that this could take time given available resources.

-Todd, seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Review Plans for the Broomfield Trail Adventure (June 5) and the Broomfield-100

Pete gave an overview of our plans for Broomfield 100 and the Broomfield Trail Adventure given continuing COVID restrictions.

-Christ, thanks for all your hard work, it looks great so far!

-Pete, thank you, I hope this is a great event for all.

-Terra, I love the cultural additions Pete.

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

3/25/21 Minutes: Michael motioned to approve the minutes; Ray seconds; Minutes were passed unanimously.

10. OSTAC Updates

Speaker Series

Krsitan shared that the April 28, 7:00 p.m. *The Summits, Songs and Science Project*, Dr. Ulyana Horodyskyj Pena has been canceled and we hope to have it scheduled again for Fall.

Quail Creek Planting

Jack discussed the success of the April 10th, Saturday Morning, Urban Prairies Project Planting Day in an area east of Plaster Reservoir along Quail Creek. Total of 100 Narrowleaf Cottonwood whips and 50 Coyote Willows planted using the stinger planting method.

Earth Day Bioblitz

Jack discussed the success of the Bioblitz with the Legacy High Open Environmental Club and Butterfly Pavilion at Plaster Reservoir.

Boulder Boulder

Kristan gave an overview of the self guided Boulder Boulder 10k that can be done over Memorial Day weekend. Broomfield's route will be in the Interlocken area.

Superior Open Space Meeting

Kristan asked if the committee prefers to meet with the Superior Open Space team on May 12, June 9 or in July? The 9th seems to be the best option.

Xcel Project Markel Open Space

Kristan let the committee know that Xcel will be conducting their project through the Markel property in June if all goes as planned. Please send concerns to the Open Space and Trails team.

OSTAC May Meeting

There will be no May Meeting.

Concept Reviews

Pete briefly discussed current development proposals being reviewed by staff, including:

- Velo-Interlocken Multifamily Project
- Simms Technology Park
- Arista/Broomfield Urban Transit Village
 - Lapour/John's Property and Crosswinds Residential
- Redtail Ridge Development Concept - City of Louisville
- Wadsworth Station and Wadsworth 36 Community projects
- Baseline/North Park Development, review of residential projects underway

Other topics as requested by Citizens

None

10. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

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None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Beverly Burbach and Jack Pritchard.