



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
June 24, 2021*

Meeting Summary

OSTAC members were given an overview of the City's Noxious Weed Plan, Broomfield's Economic Vitality Plan, and the Sustainability Plan. The committee was given an update on the Flatirons Crossing Redevelopment Plan and Land Acknowledgement/Naming to Honor Indigenous People. Finally, OSTAC discussed the format of future meetings- virtual, in person or hybrid.

OSTAC (Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee)

Present:

Terra Lenihan, Chair

Ray Churgovich, Vice-Chair

Michael McLane

Nathan Kral

Renae Stavros

Todd Cohen (joined at 7:25 due to a neighborhood development review meeting)

Councilmember Liz Law-Evans

Councilmember Stan Jezierski

Absent-Excused:

Ryan Gelston

Patrick Tennyson

Chris Petrizzo

Interested Citizens:

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

David Allan, Broomfield Assistant City and County Manager

Nathan Kelbe, Broomfield Open Space Coordinator

Clay Shuck, Broomfield Director of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services

John Hall, Broomfield Director of Economic Vitality and Development

Jeff Romine, Broomfield Director of Development Finance and Economist

Jacob Knudsen, Assistant Vice President, Development-Macerich

Lynn Merwin, Broomfield Principal Planner

Camille Polan, Broomfield Community Sustainability Manager

Ryan Jensen, Broomfield Superintendent-Parks

Tami Yellico, Broomfield Director of Strategic Initiatives

Anna Bertanzetti, Co-Community Development Director

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order by Terra Lenihan, 6:05 p.m.

Terra called the meeting to order and welcomed any citizens from the public. Beverly reviewed the google meeting tips.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

None

3. Proposed Weed Management Plan-Request for Comments and Questions

Clay Shuck introduced himself and the Noxious Weed Management Plan. Clay gave the committee some background on the creation of the plan, County Noxious Weed coordination, and discussed the next steps for implementation. Nathan Kelbe gave an overview of the Noxious Weed Management Plan and discussed the many approaches to implementation, such as: use of living organisms (biocontrols), physical removal of the plant, chemical control and the planting of competitive, native vegetation.

-Stan, you are doing a great job, but can you put up a photo of the myrtle spurge?

-Nathan, it is often used as an ornamental, but has escaped cultivation and become invasive in Colorado. With active management, it can be completely removed.

-Stan, is that common in Broomfield?

-Nathan, it is usually found around the gardens of houses built prior to 1991. Unfortunately, you can still order seeds (from out of state) for this plant as well, but it is a state listed noxious species. Not common, but can come from other yards into your yard, where it can be very aggressive and difficult to control once it gets established.

-Liz, What is it about Russian Olives that makes them a Noxious Weed?

-Nathan, Russian Olives are invasive because, like other woody invasives, they establish quickly, suffocate other species out, and seed readily. They exude chemicals (allelopathy) into the soil to prevent competition from native species, limiting the growth of desired plants. These are not native and therefore have no natural predators or growth control mechanisms in the ecosystem. Essentially, biodiversity completely drops, creating a monoculture.

-Liz, my next question is about goat heads (puncturevine) on playgrounds. Are these on the list?

-Nathan, these are tough to control, but yes, they are on the list (List C Species). Often, once you have seen a flower on this plant, it has already gone to seed, making it difficult to manage from year to year. It is very common.

-Liz, thank you.

-Terra, I have a question about outreach and education, what do you currently do or plan to do?

-Nathan, I provide door hangers with noxious weed information and we give yearly talks, but I think there are always other avenues we can look for in the future. For example, other counties do a "Purge the Spurge" event in which they provide a roll off dumpster for the community to dispose of their myrtle spurge. We would then provide ideas for other (native) species to replace their landscape.

-Terra, that would be great.

-Kristan, I bet the Broomfield Open Space Foundation (BOSF) would be interested in helping with that.

Also, I wanted to say a big thank you Nathan, Clay and Ryan with regards to the many citizen requests for mowing, this has been a big job this year. The Parks Services team has gone above and beyond to keep up with the open space maintenance this spring given the early rains that caused rapid growth.

4. Overview of the Economic Vitality Plan and Matrix-Request for Comments/Questions

John Hall introduced himself and Jeff Romine. John gave an overview of what economic vitality and development are and discussed the many projects being implemented under this plan. He discussed the approach and goals of the plan, including pursuing opportunities that do more than just create revenue. Jeff Romine gave an overview of the Economic Vitality Development Matrix, and highlighted the goal: creating transparency when it comes to future development.

-Renaë, I am interested in the equity and diversity piece of this plan and I am happy to see that included here. When you look at attainable housing, is that the same as affordable housing?

-John, attainable is both affordable and addresses middle class housing.

-Jeff, this also highlights the lifecycle of housing and allows for people to move into the next stage of housing. This would include “aging in place.” We look at age, income and diversity in culture.

-Renaë, what is the “goal for Lowell?”

-Jeff, we want to encourage the last mile connections throughout the city. There is a thrust for the ability to get to a place without needing to use a vehicle.

-Terra, when you look at DEAI topics, how are developers measured for these items?

-Jeff, we have a conversation on the front end to help identify those values and feel out how a developer will “fit in” with the community’s goals. We look for value alignment.

-John, we also look at the amount of land we have for development and factor in the time to have those conversations, aiming to be selective in who we choose to work with. We also use an accountability report that formally lays out our values and goals. This allows us to work more deliberately to address these issues of diversity, equity, access and inclusion.

5. Request for Concept Plan Consideration of Flatiron Crossing Redevelopment-Comments and Questions

Jacob Knudsen, with Macerich Development, introduced the Flatiron Crossing Redevelopment project. He gave an overview of the plan. Through the presentation of renderings and plan drawings, Jacob outlined the project objectives, envisioning an area that provides a walkable, urban community while creating amenities for an overall 24/7 experience.

-Terra, Kristan, would you like to provide context about Open Space and Trail’s history with this project?

-Kristan, Yes. I want to emphasize that we are at the concept level on this project. We have three OSTAC members that are actively involved in development project review and will help us with comments as the project progresses. The OSTAC development team includes Michael, Patrick and Renaë.

Kristan Pritz gave an overview of the comments.

- Trails:
 - Provide a pedestrian/bike circulation plan identifying surface, width and location of trails, noting existing and proposed improvements, and include on-street bike lanes.
 - Improve connectivity to key locations
 - Improve connectivity by adding sidewalk(s)/trails/bike lanes on the ring road
 - Follow-up Meeting on July 21 with CCOB staff on site is requested
- On Site Open Lands:
 - Incorporate new open lands in these potential locations--NW Park (corner of the larger mall site), Nature Walk by Dick’s Sporting Goods, vicinity of the Multi-family Building abutting W. Flatiron Crossing or other locations that the developer considers suitable.

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- Provide public access easements for key areas like the central /plaza area in the open air mall.
- Varra Park enhancements (shade pavilion(s) and picnic table(s)--subject to Parks Services staff agreement).
- Consider adding a wildlife viewing deck or platform in the vicinity of the Varra Park ponds.
- Consider a dog walking/park area.
- Continue to collaborate on the public land dedication.
- Request to waive cash-in-lieu needs further discussion.
- Provide more detail on the pedestrian character of the streetscape between the two multi-family buildings.
- Make the project Dark Sky Compliant.
- Incorporate interpretive signage and bike/ped signage.
- Incorporate pollinator friendly landscaping.

-Rena, from experience, it is hard to get into the mall when on a bike. This would be an important concept to implement in the plan.

-Jacob, we understand the need for bike accessibility. We are looking at reducing the lanes around the mall from 4 to 3, potentially creating a bikeway around the perimeter of the site.

-Michael, the cash in lieu is not something I support. Pedestrian access is something that needs to be evaluated and implemented as well.

-Terra, in this plan, how do you encourage mall users to come on foot or via bike? Please think about that. This will be good for Broomfield.

-Kristan, do you have any thoughts about what will go in the Nordstrom property?

-Jacob, we have been thinking about that for a while, but the pool of tenants is very small these days. We are not seeing the demand for retail and are exploring other uses, perhaps an office.

-Lynn, I would like to talk a bit about the schedule. Lynn gave an overview of the project schedule.

-Jacob, thank you Jeff and John for your presentation. I wanted to comment on the values alignment of the project. We will do the right thing for the mall and for Broomfield.

-Terra, the soil issue, how do you get around that this time?

-Jacob, that is a huge focus, we have geotechnical engineers helping out with this project already. We are putting the processes in place to ensure the foundation issue does not happen again.

OSTAC agreed with the staff's comments outlined in the presentation.

6. Overview of Sustainability Plan-Request for Comments and Questions

Camille Pollan introduced herself and her position. She gave an overview of the Environmental Sustainability Plan. Camille highlighted the goals and process implementation of the plan.

-Todd, is this something that other communities are doing as well?

-Camille, there are lots of communities that are in the process of implementing, some that are beginning the planning process and some are further along. We have been talking to all the neighboring communities to help with developing our plan for Broomfield.

-Todd, can you speak to the types of changes the average resident will see when this plan is implemented.

-Camille, we are focusing on affordable housing, with relation to cheaper energy costs. Improvements in transportation will also help residents as well. We are focusing on what this means for our lives.

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-Renae, what is embodied energy?

- Camille, embodied energy is the energy it took to make the product before it got to you.

-Renae, like amazon or logistics?

-Camille, yes that or the making of a product, etc. It's the energy that was put into producing the product prior to whatever energy it requires to be used.

-Terra, are you getting push back from the community on this?

-Camille, we hear a lot of voices that want positive change now. We are receiving more positive feedback than negative.

-Michael, where do you envision the quickest implementation to be?

-Camille, the single greatest impact would be to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles, but that is easier said than done. There is no magic fix here, but we have the opportunity to ask ourselves what do we want for our future? How do we want to improve on the infrastructure and systems that were built before us? How do we want to create positive change?

7. Discussion of Progress on Land Acknowledgement and Naming of Open Space to Honor Indigenous Peoples

Kristan Pritz gave an overview of the progress on the topic, including the resources being utilized and the next steps in the process. Kristan also invited the committee to participate in the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion training that will take place in the fall. Terra Lenihan provided the group with some books on the subject and some further recommendations she has acquired.

-Todd, this is a great opportunity and it will be great for public education.

8. Discussion Concerning the Format for Future OSTAC Meetings Being in Person, Virtual or Hybrid

Kristan Pritz discussed with the committee the many different forms our meetings could take. Beverly will send out a survey to the committee regarding how they would like to proceed with meetings. The August meeting will be in-person, beginning with site visits. The September meeting will start with a tour of Brunner Farm House.

-Terra, I would like to go in person. If we stay virtual could we do a 5 minute break?

-Kirstan, that is a good point.

9. Review and Approval of the April 22, 2021 OSTAC Meeting Minutes and the June 9, 2021 Joint Meeting with Superior Open Space Advisory Committee

4/22/21 Minutes: Michael motioned to approve the minutes; Renae seconds; Minutes were passed unanimously.

6/9/21 Minutes: Michael motioned to approve the minutes; Terra seconds; Minutes were passed unanimously.

10. OSTAC Updates

July 22, 2021 OSTAC meeting CANCELED

July 22, 2021 OSTAC meeting is canceled.

July 29th City Council Session: Policy and Enforcement Review of Camping in Public Spaces

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Kristan shared that the City Council will be having a study session on the above topic, encouraging committee members to listen in on this discussion.

Metzger Updates

Jack discussed the Metzger Rookery. There are 5 active Great Blue Heron nests, and photos were shared.

-Rena, is there an owl at the Paul Derda Recreation Center?

-Jack, I am not sure, I do not think there is an active nest there this year. I know we have one near the Varra property.

-Pete, I think they may be in the eaves of the building, but we are not sure if they are nesting there.

Kirstan gave an overview of the Metzger Teaching Victory Garden and its progress in completion. Mowing of the farmstead will take place next week.

Jack gave an update on the Metzger Turtle Nest.

-Terra, how many eggs do they lay?

-Jack, Snapping Turtles lay an average of 20-40 eggs per nest, called a clutch, over the course of several hours. Unfortunately, these are frequently preyed upon, even prior to hatching, but this is a natural process and the reason they lay so many eggs per clutch.

Kathy's Karts at Broomfield County Commons

Pete gave the background of Kathy's Karts and the success of the program this year.

Broomfield Trails Adventure/ Broomfield 100 and Brewhaha

Pete gave updates on the Trails Day event, noting its success in light of unusual circumstances created by the pandemic. Pete noted that the Broomfield 100 is up and running, despite some technical issues.

Finally, Pete gave an update on the Brewhaha and noted its success.

Shep's Crossing Panel Updates

Jack gave an update on the panels and noted that they are nearing completion. Photos were shared of the extra effort Roothouse took to get an image with the proper perspective of the mountains for the Peak Finder on the panels.

Other topics as requested by Citizens

None.

10. Other Topics as Desired by OSTAC

-Ray, is Broomfield going to become a "Dark Sky" community?

-Kirstan, it has been discussed, and Broomfield has lighting requirements that encourage downward lighting for example to minimize light spilling onto another property or creating glare. It would be a positive change. However, right now, there is not an initiative to formally obtain the Dark Sky designation.

-Michael, I want to note how big that area is for the Victory Garden in Metzger.

-Kirstan, yes! That is the area that the Metzgers had their garden on.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. Minutes were prepared by Beverly Burbach.