

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

January 8, 2020

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Turk Montepare, Todd Rankin, John Taylor, John Uban, Diane Hunt, Jeff Leigh, Bruce Fitch, Bob Gregory, Art Hardin, Terry Craig

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Rossetter

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Jason Lederer, Jim Curnutte, Jeff Huntley, Scott Vargo

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Anna Bengston- USFS, Susan Lee - Town of Frisco, Anne Murphy - Town of Breckenridge, Peter Grosshuesch - Town of Breckenridge, Kim Pollock - Frisco/Bills Ranch Resident

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:36 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Summary Report: Brian Lorch added that just today, the County closed on the Copper Canyon parcel. In response to Diane Hunt's request, Brian Lorch also provided additional clarification on the wetlands mitigation feasibility analysis being conducted on County-owned property interests.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda :

Kim Pollack addressed a proposed conservation easement (CE) extinguishment and development of Parcel 1 of the County Commons PUD, often referred to as the Fiester Preserve. Ms. Pollack introduced herself as a business owner on Main Street in Frisco and Bills Ranch Resident (HOA Secretary). Ms. Pollack wished to make the OSAC aware of what is proposed for Parcel 1. After reviewing the location of the condemnation of the existing Parcel 1 conservation easement proposed by Summit County Government for a future senior housing development, Ms. Pollack provided several talking points:

- The Bills Ranch HOA is working hard to combat the actions of CE extinguishment
- The HOA aims to make the BOCC's plans more transparent
- Extinguishing the CE from Parcel 1 would be precedent setting
- While the Bills Ranch HOA supports housing, they vehemently oppose extinguishing the CE
- Parcel 1 provides an important buffer to Bills Ranch from the County Commons, provides habitat, and trails connectivity
- Expressed frustration regarding lack of notification and opportunity for citizen and public comment
- Land was to be preserved in perpetuity and wish to truly see the preservation be perpetual
- The CE was privately funded at a cost of \$4,000

Turk Montepare thanked Ms. Pollack for her comments and noted that the OSAC has never really been involved with the Parcel 1 site. Parcel 1 has never come to the OSAC and the BOCC purchased the property from the US Forest Service and dedicated the conservation easement. The OSAC is not in a position to vote on recommendations with respect to decision making for this particular piece of property.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Forestry Study in Cooperation with the Nature Conservancy: Staff have been coordinating with TNC on a

forest study aimed at promoting habitat diversity. The study is primarily focused on examining Aspen regeneration. The study will involve a combination of seed collection, seed planting, and planting of germinated seedlings. The project will occur on a few Open Space properties in the Golden Horseshoe. The aim is to take what is learned through this study and apply it elsewhere.

Wellington Forest Management Project: Brian Lorch provided an overview of the forest management project. Staff are working with the Town on a communications strategy and will likely be discussing this the Town Council in February and holding an open house in March. The work involves thinning and selective cutting. John Taylor asked to make sure any trucks entering the site be free of noxious weeds. Brian Lorch noted that the project will be completed by sawyers as hand work.

Open Space Protection Plan: Brian Lorch introduced a plan to work on updating the Open Space Protection Plan in 2020. The current document was created in 1996 and has not been updated since then. At that time, the focus was primarily on acquisitions and the Plan makes no mention of the Recpath or management of Open Space. Today, almost half of the Open Space and Trails Department budget is dedicated towards management. With long term funding being approved by the voters in 2019, now is a good time to look into the future. There will likely be much more discussion with the OSAC over the coming year. Turk Montepare noted that it may be good to have a separate OSAC meeting dedicated towards discussing updating the Open Space Management Plan.

Defensible Space Program: Brian Lorch provided an overview of the Defensible Space Program. More than 1,500 residents are neighbors within 100 feet of forested Open Space properties. As such, it makes sense to provide a process whereby residents can assist with fuel reduction work on Open Space. Staff will be taking a draft of a permitting process to the BOCC that would allow for neighbors to address the fuel concerns across the property line on Open Space. There are numerous advantages to formalizing this process, including protecting the ecological integrity of Open Space while providing access to reduce fuels near homes. All work would be funded and completed by residents, but the work would also be eligible for wildfire grants. Staff have had initial conversations with the Town of Breckenridge and received support to include jointly owned properties in this process. All proposed activities will be reviewed by Colorado State Forest and Open Space Staff prior to approval. The BOSAC supports this management approach. Town Council will discuss this topic on 02/11/2020.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

Fremont Pass Recpath: Brian Lorch provided a brief overview of the Recpath project, which involves constructing a new segment between the current Recpath terminus at Copper Mountain Resort and the northern Climax mine boundary. The Federal Highway Administration, who is leading the project via the County's Federal Lands Access Program Grant has a contractor under contract. Construction is scheduled to commence in spring 2020 with plans to complete the project in 2020.

County Road 450/Huron Road: Jason Lederer provided an introduction and overview of the County Road 450/Huron Road project scheduled for construction during summer 2020. The work will include a new side path from the existing pathway ending at Huron Landing to Reiling Road. The project also includes a safe crossing to provide enhanced access to the relocated bus stop. The majority of the work includes a full reconstruction of Huron Road and the Road and Bridge Department is providing the majority of the funding. Open Space's is responsible for roughly a quarter of the total estimated project cost. Turk Montepare recommended pursuing the possibility of installing improved lighting at the trail cut-through to Valdora Village.

OSAC Member Appointments

The County only received one application for one seat vacated by John Uban (term was up). The application was from John Uban and the OSAC voted unanimously for Mr. Uban to continue his role on the OSAC.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:

A Motion was made to enter into Executive Session, and it was seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director