

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

March 3, 2021
Meeting Held by Zoom Conference

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Rossetter, John Uban, Todd Rankin, Diane Hunt, Terry Craig, Bruce Fitch, Jeff Leigh

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: All members present.

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Jordan Mead, Christine Zenel, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Turk Montepare, Bob Gregory, John Taylor, Art Hardin, Danelle Cook, Town of Silverthorne; Tom Liston, SCOMBA; Anne Lowe, Town of Breckenridge; Pete Swenson, Town of Frisco; Anna Bengston. USFS

Call to Order: Todd Rankin called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

John Uban made a motion to approve the agenda and Bruce Fitch seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Laura Rossetter made a motion to approve the minutes and John Taylor seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Approval of Summary Report: The summary report was approved as submitted.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda:

Laura Rossetter shared a citizen concern and recommendation related to trailhead parking and overcrowding. Leigh Girvin called with an idea to help manage trailhead overcrowding. She has noticed that vehicles with trailers are filling up smaller trailheads. Ms. Girvin Witnessed up to 6 trailers at Boreas Pass TH and a similiar number at Sallie Barber (Lincoln Townsite) TH. This trailer parking is causing other vehicles to park in illegal areas and be warned or cited by the Sheriff's Department. Busy trailheads are losing space to motorized trailer traffic. No Trailer signage at certain trailheads would be useful. Can OSAC make a recommendation to install these signs in strategic locations?

Brian Lorch spoke about how this was discussed at the previous Golden Horseshoe Management Meetings and shared that there is a collation of county departments and partners with the USFS, CDOT, and others working on solutions for trailhead management. The Sheriff's Department is also doing enhanced enforcement at trailheads through additional ranger patrols.

Other board members shared that they have seen this issue in Summit County and elsewhere. (ex. St Elmo in Buena Vista had 1.5 miles of trailers parked down the road last summer). Involving the Forest Service will be critical in tackling this issue. Staff from the County and Forest Service mentioned that there are ongoing efforts at the direction of the BoCC and District Rangers to work with partners to come up with solutions for managing trailhead parking.

Open Space Staff will discuss this issue with the Trailhead and Parking Problems and Solutions meeting. Commissioner Pogue has directed that staff find ways to take action that could be implemented quickly. Signage directing users to alternative, over flow parking that is legal to make them feel welcome could help to eliminate

illegal parking at businesses and other locations.

Bruce Fitch stated that a comprehensive approach is needed and that the current task force should take on this idea. John Taylor mentioned that widening the County Rd near the trailheads would be a way to manage this issue. Parking signage is planned to be installed this spring to designate the parking areas at most trailheads, along with new, uniform signage with regulations and information about parking and alternatives. Visitor use will be a major element of the new Open Space Protection Plan as well. The Towns of Breckenridge, Silverthorne are doing a similar updates and Open Space staff will coordinate with them to align plan goals where Open Space is adjacent to town property.

The board recommends that staff bring the “No Trailer Parking” idea from Ms. X to the next meeting of the Trailhead Parking Solutions Task Force in order to incorporate this into a holistic and comprehensive trailhead management approach.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Open Space Forest Management Activities

Open Space Protection Plan Update

Mr. Lorch gave a history of the process to this point and introduced Christine Zenel. Ms. Zenel gave a review of the Scope of Work, vision, and areas of focus for the planning process. Ms. Rossetter added that we should have a focus on winter recreation, trail standards, usage, and explicitly trailheads. The Open Space Protection Plan should have a major trails component. Expanding on the topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion and how we will address them will be imperative. As we address these issues, make sure to include input from all user groups.

The board should provide comments on these drafts before or during the next meeting, however this process will be iterative and the board will have several opportunities to comment.

Ms. Zenel also presented the phases and draft timeline of the project. The board can also make comments on this timeline and the 1996 Open Space and Plan prior to the next meeting. Board members can volunteer to take an in-depth look at these documents with staff, as well. A consultant will be brought on board in July in order to do the Community Engagement piece of the plan. It was recommended to have one or two 3-4 hour work sessions in order to take this out of the regular meeting agenda and reduce meeting length, while allowing for adequate time to comment and discuss as a group.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

DRReC Grant

\$35,000 was awarded to us by DRReC to continue shoulder work along the Dillon Dam Rd Recpath. Friends of the Dillon Ranger District was also awarded \$15,000 for Sapphire Point improvements.

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 6:44 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board Member Appointment Applications

Todd Rankin summarized the discussion from the January 2021 meeting. The original recommendation was to reappoint the 4 members up for reappointment and add 2 spots on the OSAC for Peter Grosshuesch and Paul Semmer. The BoCC recommended more outreach and additional applications were provided to the board in the meeting packet for March 2021. Board members stressed that Paul Semmer and Peter Grosshuesch have extensive experience and would be invaluable assets. The board would like to recommend standing behind the original slate of applicants from last meeting including the expansion of the board. OSAC and staff would like to encourage the applicants to continue to be engaged and apply again in the future as several board members have terms expiring in the near future.

Board members discussed additional applicants that would provide valuable input for the group. Dana DeGraaf has extensive experience in the fisheries and an impressive CV of natural resource management and it may be time for some turnover. Dave Bittner stood out and would be a good potential candidate as he is well connected in the Lower Blue. Jim Testin from Vail Resorts has also applied and would bring a unique perspective to the group. It may be a good idea to invite some of these applicants to sit in on meeting prior to applying again in the future. Encouraging them to engage in the Open Space Protection Plan public process would also give them valuable experience for sitting on the OSAC board. Term-limitation of 12 years will allow turn over to occur in the next year. There is strong support for expanding to include Peter Grosshuesch and Paul Semmer, reappointing the 4 who are up and encouraging the rest to be included in the Open Space Update.

The board unanimously recommends reappointing the 4 members who are up for reappointment, expanding the board by 2 members, newly appointing Peter Grosshuesch and Paul Semmer, and encouraging the remaining applicants to be involved in the OS Protection Plan update and apply again in the future.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director