

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Meagan Graham, John Taylor, Turk Montepare, Jeff Zimmerman, Peter Grosshuesch, Paul Semmer, Laura Rossetter, Dave Bittner, John Uban, Arthur Hardin

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Craig, Robert Gregory

STAFF PRESENT: Katherine King, Allison Morton, Jordan Mead, Jessica Forsyth

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge, Larissa O’Neil and Larry Crispell – Breckenridge History, Terese Berger – Town of Dillon

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

Approval of Agenda: Council members approved the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The March 2023 OSAC minutes were passed unanimously.

Approval of Summary Report: Council members approved the summary report as submitted.

Public Comments: No public comments.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Breckenridge History Keystone Drill

Breck History presented a new project to house the Keystone Drill on County and/or Town Open Space and Trails property. The Keystone Drill was used to test ground conditions for dredge boats. This drill was dismantled and sent to Fairplay in the 1930s. However, Breck History bought the drill four years ago and located it at the Country Boy Mine but is now looking for a permanent location. At the new location, Breck History would need to build a 16-foot-high shelter over the drill because it is made of wood and would eventually deteriorate. This shelter would resemble the Lucky Jig structure and would include interpretive signage as well. It is important that the drill is placed in its historic context (i.e., next to dredge piles). Breck History stated that they are simply trying to enhance visitor experience and show an important piece of history; that this will not become another “troll.”

Breck History presented to BOSAC and proposed locating the drill at the Reiling Dredge. However, BOSAC did not support this location and suggested the B&B Trailhead or McCain property instead. BOSAC concerns about the Reiling Dredge included needing to remove trees for the shelter, constraints associated with the ADA trailhead project, and increased traffic in the French Gulch area. Although BOSAC proposed the B&B trailhead, there was not a unanimous vote.

Breck History stated that they are concerned about the McCain Property for potential vandalism and being out in the open. OSAC mentioned that there is not a large area near the McCain/Fourmile bridge area, and that if the drill was placed here, it would be in a hidden area. Another potential location could be the Horseshoe Gulch trailhead, but OSAC stated that the trailhead is overcrowded.

After some discussion, OSAC stated that the B&B area is the most feasible location because there are many other mining artifacts in the area. The drill will add to the other features already there and be located in the correct context (i.e., next to the dredge piles). There is also ample parking in the B&B Trailhead, and staff could even create an ADA trail from the trailhead to the drill.

OSAC stated that they strongly support the B&B Trailhead location but cannot make a recommendation at this time. OSAC would like BOSAC's concerns alleviated and to wait until BOSAC has a unanimous vote for the B&B trailhead.

Open Space Management:

Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch

Open Space and Trails and Town of Breckenridge staff are currently in the contracting phase with SP Plus, the new parking and shuttle contractor for the Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch system. OSAC stated that the lower contract cost and potential savings of \$100,000+ will make the program more sustainable. They were pleased that the Town of Breckenridge is also splitting the subsidy cost in half and is offering free parking at the garage.

Recpath

Staff created a new [Recpath conditions webpage](#) to help spread the word about the current status of each section as well as alert the public about upcoming maintenance projects and closures. Staff is hopeful that CAIC will give the "all clear" for the Tenmile section the week of May 15. With this "all clear," they hope the Fremont and Vail Pass sections can be opened as well. Staff also stated that the Swan Mountain section will be closed for about four days the week after Memorial Day so they can replace the decking on one of the bridges. OSAC asked if staff could match the grade on both sides of the bridge, so it is an easy transition from asphalt to wood.

Trailhead improvement

The Browns Gulch and Reiling Dredge trailhead projects were approved. However, Breckenridge Town Council did not support the Larium Trailhead project, so that is postponed for the moment.

Wintergreen

There are two, four-acre parcels associated with the West Hills neighborhood that are dedicated to Summit County. Vail Resorts are the owners of Tract Z which is the subdivided portion that was recently developed. The PUD stated that part of the Tract Z development will need to include public trails on the non-developed portion. The County, Vail Resorts, and US Forest Service are hoping to collaborate on these trail projects to formalize routes and make each route more sustainable.

Xcel powerline

The site visit with Xcel at the East Blue River Trail has been delayed due to communication problems. Paul stated that if the power lines cannot be raised, then handwork and burning will need to occur. Paul continues to advocate to see if there are possible trail connections/reroutes or if we need to close them down.

Trailhead monitoring

Staff continue to monitor Miners Creek, Boreas Pass, Tiger, and Lily Pad/Buffalo Cabin trailheads to collect baseline data on when the parking lots reach capacity. OSAC asked if there is an option to correlate trail counter data with trailhead data. Staff stated that staff capacity is a limitation to adding more cameras or counters; however, OSAC stated this is time well spent and we need this baseline data. If time is limited, staff and OSAC agreed that time should be spent focusing on hotspots for a full season (or year) as opposed to snap shots (e.g., moving the cameras every couple of weeks).

Tenderfoot Meadows Public Outreach

The Tenderfoot Meadows Open Space management plan is ready to be released for public comment. A press release will be issued on Friday May 19 to announce the scoping period. Staff will also provide a link on the OST website for the public to be able to review and comment on the draft. Comments will be accepted until June 16. In addition, staff will host an open house on June 14 and will issue user intercept surveys on May 31 and June 2 at Tenderfoot Meadows. These surveys will be user administered but staff will be there to provide maps and information about the management plan. The goal is to receive a minimum of 50 surveys.

Staff reviewed the intercept survey with OSAC. Below is a summary of their feedback.

- OSAC questioned whether the public would understand that the management plan concerns County-owned land only and is not the entire Tenderfoot Mountain system. Staff will provide a disclaimer on the surveys and make sure they show visitors the map prior to taking the survey.
- OSAC asked to reword a couple of phrases including crowd levels, particular activities, dogs on leash versus off leash, etc.
- OSAC asked if the wildlife closure question should be included in the survey if CPW and OST staff are certain a closure should be implemented to support wildlife populations, regardless of potential opposition. OSAC stated that the question should be included with the other questions being asked about management actions. It is important to know if the public supports a closure, because if there is opposition, staff will know that messaging and education will be very important.
- OSAC did not recommend adding a fourth management question about “building more trails,” and thought that if a respondent felt more trails are needed, the open-ended comment section would provide them a good opportunity to state this.

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 6:50 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC left Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The June OSAC meeting will be held in person.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Morton

Allison Morton, Open Space and Trails Senior Resource Specialist