

SUMMIT COUNTY
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

November 4, 2020
Meeting Held by Zoom Conference

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

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Turk Montepare, Bob Gregory, Art Hardin, Jeff Leigh,

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Lorch, Brad Kremske, Jordan Mead, Jim Curnutte

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Pete Swenson - Town of Frisco, Anne Murphy - Town of Breckenridge, Danelle Cooke - Town of Silverthorne, Paul Semmer - US Forest Service, Abe Pacharz - Colorado Adventure Guides

Call to Order: Todd Rankin 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.

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

Approval of Summary Report:

Brian mentioned that the Wellington/Golden Horseshoe Hazardous Fuels Reduction was scheduled to go into next year, but they finished the entire 94 acres in about 2 weeks with 30 sawyers. The next step is to burn the piles after they have cured for one year and snow is on the ground.

Concerns about Peak One neighborhood parking near Zak's Stop was brought up by Laura Rossetter. According to Laura, additional on-street overflow parking at Zac's Stop was designated by the Town of Frisco when the review and planning for Peak One was completed. Frisco allows on-street parking on town streets, and residents of the neighborhood are expressing concerns.

Public Comments not included on the Agenda :

Pete Swenson requested time to discuss Town of Frisco plans to improve parking at Ten Mile Canyon Park and Ride area at the North end of Main Street. The Town of Frisco is submitting a GOCO Resiliency Grant request to improve parking and restrooms. Mr. Swenson did not define the exact scope of the project or say if it will be one or both sides of I-70. The Town is looking for a letter of support for the GOCO grant. The OSAC recommended that staff provide this letter. Paul Semmer stated that the Forest Service would likely recommend a more comprehensive effort that addresses the multiple parking issues in the immediate area. The OSAC also recommended a review of traffic flow at the bridge and Recpath adjacent to these lots as a part of this project and indicated that the scope of the project needs to be better defined.

The OSAC recommended that the BOCC support Frisco's request for GOCO Resiliency Funding.

Abe Pacharz, owner of Colorado Adventure Guides (CAG) came to the meeting to request commercial use of Summit County Open Space. CAG currently partners with the Forest Service (USFS), Town of

Breckenridge and Town of Frisco to operate guided tours. CAG does a variety of guided activities, with most of its revenue derived from avalanche education. OSAC members requested more specific information on which trails, the number of users, and the types of equipment that are proposed. CAG is currently requesting commercial use of County Open Space primarily for guided mountain bikers to connect routes between ToB and USFS trails. Abe responded that CAG does a small user-day business with short 2 hour tours, mostly for most beginners, with no groups larger than 5 riders and 1 guide (6 total). He stated that they have never had more than 2 groups in a day, and they are willing to accept a limit to user numbers per day. CAG added that their Forest Service and ToB permits would also limit other organizations ability to operate on these trails and CAG is currently the only mountain biking company with a permit from the USFS.

Brian indicated that Summit County Open Space currently does not have a commercial use permitting process, and therefore has not accepted new proposals for commercial uses. The OSAC discussed this proposal, and the primary concern was the need to fully vet a permitting approach to ensure that allowing one commercial venture does not open a "Pandora's Box" that entitles other companies or commercial uses. The OSAC would like to continue discussing how to best manage commercial use of Summit County Open Space property, and felt that public opinion on this issue could be included in current plans to update the Open Space Protection Strategy.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Discussion of Open Space Management Activities:

Highlights of Field Season Accomplishments by Crew - Brad Kremske: It was one of the busiest field seasons ever, including accommodating for COVID-19:

- The volunteer program declined with COVID, but has been seeing about 25% yearly growth prior to that.
- The Mineral Hill Trail in French Gulch was the premier project for the summer and is phase 1 of multi-phase hiking loop. The trail required a lot of large rock work and has excellent views of the Tenmile Range and mining sites.
- Summit County Open Space partnered with Summit County Mountain Bike Alliance and McGill Trail Builders to rebuild several of the switchbacks on the Snake River Trails at the Landfill .
- Three long bridges were built to replace rotted log stream crossings on Willow Creek Open Space trails. About \$7,000 in treated lumber was donated by a local citizen for these bridges. The Town of Silverthorne also provided materials and helped haul in lumber.
- The crew built a large herbivore enclosure at Barney Ford Open Space and maintained several irrigation ditches on Summit County Open Space.
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps thinned 40 acres of lodgepole regeneration with guidance from the Colorado State Forest Service and trail crew assistance.
- Graffiti removal and vandalism of restrooms and other locations represented a new task/concern for the crew and required complete repainting of three restrooms.
- Annual fish surveys showed an improving community in the newly restored Swan River.

Quandary Trailhead: Open Space staff has been in contact with OTAK, the contracted company who is conducting the visitor survey and they have an impressive amount of data and statistical ability. Visitors surveys are generally very positive. Neighbors are also being surveyed and raised issues regarding numbers of visitors. We will ask OTAK to present their data to OSAC in the future.

Discussion of Recpath Management:

Fremont Pass Recpath: The Bridge over CO 91 has been installed and is 270' in length. The rest of the paving will probably be completed by June or July on next year. This has been a 10-plus year process of serious focus.

Dam Road "Redpath": OST staff is working with R&B to publish an RFP for repainting this section of the Recpath as well as the new "sidepath" along Huron Rd (CR450) near Breckenridge.

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 6:59 p.m. A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC leaves Executive Session at 8:13p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lorch

Brian Lorch, Open Space and Trails Director