

**City of Boulder
Open Space and Mountain Parks**

**Open Space Board of Trustees
May 23, 2012 Meeting**

**Bison Donation Evaluation
Supplemental Public Comment
Received May 17-21, 2012**

1. Comments received vial e-mail.
2. Petition received on May 21, 2012

Nancy Bizarro

5/20/2012 Boulder CO

Please think about, if we really want to distract drivers, add liability to the city and it's employees, and cause vegetation and soil changes. I feel like our city has already spent enough money just thinking about accepting this donation. One should always look a gift horse, or buffalo, in the mouth.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts.

Nancy Bizarro

Celia Bockhoff

5/15/2012 Boulder CO

Dear Board of Trustees I am writing to offer my insights and opinions regarding the plan proposed by the City of Boulder to place 13 buffalos on the Open Space property flanking Rt. 36.

My husband and I live at 1670 South Cherryvale Road and our property backs directly on Open Space bordering the area to the south being considered for the bison.

My husband has lived here for thirty years - I have lived here for three. Both of us have enjoyed tracking an abundance of wildlife on the Open Space you are considering. We have seen many species make there home here and travel through - White Tailed Deer Mule Deer bobcats coyotes prairie dogs rabbits lots of birds and little critters and an occasional black bear. We consider the Open Space here a wildlife sanctuary and pray that it will stay that way. I can't imagine how devastated all these populations will be if they are fenced out and prevented from inhabiting their natural homes. In addition the open space has been explored and cared for by many hikers and naturalists studying the natural geology and habitats on this land. By fencing IN the bison we would fence OUT those who dearly care for this land thus preventing countless nature lovers from enjoying this precious area.

With the proposed bison plan we would be re-introducing one species on the land but barring and traumatizing the lives of untold other species.

This is a cost that is untenable. It clearly dishonors the covenant we hold with this land.

I urge you to recommend that is plan be rejected. Let us embrace our role as guardians and caretakers for a precious commodity: free and undeveloped land that all can enjoy and all the beings whose lives depend on it.

Thank you very much.

Celia Bockhoff
city: Boulder

Gary Boucher

5/19/2012

This is great news. The only downside is that they might consider some other site for Ted Turner's ego trip and marketing strategy.

Thanks for the update.

Gary Boucher

Antony Cooper

5/17/2012 Boulder CO

Having Buffalo around seems nice, but with a huge fence and \$100,000 estimated maintenance each year?

No thanks! Also, a giant fence around an open space area seems like a visual insult. I

remember seeing bison in a field around Longhorn road, off 36, north of Boulder. They didn't have a huge fence, it was just traditional barbed wire. Do buffalo really jump seven feet?

Jo Easton

5/18/2012

Thank you, Mark, for letting us know of your recommendation, (and for that recommendation). I appreciate it. - Jo Easton

John Furth

5/19/2012

Boulder CO

When I first heard about the buffalo donation for Boulder's open space I thought it was cool. When I started learning details of what was involved I quickly lost my enthusiasm. This will not be buffalo home on the range, it will be buffalo in big tall cages. They would be located in areas which currently have rare tall grasses and much wildlife roaming freely. Currently visitors to Boulder are impressed with open vistas with well managed cattle that are part of our heritage. Will the first impression of visitors now become tall cages? Will traffic line up in residential areas to view the Boulder Buffalo Zoo? I can see why fence builders and those who want free publicity for buffalo consumption are all for this project. But the Open Space mission of preserving open space, recreation, agriculture, native habitat and wildlife will be damaged by this project. I hope taxpayer money will be more wisely spent to maintain that mission.

Anne Guthrie

5/17/2012

Boulder CO

I would not like to see a herd of bison here. The costs, direct and indirect, would be significant. The benefit seems to me to accrue more to boosters than to citizens.

Lynn Herklotz

5/20/2012

Mark,

Thank you for the update! It was great news to see after camping for a weekend and tentatively opening my emails!

I am very pleased that, hopefully, all of our concerns were reviewed by the OSMP staff. We think that removing the parcels mentioned and considered will make the possible acceptance a bit less painful on many fronts and hope that there is a parcel that does not encroach upon anyone's residential property.

I also wanted to make another consideration before the closing of the forum on Monday and hope that by adding it to this email will get it in the correct place.

Living adjacent to the property on the south side of hwy 36, we are very concerned of losing the maintenance of those fields and their irrigation provided by the Hogans for decades. We have NEVER had a problem with noxious weed overgrowth or flooding due to mismanaged irrigation or grass control. We are very concerned that turning that responsibility over to another party to manage would be devastating if that field were to begin to flood due to irrigation mismanagement. Such an oversight would be absolutely horrible and not likely to be considered an act of God or such since in the 20+ years we've been living here, it has never been a problem. Is the City willing to accept the responsibility of this risk?

Thanks again Mark!

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

David Humphrey

5/18/2012 Boulder CO

This is a situation that looks like zero benefit to the city and high risks, based on the Review of Proposed Bison Donation. In fact, I cannot imagine that there could be a debate. Though I see no \$ estimates here, I have seen discouraging figures elsewhere. I was not even aware of ecological and safety issues, yet here they are. There should be no reason to accept the bison "gift." Only pet reasons are imaginable. Thank you.

Jan Jackson

5/19/2012 Boulder CO

I have several concerns regarding the possibility of a bison herd being located along highway 36 by the scenic overlook.

1. The bison most likely will not be hanging out where people can see them along the highway.
 2. Therefore, people will tend to migrate into the quiet neighborhoods where they will be able to view the bison up close. Our neighborhood, located off of South 68th Street and Whaley Drive has no exit. I fear this would cause way too much traffic along our quiet streets and possibly attract would be robbers into the neighborhood.
 3. I am very concerned about safety issues. I have had cattle in my yard several times over the past 22 years I have lived in my home. The Hogans have always been very prompt about rescuing their cattle and fixing the fence. I would adamantly be opposed to having bison in my back yard!
 4. I do not believe that a 7 1/2 foot fence would prevent bison from jumping over.
 5. I have water rights to the Marshallville ditch and the Davidson ditch. I am required to maintain the feeder ditch that travels from the Davidson ditch all the way across open space onto my property. If I do not keep the feeder ditch clean, it over flows and ultimately creates a swampy swath at the entrance of my driveway. This sits on top of an abandoned septic field which then creates a stinky area that is probably unsanitary and ripe for mosquitos! It also has then spilled over across the driveway into the Marshallville ditch.
 6. The fence would be on 3 sides of my property. I believe it would be extremely unsightly and obscure the beautiful views I now have. I also would feel like I had been put in a prison!
 7. I am concerned about the costs of the project.
 8. My neighbors and I use the open space to walk and hike in.
- Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Jan Jackson

Sara Kane

5/21/2012 Boulder CO

I am against making Bison visible from the main entrance to the city of Boulder. The image of this community will be greatly diminished if Bison are to be our welcoming icon. This community is unique. Many come because of the peace and beauty that the land brings. Scientific and cultural exchanges are many. The existing pastoral corridor provides an entrance that is inviting and sets the tone for a relaxed atmosphere that is unique to Boulder. The environment is enjoyed by all. Not only for those of us that have chosen to live here, but for those who come to exchange ideas. Brilliant ideas are born by being in the presence of the beauty of the mountains and the land. Do not change that image.

Andy Lattanzi

5/21/2011

Mr. Gershman,

Thank you for the update on the Bison issue.

Although the proposed location of the bison herd is a major concern, I am more concerned about the initial and ongoing financial impact as well as the liability.

We have too many other issues that we should all be concerned about other than spending time on this frivolous topic. If Mr. Turner wants to do something for the citizens of Boulder directly have him make a significant contribution to helping the homeless, the mentally ill or create a scholarship fund for a needy student(s).

Thank you again for the update.

Andy Lattanzi

Mary McQuiston

5/21/2012 Boulder CO

There are a myriad of reasons that the bison donation idea is unworkable: cost effect on Open Space Lands safety and displacement of Boulder ranching families who are part of our heritage.

The time and energy and cost that has been used in studying this ridiculous proposal is regrettable when financial resources and staff time is so critical to maintain and grow our already overburdened OS program.

The donation of this herd is nothing more than a publicity stunt that has turned into an unnecessary challenge.

Please just stop this waste of time and resources now and move on to more important issues!

Richard and FI Merlini

5/21/2012

Please add our names to the opposition of Buffalo on the OS along US 36.

Leon Midgett

5/18/2012

In my mind, this decision on the part of OSMP staff is akin to the Steve Pomerance position on the August bike race finish on Flagstaff. If something is afoot that might enhance the city's image, then by all means we should figure out why it is a bad thing.

Leon Midgett

Elizabeth Payne

Boulder CO

I think this is a bad idea...

I love what there is now...cattle run by local farmers that have been in the area for generations! These ranchers have maintained this property magnificently for years!!

I can foresee huge problems with bison as they can could eat what little grass there is and create a dustbowl! They are unpredicable...and can be mean and aggressive. What are you thinking that this would be positive for the city and county??? I believe Ted Turner is just trying to "advertise" his investments (i.e.--restaurant in town)!!

Respectfully submitted by,

Elizabeth Payne
249 S. 68th St.
Boulder, CO 80303

Alice Ranney

5/19/2012

thank you for the updates re the bison and am glad to hear about the OSMP

recommendation to withdraw areas north and south of 36.
Alice Ranney

Alicia Sama

5/19/2012 Boulder CO

The north side of US36 is a densely habitated area of Boulder County. The neighborhoods of Bar-Don Knolls, Apollo Estates, Spanish Hills, Paragon Estates, not to mention the homes on the east side of S68th St would be very negatively affected were bison to be introduced to the adjacent area. Backyards do touch on open space, two irrigation ditches run through the area, the grass on that land is not "prairie grass: it's poor grass. the cattle now grazing there need a perodic drop of hay to survive. These grasses will not suppoet bison: what will the cost of extra feed for them?

Our children walk their dogs, ride horses, ride their bikes on these areas; this will not be safe anymore once and if bison are present. Bison is a very dangerous animal (see National Geographic's "Secret Yellowstone".

The City of Boulder has had a hard time maintaining in good repair the fence that means to hold in place the large prairie dog colony on those lands; we have always been told: there are not enough funds for repairs. Fine, we have taken care of this on our side of the properties. How will be affordable to keep a fence for bison? Questionable.

Will there be money for the large expense to keep bison in Boulder over the years? The clear answer is no. Many other areas could use that income.

I question the rationality of the idea of having bison on these lands. Just say no to this self-serving offer.

Thank for your time,
Alicia Sama

Sally Schneider

5/21/2012

Mark,

Thank you so much for the update. I won't be able to attend the meeting. However, I am thrilled to hear that the committee will recommend the Bison not be placed on South Boulder open space. However, I still don't think the city should pay for the Bison to be located on any open space. I have read the cost would be \$650,000 plus about \$100,000 per year. Our streets need to be repaved and our median strips improved before we pay for Buffalo! IF Ted Turner or the Bison Society wants "free advertising" then maybe they should be willing to accept all the cost for the Bison. You may share this email with any of the committee members or others who might be making future decisions about the Bison.

Sally

Mary Shykula

5/18/2012

Good! Great! OSMP staff recommendation is "right on"! Just came down "the hill" the few hours ago and was envisioning what it would be like with the bison around, and it simply didn't seem "right". Just not the place for them.

**BISON DONATION PETITION
RECEIVED AT OPEN SPACE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS
CHERRYAVLE OFFICE
MONDAY MAY 21, 2012**

April 22, 2012

City of Boulder
Open Space and Mountain Parks
Board of Trustees

John Putnam
Allyn Feinberg
Thomas Isaacson
Shelley Dunbar
Frances Hartogh

Dear OSMP Board of Trustees:

We are writing to petition the OSMP Board of Trustees as a unified voice that is strongly opposed to the proposed Bison Donation by Ted Turner to the City of Boulder. We live in the neighborhood directly across Cherryvale from one of proposed sites and look to you to represent our opinions in this matter. Living in the county, we have no representation in the City of Boulder and are not constituents of anyone on City Council. We do look to you to see the voice of reason and to stop this proposal from going forward with your recommendation. Most of us have individually written to OSMP Comments, therefore you have heard many, many reasons for not going forward. We believe our neighbors, the Hogan's, and ourselves would have our daily quality of life diminished far greater than any pleasure derived by people viewing a small bison herd. We also believe that we have been great stewards of the land and the wildlife that surrounds us. To lose our connection with varied species that roam the Davidson Mesa and surrounding pastures would be devastating to us, the community at large and to the wild animals, great and small.

BISON DONATION PETITION

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