

Approved as Amended December 11, 2013
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date November 13, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Allyn Feinberg Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Patton Jim Reeder Dean Paschall Eric Stone Annie McFarland
Phillip Yates Mike Orosel Lauren Kolb Kacey French Don D'Amico
Todd Doherty Dave Kuntz Mark Gershman Leah Case Michele Gonzales

GUESTS

Tim Plass, City Council Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of Minutes

Shelley Dunbar said on page 2, Basit Mustafa said “walled garden” not “wall garden.” She said on page 3, WRV stands for “Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.” On page 3, Kevin Bains was speaking on behalf of the Colorado Mountain School. She said the language in the second paragraph on page 5 should read, “Shelley asked if more staff members are needed to help implement projects.” On page 6, in the first paragraph, it should say, “She said guides are among the safest users . . .” Tom Isaacson said on page 6, in the second paragraph, the word “it” should be added at the end of the third sentence. He said the title of the last section, on page 7, should be “Xcel/Flagstaff.” Molly Davis said in the first paragraph of page 5 it should state, “Molly asked for clarification on the difference between opening trails and opening them up to meet OSMP standards.” Allyn Feinberg said on page 6, the last line should say “except” instead of “accept.” She said on page 7 it should say, “Allyn said it needs to be made clear that along with soft surface trails there are some hard surface trails that would not be part of the pilot program.”

Tom Isaacson moved to approve the minutes from October 9, 2013 as amended. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Johannes Rudolph, Boulder, expressed his appreciation for what has been reopened on the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) system. He said he read through the Beech Management Plan and one thing that is missing is a description of the Beech Trail. He described the trail from beginning to end. This is one of the best trails in the whole system, and a description needs to be included.

Sue Douglass, Boulder, said she appreciates the Board and staff very much for their efforts after the flood. She attended a hike led by Community Outreach (CO) staff to see the damage of the trails. These events have been very well attended and have given people a chance to better understand the concept of time and how landscapes change. She noted that many people do not have that understanding, and are being very disrespectful for the rules on Open Space.

Peter Bakwin, Boulder, said when he read the Beech Management Plan he was disappointed by the lack of information in the recreational resource section. The way it is currently written is confusing and it

omits the beauty of this area. The section of recreational resources needs to be complete or staff should remove the whole section and make it clear this will be dealt with in the north Trail Study Area (TSA).

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director’s Updates

Boards and Commissions Committee Update

Council Member Plass, gave an overview of a project he and Council Member Ageton have been working on to enhance Boards and Commissions within the City of Boulder. The sample recruitment video that was shown to the Board is saved in S:OSMP\admin\OSBT\Minutes\Minutes 2013\ November.

Frances Hartogh said this is a really good idea and it will be beneficial to have a wide diversity of applicants. Council Member Plass asked the Board for their thoughts on how to make this successful. Frances said the outreach should be expanded; flyers could be put up in places that people congregate, such as recreation centers. Shelley said videos are helpful for both recruitment and education. Videos can also be used for orientation and training. Council Member Plass said having members watch the video(s) on their own might be difficult, so orientation or training could take place at the scheduled Board meeting. Shelley asked who is going to take Council Member Ageton’s place on this committee. Council Member Plass said that will be decided at the next council meeting. Tom said providing education on the front end would be helpful. He noted that several things have come up which could benefit from being more clear. For example, understanding if the title of a “Trustee” makes a difference in the OSBT responsibility. He said it would be nice to understand the Board’s role in setting the meeting agenda. In addition, it would be beneficial to have a basic understanding of the Board’s relationship to City Council as well as with other boards and staff. Council Member Plass said providing education and getting clarity on these issues on the front end would be ideal for this process. Allyn said the city has been trying to expand recruitment for many years; it would be a good idea to create a picture of what it means to be a Board member and then put it out into social media. She said if this is something done successfully, it would have a great impact. She added that the education for how boards operate could be improved over the current orientation. A lot of boards have different missions, so making sure to look at each board individually, to help with their specific roles, should be a goal for orientation.

Beech Property Management Plan

Kacey French, Environmental Planner, gave an update to the Board about the Beech Property Management Plan. This plan was completed in fulfillment of a requirement in the “Boulder County and City of Boulder Jointly Owned Open Space Management Intergovernmental Agreement.” The primary purpose of the plan is to document how OSMP will manage the jointly-owned property and to provide Boulder County Parks and Open Space (BCPOS) with a plan describing OSMP’s management.

Frances asked if the listed number of bobcat sightings could all be from the same animal, and if there is data on how many individual bobcats there are in the area. Kacey said she would have to ask wildlife staff for that information. Frances asked if “prairie dog associates” refers to anything connected to prairie dogs in the ecosystem. Kacey said yes. Frances asked how low use is defined in regards to a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). Kacey said there is no specific number, it is a relative scale compared to use on the rest of the trail system. Frances noted “insensitive” should be changed to “in sensitive” on page 30. She asked what the management will be for existing trails. Kacey said this will be decided in the TSA process. Frances said she was astounded at the variety of wildlife in the area and hopes that will be kept in mind when the HCA is discussed.

Molly asked if Boulder County only has quarter partnership. Kacey said yes, OSMP is the lead agency. Molly asked what the plan is for repairing the riparian areas. Kacey said that will be considered in the TSA process. Allyn asked if the county had comments that were significant. Kacey said no, but both pieces of infrastructure that the county manages were included.

Shelley said the TSAs need to be on a timeline so the public knows when they will be scheduled. Tom said if this document is going to be used as an inventory of resources, then the list of undesignated trails needs to be completed or state that it is omitted. He said the East Beech Trail is shown on the map, but technically it is undesignated. Kacey said information for table two in the section for conservation issues was taken from the Grassland Management Plan. When applied to Beech it will be modified for that area. Mike Patton said staff can add this clarification in the plan. Frances said results from wildlife cameras should indicate where on the property they were taken. Shelley said this plan is something that should be utilized in the TSA process.

Flood Update

Annie McFarland, Visitor Access Coordinator; Don D'Amico, Ecological Systems Supervisor; Lauren Kolb, Agriculture Specialist; and Mark Gershman, Environmental Planning Supervisor, gave an update to the Board on the status of OSMP land after the flood. Their presentation is saved in S:OSMP\admin\OSBT\Minutes\Minutes 2013\November.

Shelly asked Annie if the upcoming scheduled opening date for Skunk Canyon means that the reroute work will already be finished. Annie said yes; the contractor OSMP hired to work elsewhere was relocated to Skunk Canyon and the contract with Mile High Youth Corps was extended which allowed this work to be completed ahead of schedule. She noted that the only section that will not be complete is the lower section in the valley; that will be completed once the wetland permit process is completed. Tom asked when work will be directed to the South Boulder Creek Trail from Marshall Road. Annie said most likely this winter when staff can no longer work on projects that are in the higher elevation.

Tom asked Don about the budget. Mike Orosel said the \$1 million requested in supplemental appropriation is part of a citywide package that will have its first reading on Nov. 19. He said any funds left over will carry over into 2014. Tom asked if staff is currently over budget. Mike Patton said yes, but they are extending the work for seasonal employees as long as they will stay. Mike said staff will send information to the Board on the budget. Frances asked if staff would be working on the north TSA if the flood had not happened. Mike said that is unsure, but at some point staff will return to their normal process and to the issues discussed prior to the flood. In the early part of next year, staff will revisit with the Board and talk about expectations.

Frances asked Lauren if AmeriCorps sent volunteers because of the flood. Lauren said Kristin Weinberger had submitted an application for work prior to the flood, so AmeriCorps will provide a month now and then three months in the summer.

Tom asked if the volume of rescues has increased. Mike said to his knowledge there has not been any increase. Frances asked if the Preble's meadow jumping mouse population was affected during the flood. Mike said the extent is unknown; Heather Swanson is in contact with the Fish and Wildlife Service, but she has not yet received more information.

Tom said the very different tenor of this meeting compared to the last is a high compliment to the work of the department. The public has been complimentary, even from those who are often critical. He said the outreach has been outstanding. The daily updating of the Website is a good idea and he suggested continuing this for some time. In addition, the e-mails that have been sent out are very helpful. He asked about the plan for Gregory Canyon trailhead. Mike said this is on a list of roads that need to be assessed. He said the road may become a gravel road. If the road does not get replaced, there is concern about pushing the parking into the neighborhoods. Allyn had expressed her concern about this as well.

Shelley said thank you to staff members for their hard work. The OSMP department is one to be commended. She appreciates staff's responsiveness to the public. Frances said the open house held at the

Millennium Hotel was very well attended. People who had written critical letters were there and left with a greater understanding. Mike said staff feels good about how things turned out.

Molly said in the Beech Property Management Plan, something should be added about the high volume of rattlesnakes in the area. She also noted that people have become very comfortable on the trails and places such as the Four Mile Creek Trail are giving people an opportunity to start paying more attention.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Shelley asked staff for a follow up on electric-assisted bicycles (e-bikes). Mike said the city attorney deemed the Board's proposal for a possible disposal of land to allow use of e-bikes to be inappropriate because the city already owns the land. Council redrafted the ordinance to allow e-bikes on land anywhere other than Open Space. The city is in the process of finalizing analysis on how OSMP came to manage these pieces of land. The pilot program will move forward, but will not be on Open Space.

Tom said the Greenways Advisory Committee (GAC) met recently, and the vast majority of system has been repaired. The assessment of the system showed things worked very well in flood conditions. There was a public meeting held recently to discuss why the neighborhood east of Foothills and north of Valmont flooded. The GAC has received comments from the public about the Cottonwood Trail; they have been displeased with the work of the ditch company that took out so many trees. He said he was gratified to see the work OSMP is doing on the south side of the ditch taking a more sensitive and sensible approach.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.