

Approved as Amended 6/11/14
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date May 14, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Patton Jim Reeder Dave Kuntz Lisa Dierauf Steve Armstead
Mark Gershman Alycia Knutson Annie McFarland Lynn Riedel Leah Case
Michele Gonzales Alyssa Frideres Paula Marie Lewis Jayne Basford

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Tom Isaacson said Mike Patton needs to be added to staff members present. He asked to change the word “did” to “obtained” on page 2. Shelley Dunbar said on page 2 the language should read, “Shelley asked for a map showing all Open Space properties and how many are agricultural. She would also like to know what they are used for.”

Shelley Dunbar moved to approve the minutes from April 9, 2014 as amended. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

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

Bill Briggs, Boulder, said Open Space staff needs to be commended for opening the trails so quickly after the flood. He said the volunteer efforts were tremendous. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done on the trails; he asked the Board and staff to consider a “trail custodian” program which would allow the public to take on some of the routine maintenance. Mike Patton said staff will look into this idea. Kevin Bracy Knight said the level of impact for these groups would need to be monitored and defined.

Jim Knopf, Boulder, showed a map of Skunk Canyon and what he indicated was his neighborhood’s consensus on their preference for trail construction.

Eileen Monyok, Boulder, asked if current participants of the Voice and Sight Tag Program would be grandfathered into the new program. Mike said everyone will have to register as a new participant at the beginning of the year. Eileen asked if people will need to pay an annual renewal fee for each dog. Steve Armstead said there will be a single renewal fee per household.

Mike Barrow, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), gave an update on the Smart Trail application (app). He said he supports Bill Briggs’ suggestion for trail work. Shelley asked to which user groups BMA is promoting their app. Mike said it will be promoted to all, but the BMA Website will still gear information towards mountain biking. Frances asked if staff has considered putting trail information onto their own app. Mike said this might be something for the future, but for now it is listed on the Website. Tom agreed that having wildlife and trail information easily accessible would be a good idea.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director’s Updates

Lynn Riedel, Plant Ecologist, gave a presentation on the ecological best management practices for trails.

Tom said staff should share this great information with any other land managers who may be interested. Lynn said staff was eager to bring this to the Board as they have already received requests for this information to be shared. Kevin said this is a really great document and resource. It also presents some great opportunities for research. He suggested the language in the document be changed to reflect that water bars are not the best practice for trail maintenance.

Lisa Dierauf, Community Outreach Supervisor, and Steve Armstead, Environmental Planner, gave an update on the Voice and Sight Tag Program implementation changes.

Frances said what Steve and Lisa have done represents a lot of work in a short period of time. She asked what the rule will be for dogs going off trail. Steve in most places there is no limit to how far away a dog can be from the guardian; the guardian simply needs to remain in control. Frances said the information staff has provided to the Board on effects of wildlife being chased should be provided to the public. Shelley asked if play chasing will be viewed as a violation. Steve said no, but the guardian will need to be conscious of the control level if play turned negative. Shelley said this is something the education session could cover. She asked if the Board could receive a copy of the monitoring implementation specifics that staff will use. Mark Gershman said this will be provided.

Shelley asked if the information session will be videotaped, as that can be a good tool to help instructors improve. Lisa agreed this is a great idea. She noted that instructors will be doing a lot of dry runs with different groups in order to prepare. Kevin asked how many classes will be offered a week. Lisa said 17. Staff wants to ensure 20,000 spots are available to the public prior to Jan. 1. Kevin asked how long a class will be. Lisa said they will most likely be one hour. Kevin suggested that class sizes remain smaller to allow for better engagement. Molly asked who people would contact after the class if they have questions. Steve said it depends, but most likely they will be directed to the Website where there will be contact information. He said there will also be a "Frequently Asked Questions" page to help with repeat questions.

Frances asked if staff has continued to look into using compostable bags for dog excrement. Mike said staff is working on this. Shelley said they could be used even if bags accidentally get mixed into the wrong receptacle. It will still break down which is a step in the right direction.

Shelley asked whether staff believes they will be able to accommodate such a high volume of people needing to take the class, and those who may wait until the end of the year. Mike said staff will be advertising this class early on, and encouraging people to sign up early. Frances asked how staff will deal with those who are displeased at having to attend the class. Steve said the focus will remain on education and reminding the users that the standards and expectations have not changed. This is a rare chance to talk to the guardians about what this program really means. Tom said it would be a good idea to provide a forum for the public to give comments and feedback. Lisa said staff has an evaluation form.

Dave Kuntz, Resource Systems Division Manager, Acting, gave a first quarter update on the 2014 Work Plan.

Tom said the Board and staff should start thinking about the process for the North Trail Study Area (TSA). Mike said staff will bring some initial thoughts to the Board. Shelley suggested having a study session as well as an opportunity for community input. Kevin said it might be nice to have information on trailhead signs about current trail status and upcoming work. Shelley added that volunteer opportunities in specific areas could also be promoted.

Mark Gershman, Environmental Planning Supervisor, gave an update on Greenways.

The Board agreed that of the alternatives, option two: removing the culvert and damaged roadway above the creek, closing the road to through traffic, and building a pedestrian bridge over the creek, is favored.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Shelley said the signage at Skunk Canyon is confusing, and suggested updating this along with an explanation of upcoming work.

Molly Davis gave an update on a resilience strategies workshop she attended. She will keep the Board updated as conversations continue.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Recommendation to enter into a revocable nonexclusive license pursuant to Boulder City Charter Section 171(a) and Section 175(h) between OSMP and Thomas and Beth Heinrich located at 3173 Third St., Boulder CO to perform mitigation work related to damage caused by a land slump as a result of the extreme rainfall event of Sept. 11-14, 2013.*

Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager, gave a presentation on a revocable nonexclusive license to perform mitigation work due to a land slump that flowed from Open Space into the Heinrich property.

Tom asked what oversight staff will have during this process. Jim said someone will be on site every day. Molly asked where the equipment will be stored. Jim said on site. Molly asked if staff anticipates this affecting the surrounding area. Jim said the engineering report does not indicate that this will happen, if anything it will improve the area. Kevin asked if this might set a precedent for what people will expect they can do and suggested having guidelines for when/if this would be allowed. Mike said this would always be considered carefully to make sure it serves both the homeowner as well as the Open Space interest.

Public Comment

Mike Barrow, BMA, said the document Lynn presented is really put together well. He is heartened to see this evolution of guidelines coming along, and interested in working collaboratively to make sure this gets implemented well.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that the department grant a revocable, nonexclusive license to Thomas and Beth Heinrich located at 3173 Third St., Boulder CO to perform mitigation work as described in Attachment B related to damage caused by a land slump as a result of the extreme rainfall event of Sept. 11-14, 2013. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Consideration of an approach to repairing flood damage to the Royal Arch Trail*

Mike Patton, Director, OSMP, gave a presentation to the Board on the possible options for repair on Royal Arch Trail.

Shelley asked what Mark Hesse's proposal was for this area. Mike said his preference would have been to reroute the trail. Tom asked if wetland staff has weighed in on the possible reroute. Mike said they would be involved with any alignment.

Public Comment

Terry Murphy, Flatirons Climbing Council (FCC), said the climbing community is in broad support of maintaining the current alignment of Royal Arch. The alternate alignment would make for a significantly longer hike to climbing access. In addition, the current terrain allows for a great educational opportunity. This trail has been opened since the late 1800s and is very significant to this area and system. Attempting to discourage traffic from this area would be a step in the wrong direction. The Woods Quarry reroute was rejected during the West TSA, and the same thing would likely happen again.

Roger Briggs, Boulder, said the idea of a bridge is very new and he is interested in hearing how this could be done. He said he supports the option with the shortest amount of reroute.

Dan Brillon, Boulder, said Boulder trail runners support either of the two options. They are concerned about the idea of opening this up to a public process, as the West TSA process has already taken place. They view this as just a trail repair. They would prefer this trail to be opened sooner rather than later.

Return to the Board

Tom asked if the Board decided to have a public process could it happen in advance of the June Board meeting. Mike said yes. He added that as the May meeting was noticed the Board could consider that as the public process. Tom said he agreed, but since two Board members have not seen the damage it may be hard to make a decision.

Shelley said this is a very popular trail and getting this open quickly is important. Make a choice that will be permanent and allow us to open the trail this season. Tom said a bridge would have to be very long and very well anchored. The aesthetic of putting this human-made structure in could be negative. Shelley said it does not seem out of character for this trail to have a difficult section. The bridge does seem out of character, and she was inclined not to support this. Molly added that if a public process is going to take place, staff should create a video to show scope of this work.

Tom asked how long it would take wildlife staff to determine whether a reroute will be possible through this habitat. Dave said Heather Swanson would have to put together a proposal and then the Department of Fish and Wildlife would make a decision. If it is determined that no permit is needed, then staff could proceed with trail construction right away.

The Board agreed that they would support a reroute of this trail contingent on the remaining Board members who have not seen the area. If all Board members are not in full agreement, this topic would be pushed to the June meeting with an open house for the public to comment prior to the meeting.

Motion

None.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.

APPROVED BY:

Tom Isaacson
Board Chair

DATE