

Approved as Amended 7/9/14
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date June 11, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Patton Dave Kuntz Steve Armstead Mark Gershman Heather Swanson
Steve Mertz Annie McFarland Brad Skowronski Mike Orosel Andy Pelster
Leah Case Michele Gonzales Alyssa Frideres

GUESTS

Jesse Lewis, Colorado State University
Eric Ameigh, Senior Project Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Frances Hartogh said the first line of the second paragraph should have the language, “what he indicated was.” Kevin Bracy Knight said in the same paragraph, the word “invasiveness” could be changed to “impact.”

Shelley Dunbar moved to approve the minutes from May 14, 2014 as amended. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

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

Mike Barrow, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), said there are some cattle guards out on the system that have yet to be put in. He asked what the timeline is for these, and offered BMA’s help for funding and implementation. He said, in reference to last month’s meeting, that items of higher importance need to be put as an agenda item (instead of a Director’s Update) so the public can comment.

The Board asked staff to bring back information on cattle guards and a long-range plan for implementation.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director’s Updates

The effects of recreation and urbanization on wildlife populations

Jesse Lewis, Colorado State University, gave a presentation to the Board discussing his recent work funded by Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) and Boulder County which uses his data to address questions related to recreation and wildlife on OSMP and other Boulder County Open Space.

Kevin asked if there is any difference in temporal use patterns between weekends and weekdays. Jesse said they did not look specifically at this but the data could most likely be manipulated to answer that question. Molly asked if there is any information on prey population in relation to predators. Jesse said this is something they plan to look at, but did not for this study.

Frances asked if animals having to change their behavior due to human activity affected their health or population. Jesse said he does not have any information on this. Frances asked if they captured how many people use headlamps at night. Jesse said they would not have data on this because the cameras typically

capture from the waist down. Tom asked if he had any information on the benefits of concentrated versus dispersed human use. Jesse said he does not have concrete information on this.

Voice and Sight Tag Monitoring Project

Mark Gershman, Environmental Planning Supervisor, gave an update on the Voice and Sight Tag Program monitoring.

Shelley asked who is doing the monitoring. Mark said OSMP staff. Shelley asked how these staff members are trained. Mark said staff uses a training document developed to remove subjectivity.

Frances asked if a guardian has more than two dogs off leash if a friend can walk the additional dog. Steve Armstead said no one can walk a dog off leash unless he/she is registered for this program. Frances asked if a dog is considered under sight control if the guardian has the dog behind them. Mark said if the guardian is frequently looking behind, then this could be considered sight control. Frances said frequently is not definite. Mark said the monitors will record anything the dog is doing and can provide data on whether this is effective or not. Tom asked what the time frame is for when this will be completed. Mark said they are looking at being finished by mid July.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Dave asked if the Board would like to have a study session in July. Shelley asked if brainstorming for the North Trail Study Area (TSA) would be included. Dave said the study session would be on the agricultural plan. Mark pointed out that having a study session can be helpful when presenting ideas to City Council. Tom confirmed that the Board would have both their regularly scheduled business meeting as well as a study session on July 9.

Kevin asked about the plan for trail repair in the north part of the system. Mike said staff will come back with a prioritization plan for fixing trails across the system. Frances asked about the citizen trail work opportunity. Mike said Jennelle is working with Bill Briggs and the volunteer group on this topic.

Frances asked how staff determines where a fence is placed. Andy said typically the fence is used to indicate a property boundary, but it can be adjusted over time. Frances asked if wildlife is affected by either fences or cattle guards. Andy said they are unaware of any negative impacts.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Summary of 50th year of OSMP Junior Ranger Program and Declaration to Honor Five Decades of Youth Service*

Steve Mertz, Public Relations Coordinator, gave a presentation celebrating the Junior Ranger Program and its 50th year of continuous service. The City of Boulder OSMP Department joins the community in recognizing the thousands of young people for their efforts in preserving our public lands.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

Tom Isaacson read the following proclamation:

The Open Space Board of Trustees joins the staff of the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department in recognizing all of our Junior Rangers over the past 50 years. We salute the more than 5,000 Boulder youth who contributed their talents and efforts in helping the City of Boulder carry out its land management missions. These irreplaceable individuals are an inspiration as they help to protect the resources that make Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks so special.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Review of and Recommendation Regarding the 2015 OSMP Capital Improvement Program Budget and a portion of the Lottery Fund Capital Improvement Program Budget*

Mike Orosel, Financial Services Manager, gave a presentation on the 2015 CIP budget.

Frances asked what OSMP can expect back from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mike said they are still in the process of submitting invoices, but any money the department receives will be considered a reimbursement for work that has already taken place and will go into the Open Space fund.

Molly asked if the North TSA will really take six years. Dave said that is just the timeline for implementation. Kevin asked how the Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) imaging will be used. He added that it is a really great tool for mapping and surveying. Dave said staff will brief the Board once they get to that point. Tom asked about Gregory Canyon Road. Mike said the county will begin work next week and he believes OSMP will receive a full reimbursement.

Public Comment

Mike Barrow, BMA, thanked staff members for their very nice work.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve, and recommend that Planning Board approve an appropriation of \$7,608,000 in 2015 from the Open Space Fund CIP as outlined in this memorandum and related attachments; and recommend that \$355,300 be appropriated from the city's Lottery Fund CIP in 2015 as outlined in this memorandum and related attachments. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Consideration of a smoking ban on all OSMP properties, including trails, without exception.*

Andy Pelster, gave a presentation on a potential smoking ban for OSMP properties.

Public Comment

Ray Bridge, Boulder, asked if agricultural leases would be affected by this ban. Andy said yes.

Return to the Board

Tom asked how often users complain about smokers on Open Space. Mike said rarely. Shelley said we have the ability to ban smoking during the fire season and this would make the smoking ban unnecessary for fire danger alone. She said she does not view smoking on Open Space as an issue as it happens so infrequently. Frances said she favors implementing this ban. Kevin agreed as having rules that are consistent are easier to understand. Molly said she supports this ban because of the fire risk. Shelley said in more public places, such as a trailhead, this could be beneficial, but system-wide is far-reaching. She asked if e-cigarettes are included in this ban. Eric Ameigh, Senior Project Manager, said this is not included in the smoking definition. Tom said smoking is so rare and having never encountered this issue, he would lean against supporting this ban. He noted that it could also be hard to justify the regulation.

Motion

None.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Review of proposed trail reroutes in Skunk Canyon valley*

Annie McFarland, Visitor Master Plan Implementation Coordinator, gave a presentation on Skunk Canyon and the plan developed by the Community Collaborative Group (CCG). OSMP staff used the guidance of that plan to determine which trails would be closed and restored, which would be designated and which would be rerouted.

Kevin asked what the sense was from the CCG for this area. Shelley said the shorter connection and trail loop was preferred. Annie said she looked back at notes from CCG meetings and other documentation to better understand the consensus and was unable to find a lot of information. Shelley said she has maps and documents from these conversations, and would have liked staff to ask Board members for their contribution.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

Shelley said the first part of this alignment is good, but the lower trail should connect with the upper portion of trail after the bridge. She said this will help to minimize social trails. Tom agreed that would be the alignment desirable to the neighbors. He added that it is important not to sway too much from what was agreed upon in the West TSA. Shelley said what staff is proposing deviates too much. Frances said she would support whatever design is the most sustainable. Shelley said the neighbors would prefer what was on the ground before. Mike said staff's intent is to be faithful to the CCG and West TSA. Frances asked how proposed trails would be signed to discourage users from shortcutting. Mike said they would have signs in the area, but they typically do not prevent this. Kevin said building sustainable trails that allow users to go from point A to point B will be favored, and also making sure sensitive habitat is protected. Molly suggested building the trail beyond the bridge as that is where people will most likely go anyway. Shelley agreed that the trail could head back west after the bridge. She noted that this is also a great area for bird watching and she was concerned that the proposed trail alignment would disturb this. Mike said staff will take the Board's feedback into consideration and come back with a recommendation.

Motion

None.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.