

Approved as Amended 4/8/15
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date March 11, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree Jim Reeder Mark Gershman Kelly Wasserbach Mike Orosel
Steve Armstead Jennelle Freeston Greg Seabloom Linda VanDervort Lisa Dierauf
Dave Barry Kristin Weinberger Deryn Wagner Michele Gonzales Leah Case

GUESTS

Ian Coddington, NIST, Quantum Electronics and Photonics

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Tom Isaacson asked to change the language on page two to say, “. . . if that is the starting point.” He said on page two, the language in the second to the last paragraph should say, “. . . gave an update on the Joder Property.” On page three, “Gregory Canyon” should be changed to “Chapman Drive.” Frances Hartogh said on page four, it should read, “Frances said if it is worded that the county has sole discretion to maintain, she is concerned that OSMP is giving up the right to do any maintenance or enforce that the county maintain.”

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from Feb. 18, 2015 as amended. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

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

Joel Koenig, Boulder, expressed his gratitude to the Volunteer Services workgroup. He has enjoyed his time as a volunteer and has truly appreciated the immense time put in by the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) staff.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Staff Updates

Trail Sustainability

Greg Seabloom, Trails Supervisor, gave a presentation on criteria for sustainable trail building.

Frances asked if staff uses the mountain bike flow trail standard when building trails. Greg said staff may use this design when building a mountain bike specific trail, but more often staff will use a different trail standard. Frances asked how staff decides which user group to gear towards. Greg said staff will typically default to which design criteria fit most user groups. Frances asked when crusher fines are used. Greg said when existing natural soil type is not preferable; putting in crusher fines or road base can help with absorbing moisture. Kevin asked if rock substrate can affect the trail grade. Greg said depending on the rock and soil type, staff would choose to adjust the trail grade based on that. In areas where a steeper grade is needed, a binding agent can be used to help maintain material for longer. Shelley asked if there is a target grade percentage that staff aims for. Greg said not on a system-wide basis, but generally staff would aim to have each trail be at least 80% sustainable. Molly Davis asked how staff designs for this climate, while still including the possibility for flooding, or other significant changes in weather. Greg

said trails that have been built sustainably hold up well in normal conditions and held up very well during the most recent flood. Tom asked if staff has an inventory of trails that are not sustainable in the North Trail Study Area (TSA). Greg said trail monitoring staff will be gathering this information.

Progress Reports on Projects

Annie McFarland, Visitor Access Coordinator, gave a short presentation to let the Board know that the western portion of the Greenbelt Plateau Trail that connects to Highway 93 has temporarily been closed.

Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager, gave a status report on various trail projects. He also reminded the Board that staff is in the process of hiring seasonal employees, and the 2016 budget conversation will begin next week.

North Trail Study Area Update

Steve Armstead, Environmental Planner, gave an update on the North TSA.

Frances asked what staff is doing to gain information about wildlife in the North TSA. Steve said in addition to the information staff already has about habitat needs, there have been additional surveys done in the area. Frances asked if staff feels confident they have enough data. Steve said yes; besides those properties that were newly acquired, staff has data from longer term studies. Kevin Bracy Knight suggested putting information on the website and provide a place for the public to comment. Shelley asked how many e-mails were sent out. Steve said 7500 e-mails have been sent out so far; those who are interested can opt in to continue receiving information. Frances suggested putting information in the paper as well. Tom agreed that any outreach staff can do is good.

Update Regarding Supplemental Appropriation to the 2015 Budget

Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, gave an update on the supplemental appropriation to the 2015 Budget. She noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement is in excess of \$5 million which will go back to the fund balance.

Additional Updates

Tracy said OSMP along with staff from the Public Works, Utilities Department will present on the South Boulder Creek flood mitigation in May.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Shelley Dunbar read a proclamation for Tom Isaacson. The Board and staff expressed their thanks to Tom for his immense time spent on this Board. Tom reciprocated his thanks to staff, the Board and the public.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Summary of 2014 Open Space and Mountain Parks Volunteer Services and Declaration to Honor Open Space and Mountain Parks Volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, 2015.

Jennelle Freeston, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, gave a presentation to the Board recognizing Open Space and Mountain Parks Volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

Board members expressed their thanks to staff for their continued work in this program.

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 volunteers during*

National Volunteer Week 2015. We salute the more than 2,000 Open Space and Mountain Parks volunteers who contributed their talents and efforts in helping the department carry out its mission. 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 – Consideration of a motion to modify an existing Open Space Board of Trustees approval of a conservation easement amendment on the property owned by the Graham Casden 2009 Trust at 5097 Flagstaff Rd.

Linda VanDervort, Conservation Easement Specialist, asked the Board to review a conservation easement amendment on the property owned by the Graham Casden 2009 Trust.

Kevin asked what the height limit includes. Linda said just structures; there are already a few structures in place and this limit should have been included in the first place. Responding to a question from Frances, Linda explained that landscaping can only occur within the building envelope.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve a modification of section 18.4 of the original OSBT approval of the conservation easement amendment on the property owned by the Graham Casden 2009 Trust at 5097 Flagstaff Rd., as written in Attachment A. Molly Davis seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of the Robert Oliver parcel consisting of 11.61 acres of land, all mineral rights and one share of Howard Ditch water located at 5893 Baseline Rd. from James C. Bish III for \$1,000,000 for Open Space and Mountain Parks purposes and an additional \$22,000 is recommended to be authorized from the acquisition budget for immediate needs for fencing, ditch culverts and irrigation infrastructure improvements.

Jim Schmidt, Property Agent, gave a presentation on a possible acquisition.

Tom asked how much this house would sell for if put on the market. Jim said the house has not been appraised, but would likely be between \$500,000 and \$700,000. Water rights alone would be worth \$250,000. Shelley asked if this land could be used for agricultural purposes. Jim said that is a possibility. Shelley asked if farming is taking place on the adjacent property owned by OSMP. Jim said no, the land is too wet. Tom said at some point it would be worth having the conversation about management area designation.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Frances Hartogh moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve a motion recommending that the Boulder City Council approve the purchase of the Robert Oliver parcel consisting of 11.61 acres, all mineral rights and one share of Howard Ditch water located at 5893 Baseline Rd. for

\$1,000,000 for Open Space and Mountain Parks purposes and recommended authorization of an additional \$22,000 from the acquisition budget for immediate needs for fencing, ditch culverts and irrigation infrastructure improvements. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Consideration of a motion to recommend granting a nonexclusive license for a mirror stand proposed to be temporarily placed on Valmont Butte by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for scientific purposes.

Doug Newcomb, Property Agent, gave a presentation on a potential nonexclusive license with NIST.

Tom asked if staff feels this license is consistent with Open Space purposes. Doug said yes. Tom asked how this structure could help understand flood plains. Ian Coddington said one could use general relativity to measure local gravitational field (*i.e.* clocks tick slower if they are next to something heavy); this has important implications in predicting flood plains. Shelley asked if OSMP has any liability if this gets damaged. Doug said one condition in the license in memo is that the city is not liable for damage to unit. Shelley suggested posting information on the unit so the public knows what it is for. She asked if Open Space would be responsible for patrol. Ian said no.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that the city manager enter into a nonexclusive license agreement with NIST subject to the terms and conditions that are substantially in the form as shown in Attachment A to this Memorandum. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.

APPROVED BY:

Shelley Dunbar
Board Chair