

Approved as Amended July 8, 2015
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date June 15, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight Tom Isaacson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree Steve Armstead Mark Gershman Kelly Wasserbach Annie McFarland
Julie Johnson Juanita Echeverri Lisa Dierauf Katy Waechter Alyssa Frideres
Leah Case Alycia Knutson Megan Bowes Phil Yates Lynn Riedel
Cecil Fenio Deonne VanderWoude

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Tom Isaacson said on page two in the fourth paragraph it should read, “staff put up.” On page three, the spelling of “Karl Anuta” needed to be corrected.

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) to approve the minutes from May 13, 2015 as amended. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

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

David Paule, Boulder, expressed his concern about the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) trail area remediation. He said not much has been reopened; particularly the bridge over Anderson Ditch. Staff has had plenty of time to do this.

Diane Wells, Boulder, said the folks who work for NIST do not treat the trails with the protection they deserve. She has come across tire tracks leaving scars in the area.

Mike Barrow, Boulder Mountainbike Alliance, said he appreciates staff closing the muddy trails in order to protect them. He asked that staff consistently apply this practice to the whole system.

Janet Streater, Martin Acres Trails Working Group, said their group submitted a map with comments about the NIST trail changes and they never heard back. She said she hopes that they do not end up excluded from this process.

Tom Masterson, Boulder, said he appreciates the wildlife in this area, and would like to see the NIST trails stay open. He emphasized that many trails in an area are often better than one maintained surfaced trail.

Julie Kreutzer, Boulder, said that the posted agenda items, such as the NIST update, should include more explanation on what will be discussed, and public comment should occur after staff speaks, so the feedback is more meaningful. Staff needs to include the public in this process; this area was promised as a permanent easement and therefore cannot be treated like the rest of the system.

David Kreutzer, Boulder, expressed his concern that the public is not included enough in this process and would like staff to include both the public and NIST staff in field trips to this area.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Matters from Staff

NIST Update

Annie McFarland, Visitor Access Coordinator, gave an update on NIST trail area changes.

Tom Isaacson asked about the conceptual trail alignment and if the proposed restoration closure is necessary for these undesignated trails. Annie said the decision to close these trails was taken from the West Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan and there is not a current timeline for reopening. She said with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deadlines and other priorities, staff cannot move on it as quickly as they hoped; once a plan is established staff will reach out to the public for participation opportunities. Shelley Dunbar agreed that public outreach is important because currently the neighbors feel like they are not involved. She suggested creating a trail that will accommodate the majority of the neighbors to alleviate possible social trails from forming. Annie said staff has to work with NIST to determine these alignments, as it was NIST who initiated this process. The Board agreed that this topic should become an agenda item for a future meeting; Shelley suggested including NIST staff in that conversation.

Art Program

Juanita Echeverri, Education and Outreach Coordinator, gave an update on the 3rd Annual OSMP Art Show.

Molly Davis said she appreciates that this type of activity is being represented and recognized. Shelley asked if this is being advertised in the newspaper. Juanita said yes.

Cultural Resource Update

Julie Johnson, Cultural Resources Coordinator, and Katy Waechter, Cultural Resources Technician, presented on the Cultural Resources Program projects.

Undesignated Trail Closure Effectiveness Study

Megan Bowes, Restoration Plant Ecologist, gave an update on the Undesignated Trail Closure Effectiveness Study.

Shelley asked staff to send the Board results from this study. Kevin Bracy Knight suggested publishing the results in addition to the report, as this might reach more people. Molly asked if staff is working with other natural resource agencies. Megan said there will be a variety of ways the word will get out.

Frances Hartogh asked why signs have not been posted at undesignated trails to help deter people from using them. Megan stated that staff tries to monitor use and put up educational signs explaining that restoration is in progress, but these are not officially closed areas. Tracy Winfree said staff is looking at new and different ways to communicate and address public compliance with closures. Kevin mentioned that the county seems successful with public observation of closures, perhaps staff can learn from their successes.

Issues due to the Weather

Kelly Wasserbach, Engineering Manager, presented on the safety concerns of the White Rocks bridge due to the rainy weather.

Additional Updates

Tracy said staff has created an active projects web page with project updates to help staff updates to be more efficient. Kevin suggested sending out an e-mail to the various groups when this page gets updated. Frances said she hopes staff continues to bring updates to the meeting as well.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Kevin requested that the Hogback Trail be closed due to poor/muddy conditions. He also noted that the mud appears to have an oily like substance that staff should look into.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration of a motion regarding North Trail Study Area Plan Sideboards

Steve Armstead, Environmental Planner, presented on the North Trail Study Area (TSA) Sideboards.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

Frances said she does not feel comfortable making a decision because the inventory report was released at the meeting; this also excludes the public from participating. Molly said she had a similar concern as Frances, but after speaking with staff about the sideboards and the inventory report she understands that these are on a parallel path. Kevin added that attending one of the North TSA workshops helped to clarify the timelines and make him more comfortable moving forward with the sideboards. He asked if staff addressed the feedback submitted from the public during the workshop. Steve said staff has added links on the website to reference materials, and added more clarifying information on projects. Kevin suggested including a sideboard that has related plans and existing agreements with neighboring agencies to help with conservation efforts. Steve said the sideboards are intended to be a catch-all, so related plans and recommendations are considered on how they may interact, and potentially be integrated, into the North TSA. Tom said he thinks it is important that the sideboards not have language that excludes future ownership of properties. Shelley said it could be helpful to have a staff liaison report on what they know is happening with agencies adjacent lands, as well as report on future land purchases. Shelley said that while the public may not be following the timeline of this process, she appreciates that staff is adhering to it. Steve said that staff will continue to work on fitting the public input into the appropriate places of the process. Molly said she appreciates staff's work and the commitment to deadlines.

Motion

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve the sideboards for the North Trail Study Area Plan as attached to the staff memorandum presented to the OSBT at its June 15, 2015 meeting. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed four to one; Frances Hartogh dissented.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Review of and recommendation regarding the 2016 Open Space and Mountain Parks Department Capital Improvement Program Budget and a portion of the Lottery Fund Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Tracy Winfree, Director, presented the 2016 OSMP Department Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget and a portion of the Lottery Fund CIP Budget.

Kevin asked why the amount for Shanahan Trail flood repair is so high. Kelly said there are more robust repairs needed on that trail. Kevin asked if the Voice and Sight Tag Program revenue is consistent with what the budget projected. Tracy said the projections were more on the conservative side. Molly asked about the vehicle acquisition reserve, and if this means OSMP is not buying anything after this year. Tracy said that these funds are in the operating budget; the department was out of compliance with city vehicle leasing, so staff will be transitioning from vehicle leasing to vehicle purchasing. Frances asked

why the overarching issues, such as damage from off-trail and nighttime use are not being addressed until late 2016. Tracy said during the City Council retreat, they supported bringing the North TSA plan to closure in mid 2016 and then staff will update the Visitor Master Plan (VMP) while addressing the overarching issues. Molly said she is concerned that these newer, bigger projects coming along will overshadow the overarching issues.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

Kevin suggested that the operating budget be worked on before the Board approves the capital improvement budget. Tracy agreed and said hopefully next year with more time staff can address the budget in a more holistic way. Kevin said he would like to give advanced notice and request that staff consider increasing the trail crews. Frances asked if there has been any change with ranger staff numbers. Tracy said there has been issue with getting the ranger crew fully staffed, but she will send the Board more information.

Motion

Molly Davis moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve, and recommend that Planning Board approve, an appropriation of \$11,490,300 in 2016 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 2016 as outlined in this memorandum and related attachments. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

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

These minutes were prepared by Alycia Knutson.

APPROVED BY:

Shelley Dunbar
Board Chair

DATE