

Approved as Amended 5/9/16
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date April 13, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight Tom Isaacson Curt Brown

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree	Jim Reeder	John Potter	Mark Davison	Abbie Poniatowski
Jennelle Freeston	Joe Reale	Phil Yates	Annie McFarland	Alycia Alexander
Lisa Dierauf	Leah Case	Gabe Wilson	Kelly Wasserbach	Brian Anacker
Heather Swanson	Mark Gershman	Dan Burke	Deryn Wagner	Kristin Weinberger

GUESTS

Dave Zader, City of Boulder Fire, Wildland Division

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Call to Order

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

The newest Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) member, Curt Brown, read and signed the Oath of Office.

Tom Isaacson move to appoint Frances Hartogh as the chairperson for the Open Space Board of Trustees. Curt Brown moved to appoint Molly Davis as the Vice Chair. Frances Hartogh moved to elect Leah Case as the Board Secretary. All motions passed unanimously by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Approval of the Minutes

Molly Davis said on page 1, under Matters from the Board, it should read, “. . . take place during public Board meetings.” She said on the same page, it should read, “Molly asked that a Board retreat be held as soon as possible.” Frances Hartogh said on page 3, Edie Stevens’ public comment should read, “We foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations . . . passive recreation use is allowed when it sustains the natural values of the land for future generations.” She said on page 4, Pat Billig’s public comment should read, “The inventory report for the North TSA makes the strongest case for the preservation of the resources in the West Beech HCA . . . violates management specified for an HCA.”

Tom Isaacson moved that the Open Space Board of Trustees approve the minutes from Mar. 9, 2016 as amended. Molly Davis seconded. This motion passed four to zero; Curt Brown abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

None.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from Staff

Jim Reeder, Trails and Facilities Division Manager, and John Potter, Resource and Stewardship Division Manager, highlighted several staff projects.

Frances asked about the reclamation of the Lower Big Bluestem area. Jim said staff will supervise the reclamation; the goal is to narrow the trail so it no longer serves as a road. Tom asked how the current raptor monitoring numbers compare to previous years. John said he did not have that information, but it appears to be relatively normal. Molly asked if staff are still considering other locations for the horse arena, such as the Schooley property. John said he will look into that with staff. Frances asked if there

will be information on site and online about the rules and risks of the arena. John said yes.

Tracy Winfree, Director, gave an update on the North Trail Study Area (TSA) timeline.

Joe Reale, Ranger Services Supervisor, and Dave Zader, Wildland Fire Administrator, gave an update on a wildfire response simulation event in May.

Kevin Bracy Knight asked if the Hogback Trail will be closed during this simulation. Joe said yes. Curt Brown asked if staff could provide the Board with the full plan for this simulation. Joe said no, large parts of the simulation are purposefully kept secret as part of the drill. Frances asked if the water will come from Wonderland Lake. Joe said yes; he noted that no actual fire will be used.

Gabe Wilson, Maintenance Person III, Trails, and Heather Swanson, Senior Wildlife Ecologist, gave an update on the Flood repair on Mesa Trail/Skunk Creek Crossing.

Molly asked if staff have looked at alternate areas for the proposed bridge. Gabe said due to different grades in the area, this suggested location would be significantly less work and use less resources. Curt asked if the proposed bridge is horse friendly. Kelly said yes. Kevin said the high priority should be allowing access while still preserving the riparian area. Tom asked if the bridge would be affected by a flood. Kelly said that the life expectancy is about 40-60 years with maintenance upkeep; it would be built to uphold in the case of a flood. Curt asked if this bridge is worth the amount of work required at the south abutment. Gabe said the area for the bridge is steep, but it would minimize the work in the sensitive habitat. Frances said she is concerned that this proposed bridge will create a precedence that OSMP will build more man-made structures on Open Space; she added that a bridge has potential to be misused and will become an attractive nuisance. Heather said bridges are a mechanism to allow less trail and travel in a drainage and this proposed bridge will substantially lessen the environmental impact. Curt said he understands this area is a wildlife corridor. Heather said it certainly is and the bridge will be high enough to allow wildlife movement. Tom stated that staff should not feel pressure to make this crossing super easy for everyone.

Abbie Poniatowski, Central Services Division Manager, gave an update on Draft 2017 Work Plan and Budget.

Frances asked if the department priorities list is in order. Tracy said the first item will be handled first; the rest are flexible. Frances asked for the overarching issues to be dealt with sooner than outlined in the Visitor Master Plan (VMP). Tracy said the updating of the VMP is the appropriate place to work on the overarching issues; however, staff can make sure this is the second item on the priority list. Frances requested that certain sections be revised to include more clearly the Charter's preservation of resources. She asked if the budget amount for the North TSA plan and implementation is the total budget including trail construction. Tracy said yes and the amount is a place holder. Molly requested that when this plan and budget document comes back to the Board if it could include a detailed breakdown on the cost allocations.

Mark Davison, Community Connection and Partnership Division Manager, gave a staff update on exploratory talks for a Conservancy to provide private funding to support Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) priority programs and projects.

Tom asked if this organization would be city specific. Mark said yes, the current concept is targeted towards the city. Tom said OSMP is perceived as already being very well funded and wondered if the trouble put into this would be worth it. Kevin said this conservancy could be a great bridge and way to communicate between all nearby land management agencies. Molly said obtaining funding is not an issue for OSMP, but she is concerned how the funding would be used; would the conservancy support the current Charter. Curt asked how much has been raised by other foundations, would the return be worth the investment. Mark said if there is concurrence by the Board, staff would look into the details of other conservancies that support city departments. Frances added that she would want total transparency from

this conservancy; in regards to the legacy, the focus for this conservancy should be preservation of resources, stewardship, environmental planning and sustainability.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Matters from the Board

The Board discussed dates for upcoming Board meetings as well as a Board Retreat. Tracy suggested she and Frances work on a draft agenda and then send that around to the Board.

Tom explained that for those public and staff in attendance tonight, that are interested, he has some copies of a document he wrote clarifying why he voted the way he did on the last meeting's North TSA motions.

The Board discussed the upcoming city climate meeting in relation to OSMP.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Summary of 2015 Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Volunteer Services and Declaration to Honor OSMP Volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, 2016.

Jennelle Freeston, Volunteer Program Supervisor, and Kristin Weinberger, Coordinator of Group Volunteer Projects, presented this item.

Kevin said he applauds all the amazing growth that this program has had over the years. He asked what the limiting factors are. Kristin said that their capacity is based off of staffing size; she said they are working on training volunteers to help lead project days. Jennelle said there are many volunteers who stay with OSMP for a long time; staff looks at the retention levels and when they hit that retention point they then recruit more. Frances said the OSMP volunteer program is incredible and would imagine that it is unparalleled in the county or perhaps the country, and that this amazing volunteer experience helps people respect the trails.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

Frances Hartogh 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 2016. We salute the more than 1,760 Open Space and Mountain Parks volunteers who contributed their talents and efforts in helping the department carry out its mission. These individuals are an inspiration as they help to protect the resources that make Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks so special.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Alycia Alexander.