

SUMMIT COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of August 2, 2023 Regular Meeting

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Turk Montepare, Jeff Zimmerman, Laura Rossiter, Dave Bittner, John Uban, Terry Craig, Peter Grosshuesch, John Taylor; Online: Megan Graham, Bob Gregory, Paul Semmer

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Art Hardin, Jeff Zimmerman

STAFF PRESENT: Katherine King, Jordan Mead, Jessica Forsyth

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge, Alex Stach – Town of Breckenridge, Kristi D’Agati -Town of Silverthorne, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco,

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Council members amended and approved the agenda to include the addition of “Aspen Springs, Lot 1” under “Management Activities.”

Approval of Minutes: Council members unanimously approved the May 2023 OSAC minutes.
Motion by: John Taylor
Second by: John Uban
Motion Approved.

Approval of Summary Report: Council members approved the summary report as submitted.

Public Comments: No public comments.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Open Space Management:

Tenderfoot Management Plan Updates

Jordan Mead, Resource Specialist, presented updates to the draft Tenderfoot Management Plan. The Plan was updated to incorporate public input into an appendix concerning visitor use. Jordan stated that the public input helped to inform the ‘criteria used to evaluate new trails’ which are contained within the Plan. Most visitors responded that: they do not feel crowded on the trail system, they would be supportive of seasonal wildlife closures, they are supportive of designated uses on trails, and they are not supportive of day-of-week use restrictions. Due to this feedback, Jordan noted an additional trail criterion now proposed is that a trail “improves system connectivity and trail experience for all users.”

One councilmember commented that “all users” is a perhaps too high a bar, discussion followed to consider replacing “users” with “user groups” and adding that new trails “maintain existing character” of the Property. The Council also discussed the importance of maintaining the balance between habitat preservation and recreation. The Council emphasized that considering trailhead crowding issues in the County, the criterion concerning trailhead capacity and management is an essential factor when considering new trails.

Councilmember Semmer raised a concern that this is an *open space* management plan and wanted to ensure that the open space values do not become secondary to recreation. Staff responded that the vision for the plan is to balance both open space and recreation. Council discussed adding an additional trail criterion to ensure the open space values do not become secondary to recreation. The Council discussed a “line” below

the Oro Grande or Scrappy Trails where additional trails could be constructed and ensuring that the area uphill remains free from new trails. Council members also discussed emphasizing that the Plan is only for this parcel, i.e. not the adjacent National Forest.

The Council was very positive in their overall feedback and asked about creating management plans for smaller parcels. Staff responded that sometimes OST will create a “management strategy” or “vision and goals” for smaller parcels.

Council proposed having staff make the changes as discussed and then moving forward with a recommendation at the September OSAC meeting.

Aspen Springs, Lot 1

Katherine King, Director, updated Council that Summit County acquired this property adjacent to the Quandary Trailhead and the County will consider uses to allow on this property. Staff evaluated the parking potential if utilized for trailhead parking which would double from approximately 60 to 120 spaces. Council suggested that staff consider a management plan for this parcel. Councilmembers discussed the need for a vegetative buffer / berm on this property and that when evaluating new uses, the County consider impacts on the neighborhood and adjacent neighbors. OSAC underscored that the County should move slowly to consider new uses such as a Caretaker Unit or even additional trailhead parking on the property.

Katherine informed OSAC that the USFS is discussing that this zone (Quandary, Blue Lakes, McCullough Gulch), will be a portal to the newly designated Monument and there will be additional funding for the Dillon Ranger District with potential for improvements and infrastructure in this area. OSAC emphasized the need for the USFS and other agencies to contribute to the shuttle costs as well as overall trailhead management in this area.

Dillon Valley Trail Updates

Jordan Mead, Resource Specialist, updated OSAC on the existing social and designated trail system in the area between Oro Grande TH and Straight Creek TH in Dillon Valley. Agreements have been formalized on the Denver Water Property, a reroute is planned along a steep trail segment on the fall line of the hillside, Straight Creek Ponds HOA is considering a reroute on their property, and staff is working on legal access through Dillon Valley District Property.

Review and Discussion of OSAC By-laws

Katherine King presented red-lined bylaws based on the discussion from the July meeting. Councilmember Grosshuesch suggested that the prohibition in the by-laws forbidding an OSAC member to serve on a Planning Commission be removed. OSAC emphasized that if there is a conflict of interest, then a member can recuse themselves. Councilmembers discussed that Summit County is a small community and there is benefit in allowing members to serve on both boards. Other Council members stated that they didn't see how serving on both boards would present a conflict of interest. Katherine suggested that some of the conflict concerns are likely related to instances where Open Space expresses interest in acquiring a property and the Planning Commission hears a request on the uses or density allowed on that property.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: A motion was made to enter Executive Session, and it was seconded. OSAC entered Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by: John Taylor

Second by: Dave Bittner

Motion approved.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session and seconded. OSAC left Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

Motion by: John Taylor

Second by: Terry Craig
Motion approved.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Katherine King informed the Council that there will be a meeting in September and the meeting in October will be cancelled. Future OSAC meetings will be held in the Mount Royal Room.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Forsyth

Jessica Forsyth, Open Space and Trails Resource Specialist