

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of September 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Turk Montepare, Jeff Zimmerman, Peter Grosshuesch, Paul Semmer, Laura Rossetter, Dave Bittner, John Uban, Arthur Hardin, John Taylor, Terry Craig

OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Gregory, Meagan Graham

STAFF PRESENT: Katherine King, Allison Morton, Jordan Mead, Jessica Forsyth

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT: Cindy Ebbert – USFS, Kristi D’Agati – Town of Silverthorne, Anne Lowe and Alex Stach – Town of Breckenridge

Call to Order: Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Council members approved the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The September 2023 OSAC minutes were passed unanimously.

Approval of Summary Report: OSAC wanted to clarify that the new Straight Creek trail alignment would continue to be hiker friendly and that it would not be built for bike use only. Staff stated that it is a multi-use trail easement, and this new trail will mitigate erosion issues due to better grades. Council members approved the summary report as submitted.

Public Comments: Cindy Ebbert from the USFS provided OSAC with three updates. The first is the USFS continues to work on the Frisco Backyard Project, which will focus on new trail alignments and connections as well as wildfire mitigation work. Ms. Ebbert stated that the project will be open for public comment soon. The second update is that DRMS is currently doing mine safety closures at the Burke Martin Mine. A jail crew is also cleaning up the non-historic debris at the mine, including a double wide trailer. Next year, the project will entail drainage work in the adits to clean up the environment hazardous material. The Dillon Ranger District is currently down a deputy district ranger, but they did hire Dan Morris as the new recreation officer. In addition, Cindy will have a new assistant next month who will help with both special uses and lands projects.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Open Space Management:

Tenderfoot Meadows Open Space Management Plan

OST staff incorporated OSAC’s feedback into the Tenderfoot Meadows Open Space Management Plan to prepare it for an OSAC recommendation for adoption. These changes were included in a memo in the OSAC meeting packet, and they involved the trail management criteria, increasing references to the vision statement, and adding a statement about minimizing habitat fragmentation. OSAC only had one additional edit which involved changing a phrase in Section 2 to “resources with opportunities for recreation” instead of using the word “demand.”

OSAC made a unanimous decision to recommend the plan for adoption, which the BOCC will then review and adopt. Turk Montepare made the motion, and Peter Grosshuesch seconded that motion.

Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch Grant

In partnership with the Town of Breckenridge and USFS, OST staff are pursuing a Non-Motorized Trails Planning Grant to plan for improved access points and infrastructure at Quandary Peak, Blue Lakes, McCullough Gulch, and Spruce Creek. OST staff hope to work across jurisdictions to improve public access, address resource impacts, and create high-quality visitor experiences within the new National Monument. The planning grant will look at the desired level of development, location of access points, and what infrastructure is required to support the high number of visitors. With this information, OST staff hopes to create a site plan and vision for the area to address infrastructure needs consistent with existing and desired use levels with the new Monument. Staff submitted a concept paper on September 5, and the full grant is due October 3.

OSAC asked if Hoosier Pass will be included in the planning grant, since the trailhead also has parking issues, resource concerns, and could impact the monument. OST stated that Hoosier Pass has its own set of challenges that should be addressed separately, especially since different partners are involved. OSAC stated that the new North Star properties could help alleviate impacts on the monument with a new trail system.

In addition to the grant, OST staff will be demolishing the Mike Tracey cabin in the next few weeks, as it is a building code violation. The wood cannot be used for a new structure, except for non-structural elements. The County is not planning a public announcement about the new acquisition.

Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests: A motion was made to enter into Executive Session, and it was seconded. OSAC entered into Executive Session at 6:01 p.m.

Peter Grosshuesch made a motion to exit Executive Session and Terry Craig seconded it. OSAC left Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There will be no OSAC meeting in October as OST staff will be at the COSA conference in Snowmass. The November meeting will be held in person.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Morton

Allison Morton, Open Space and Trails Senior Resource Specialist