

### **Roll Call**

Jeff Cospolich called the November 21st BOSAC meeting to order at 5:35pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jeff Carlson, Craig Campbell, Matt Powers, Gavin Dalglish, Elizabeth Miller, and Wendy Wolfe. Staff members present included Scott Reid, Anne Murphy, Tony Overlock, Peter Grosshuesch, and Mark Truckey. Brian Lorch from Summit County Open Space was present. Daniel Dunn representing Continental Divide Land Trust was present. Also present was Abe Pacharz, general manger of Colorado Adventure Guides, and Jeffery Bergeron from Town Council.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The October meeting minutes were approved as presented.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Public Comments:**

Daniel Dunn provided a brief description of the Continental Divide Land Trust and thanked BOSAC for their ongoing support for land protection in the area.

### **Staff Summary**

#### **Field Season Update**

Since the October BOSAC meeting, the following field work has been completed:

- Assisted in the construction of the Wellington Trail.
- Constructed 1,800 ft of buck and rail fencing around the Swan River Restoration project.
- Removed numerous downed trees system-wide after a large wind event.
- Extensive maintenance on Carter Park trail.
- Improved drainages on Moonstone and B-Line trail.
- Completed High Point connection and first phase of Wellington Trail.
- Assisted Gold Run Nordic Center designing a fat biking trail system.

Staff will provide BOSAC with a complete summary of the 2016 field season at an upcoming BOSAC meeting.

#### **Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update**

The Friends of Breckenridge Trails added one more event to their season on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen volunteers from the Wellington Neighborhood assisted in raking out and compacting 1,500 ft of crusher fines on the Wellington Trail.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails had one of its most successful seasons with volunteer participation. This update will be provided at the December BOSAC meeting under the 2016 field season summary.

Mr. Reid: For BOSAC's benefit, can you please explain the reasoning behind the width of the Wellington Trail?

Mr. Overlock: The large trail width is to accommodate increasing numbers of users and multiple users at one time, with an overall goal of reducing user conflict. The width also reflects the skid steer bucket width. We chose not to rake the trail to be narrower because it would require significant staff time with limited public benefit.

### **eBike Update**

Staff presented the topic of eBikes on the Town of Breckenridge recpath system to Town Council at its November 8th work session. As BOSAC recalls, eBikes were discussed at the October meeting and BOSAC recommended that Town Council prohibit eBikes on all Town recpaths, primarily to be consistent with Summit County regarding use of the Blue River recpath. Summit County prohibits eBikes on the county recpath system because:

- the trail easements they hold with private landowners and schools prohibit motorized vehicles;
- their special use agreement with the U.S. Forest Service prohibits all motorized vehicles and defines eBikes as motorized vehicles; and
- defining what an eBike is has proven to be both challenging and evolving.

Town Council discussed the topic on November 8th and did not reach a consensus to alter the current policy. Several area bike retailers were present at the work session and were called upon to speak. They sought clarification from Town Council in order to determine whether or not to rent, demo, and sell eBikes because bike manufacturers are heavily promoting eBikes. While one local retailer currently rents eBikes, provides tours, and would like to send riders down the recpath, other retailers want to be consistent with Summit County because it is too tempting for eBike riders to continue on the recpath outside of the Town limits where eBikes are prohibited. Only a small portion of the overall recpath system lies within the Town boundaries. While safety is always a concern on the busy recpath system, the primary reason to examine this issue further is consistency with our partners at Summit County. Town Council sought additional information from Summit County regarding their policies and may consider scheduling a joint meeting with the BOCC.

Staff is working with Summit County to obtain additional information, which will help chart our next steps.

Ms. Wolfe: I sense some urgency on this issue from the local bike shop owners because they would like to order their bikes for next season.

Mr. Cospolich: We need to create a level playing field for all the bike shops.

Mr. Campbell: How did Council feel about this issue?

Ms. Wolfe: I'm in favor of this recommendation, but Council had mixed feelings. Not having all their questions answered made it hard for them to decide. Council would like to see more work on this with additional facts and details before it's presented again.

Mr. Dalgliesh: I think it's very important to have continuity with Summit County because it's hard for a user on the recpath to differentiate between Town and County property.

Mr. Carlson: If this goes through, I assume we will install signage on the recpath informing users of the new ordinance.

Ms. Miller: Town Council was unsure of how many easements the County managed on the recpath, the difficulty or ease of changing them, and the potential for changing them in the near future.

Mr. Reid: In order for Council to make a more informed decision, they would like to see a memo from the County which describes the reason eBikes are banned on the recpath, their current position, and also number of incidents that are occurring on the recpath from the police department.

Mr. Dalglish: I would like to continue forward with our recommendation and have something to present to Council by no later than the end of February.

BOSAC recommended to have staff continue to move forward with their recommendation and collect additional information to present to Council.

### **GOCO Grant**

Staff presented an overview of the GOCO grant proposal for Phase 1 of Oxbow Park to Town Council at its November 8th work session. As BOSAC will recall, we are seeking \$350,000 in funding for a future nature-play park near the Blue River recpath and adjacent to Block 11. The total cost of the park is estimated at \$2,550,000 and is recommended to be constructed in three phases. The total estimated cost for Phase 1 of the project is \$1,150,000 with approximately \$240,000 potentially coming from the Open Space Fund, \$560,000 from the General Fund, and the remaining \$350,000 from GOCO. Please note that the contribution BOSAC recommended is approximately 43% of the Town's total contribution to the first phase of the project and is significantly higher than the \$45,000 initially budgeted.

The grant application was submitted by the November 17th deadline and required, as one of its attachments, a resolution in support of the project. Town Council approved the resolution at its November 8th meeting.

Mr. Powers: Do you know how many other entities are applying for this grant?

Ms. Murphy: At this point we do not, but it's something we can look into.

Mr. Cospolich: Are there any other nature play areas in our surrounding area?

Mr. Campbell: The only one I can think of is in Buena Vista.

### **Website Update**

The Town of Breckenridge recently updated its website and vanity websites. One of the many updates included relocating the Open Space & Trails page to the Recreation Department section. The new format is intended to be more user-friendly and optimized for mobile devices. You can view the new general website at <http://www.townofbreckenridge.com/>, the Recreation Department at <http://www.breckenridgerecreation.com/>, and Gold Run Nordic at <http://www.goldrunnordic.com>.

Staff will work to correct the BOSAC packet link and email subscriptions to ensure everyone is receiving their packet.

## **Open Space**

### **Gold Run Nordic Center**

Starting this season, the Open Space & Trails program will be managing the Gold Run Nordic Center (GRNC). As many of the Nordic trails use the Town of Breckenridge's open space and trail network, the Open Space & Trails program is the logical place to house the seasonal Nordic program. Open from December 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>, GRNC is a world-class Nordic skiing venue featuring a diverse, impeccably groomed trail system serviced from an inviting day lodge. There are over 30 km of groomed and natural beginner, intermediate, and advanced trails, with 15 km of snowshoe and fat bike trails.

GRNC has a popular after-school program for area youth and offers guided skiing and snowshoe lessons daily. Pond skating will be available after the first of the year. Additionally, Breckenridge Stables uses GRNC for scenic and dinner sleigh rides.

Seasonal staff has been hired and we're looking forward to the opening of the GRNC.

With Open Space & Trails program involvement, we're working closely with golf maintenance on trail grooming and have ordered a new fat bike and snowshoe grooming attachment for a snowmobile. The new attachment expands our abilities for trail grooming, and as such, we have also extended the network of snowshoe and fat bike trails with a new connection to Tiger Road and the repath. The Blue River repath will now be groomed this season to accommodate the public's use and enjoyment of hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, and fat biking. While the repath won't be groomed on a daily basis, it will be groomed periodically. We're also looking at using some of the Town's trails outside of the Nordic Center for guided snowshoe hikes.

Staff is working on signage for the new and existing Nordic trail network to better mark trail intersections and help avoid user conflicts on the trails. We want the signage to complement the signage used throughout the Town's open space and trails network.

At GRNC, we encourage many types of winter activities and have updated the trail network to designate areas as skiing only, shared use, or snowshoe and fat bike only. A portion of Anne Murphy's time will be spent managing GRNC and its staff and Tony Overlock will also have some involvement in trail alignment and grooming.

Ms. Miller: Is there a reason for separating the different user groups?

Mr. Overlock: To help ensure a quality experience for fat bikers, skiers, and snowshoers.

Mr. Cospolich: Do we have any numbers for the previous years on fat bike rentals and is there any change in price for a day pass? I think it would be nice if BOSAC had an opportunity to check out the new fat biking trails.

Ms. Murphy: I don't have exact numbers at this time but there has been a steady increase in rentals from previous years and the day pass price is the same. The next BOSAC site visit could be at the GRNC.

Mr. Dalgliesh: Is there any possibilities of expanding the grooming for fat biking on the surrounding trail system?

Mr. Overlock: We are currently discussing this with Summit County. The trails would have to be easily accessed from the Nordic Center and be located on Town and County property.

Mr. Campbell: Is there any possibility of grooming the recpath towards Frisco?

Mr. Lorch: We are currently working with U. S. Forest Service to resolve some issues to make this a possibility.

Mr. Powers: I'm not sure how I feel about grooming single track for fat biking.

### **McCain Property**

Located north of Coyne Valley Road, the Town-owned McCain property is approximately 128 acres and the site of an extensive river restoration project. As BOSAC recalls, McCain was acquired in 2002 for \$1.1 million, \$330,000 of which was funded via the open space program. While the Town is still determining specifics of the site and Town Council may reexamine the planning for McCain and Block 11, a conceptual McCain Master Plan was developed in 2015. The McCain Master Plan (attached) accommodates a number of uses on the property. These uses include:

- Overflow/skier parking (500 spaces on about 5.7 acres)
- Snow Storage (12.6 acres)
- Existing and second solar garden (2.7 acres for each)
- Public Works storage (4.7 acres)
- Service commercial uses (1.5 acres)
- Water treatment plant (3.8 acres)
- Residential/service commercial uses (10.2 acres)
- Recycling center (1.4 acres)
- Open space (76.4 acres including the river corridor, 150' setback area from highway, and potential reservoir site)

In developing the McCain Plan, the Town Council wanted to keep the option available to locate a small reservoir on the site, should a future Council decide to undertake such a project. The designated open space meadow area was identified as a placeholder location where a small reservoir (about 16 acres in surface area) could be located in the future.

The McCain Plan includes a conceptual layout of trails with a paved recpath loop that winds throughout the property and connects to the main Blue River recpath. Conceptually, the paved loop would skirt the edge of the riparian area along the eastern bank of the newly restored river channel with soft-surface trail connections to the river for fishing and observation. The portion of the McCain property west of the river lies within a wildlife corridor and will remain natural without trails or infrastructure.

Now that the river restoration is complete, Open Space & Trails has the opportunity to refine the conceptual trail system, including soft surface trails off the repath, and brainstorm additional trail connections through the open space meadow area. The interior open space area is largely a blank canvas, with potential opportunities for trails, restored meadow, or other open space uses dependent on the direction from Town Council. Given that much of the site is below grade, the interior open space will likely be seasonally wet or flooded.

We envision many opportunities for Friends of Breckenridge Trails and other volunteers to plant trees and shrubs and pull weeds along the river corridor and interior open space. Please see attached photos of the site.

Mr. Carlson: I think generally the open space should be kept as natural as possible with a few access points to the river and a few green-level singletrack trails.

Ms Miller: I agree with Jeff and his vision of keeping it natural.

Mr. Powers: Done properly, it could be a cool destination area for beginner riders.

Mr. Truckey: There are two different open space areas on the McCain property that will be developed. One is along the river corridor and the second area is a 30-acre tract just east of the river. You could do a combination of keeping it natural in one area and possibly developing the other area with beginner level trails.

Ms. Wolfe: I wonder if the parking area might be moved from the McCain property to the Block 11 site.

Mr. Dalgliesh: The natural landscape lends itself to a nice open flat area. This would be a great spot for an open field to run around on and throw a frisbee. I feel the town has a need for something like this. We do have a need for parking and that area seems like a logical spot.

Mr. Campbell: The river corridor is a valuable asset for the Town and needs to be protected. It's a nice opportunity for beginner trails, a couple of parking spots and trails with quick access to the river. I also think we need to keep the tourist and our growing community in mind when establishing a quality single track experience.

Mr. Truckey: Town Council has directed staff to revisit the master plans for both McCain and Block 11, therefore some of these land use designations may be rearranged in the near future.

Mr. Campbell: Do we have photos of what the river corridor used to look like? (No)

Mr. Cospolich: Are there any other open space uses that we are not considering?

BOSAC reached consensus to support the general guidelines as previously outlined in the McCain Master Plan. Specifically, BOSAC would like to see the McCain property retain its open space values to the greatest extent possible to serve as a natural and compelling entry to Town, provide a repath loop opportunity, and offer beginner-level natural surface single track on the site.

### **Request for Commercial Tours**

Staff received a proposal from Colorado Adventure Guides (a division of CBST Adventures) requesting a license agreement to operate commercially on trails administered by and within the limits of the Town of Breckenridge. They hope to provide guided tours and educational opportunities on Town trails for mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and backcountry Nordic skiing. CBST has an existing permit through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and has been using existing service days on National Forest lands. According to Jackie Brown, the Recreation Special Uses Permit Administrator at USFS, CBST would like to connect mountain biking trails in the Breckenridge area to national forest lands. Ms. Brown stated she is in support of CBST Adventures (Colorado Adventure Guides) serving the public by expanding their user area to accommodate greater access for the guided public to learn mountain biking skills.

BOSAC has considered similar commercial tours on a case by case basis in the past, including Breck Guides in 2015, which operated under a one-year Mountain Bike Tours and Winter Grooming License Agreement with the Town.

Mr. Dalgliesh: Can you give a little background on the agreement the Open Space department has with Breck Bike Guides?

Mr. Reid: Breck Bike Guides, as well as Nordic Sliegh Rides and Snow Cap dog sled tours, have a license agreement with the Town to operate on Town property. Breck Bike Guides' license agreement states they are to operate solely on Town open space, is reviewed on a yearly basis, and can be revoked at any time.

Mr. Pacharz: We would like to offer tours that leave from the Town of Breckenridge using the Town and County trails. This would improve overall access for people on bikes, snowshoes, and cross country skis. A big part of our program is also educating users groups about trail etiquette and their surrounding area.

Ms. Wolfe: Recently, I read that AirBnB is creating adventure-based programs to cater toward its guests. I would prefer local businesses providing these experiences.

Mr. Campbell: The biggest issue I see is having consistency with the County.

Mr. Lorch: I would like to table this issue. The County has not had time to discuss it at the staff level but would be open to talk about it at a later date.

Mr. Dalgliesh: I'm a little concerned about creating a monopoly and not offering this opportunity to everyone.

Mr. Carlson: We do have other companies offering services on Town Open Space. I feel there is a demand for it and, though it might not be in our mission statement, it compliments it.

Ms. Miller: I'm in favor of CBST and appreciate their focus on education, knowledge of the area, and connectivity to the environment.

Mr. Powers: I'm generally in favor as long as we are consistent with the U.S. Forest Service and Summit County.

Mr. Dalgliesh: I feel we should set our own user numbers specific to Town and County open space.

BOSAC was generally in favor of CBST tours operating on Town and County open space but would need to have Summit County's approval.

Mr. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the BOSAC meeting. Mr. Powers seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Lower Level Conference Room at Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

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Jeff Cospolich, Chair