

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE  
*OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION*  
Monday, March 9, 2009  
BRECKENRIDGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
150 Ski Hill Road

- 5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call
- 5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – February 9, 2009
- 5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda
- 5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)
- 5:50 Staff Summary
- BOSAC Retreat follow up- Joint/Council meeting
  - Preservation Village
  - 2009 Forest Health projects
  - Cucumber Monitoring report
- 6:15 Open Space and Trails
- Breck Epic
  - Summer Dog Sledding Proposal
  - Snowflake Ski Back discussion
  - East Adams trail
  - Jesse Road/ Backdoor grooming
- 8:00 Commissioner Issues
- 8:15 Adjourn

For further information, please contact the Open Space and Trails Program at 547.3110 (Heide) or 547.3155 (Scott).

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**Memorandum**

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission  
From: Heide Andersen, Open Space and Trails Planner III  
Mark Truckey, Asst. Director of Community Development  
Scott Reid, Open Space and Trails Planner II  
Re: March 9, 2009 meeting

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**Staff Summary****BOSAC Retreat Follow up- Joint/Council Meeting**

Attached are the minutes from the 2/12 BOSAC retreat. The date for the joint BOSAC/Town Council meeting has not been set, but staff will keep BOSAC informed of potential dates.

**Preservation Village/Tiger Run RV parcel**

Representatives from a development company called Preservation Village have made a preliminary presentation to Town Council regarding a parcel located in front of Tiger Run RV Park and to the south of the Tatum Tracts open space, directly across CR 9 from the Fourmile Bridge open space. The presentation to Council included a site plan for an affordable housing development that is proposed to be mostly shielded from CR 9 by a 20-foot high berm. The developers are interested in having the parcel annexed into the Town. Town and County open space staffs are concerned about the important wildlife corridor that runs through this area. Town staff will be meeting with the developer and CDOW representatives to discuss the wildlife needs and potential wildlife impacts with respect to this proposed project.

**2009 Forest Health projects**

Based on the 2008 study performed by Rocky Mountain Ecological Services, staff has prioritized twelve forest health projects for the 2009 season. Staff is working with the Red White and Blue Fire Department and the Summit County Open Space Department on one jointly funded forest health/fire mitigation project that would occur on what has been identified as the Gold 2 parcel (adjacent to the Peabody Placer). As proposed, the project would be located on a Town open space in the Highlands and on an upper portion of the Peabody Placer. There may be other opportunities for grant funding and collaborative cost sharing to offset direct Town costs. Staff will keep BOSAC informed of progress on these various projects.

**Cucumber Monitoring report**

Dr. Christy Carello has provided the Town with the 2008 Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring report. The executive summary will be distributed at the BOSAC meeting in preparation for a presentation by Dr. Carello at the April BOSAC meeting. The entire report is available to BOSAC members if they are interested.

## **Open Space and Trails**

### **Breck Epic**

The Breckenridge Epic mountain bike stage race is proposed to occur on July 5-10, 2009 in Breckenridge. Event organizer Mike McCormack has requested an audience with BOSAC to outline the event and various topics related to it.

### **Summer Dog Sledding**

Orion Paiement, who operates the Good Times sledding business under license agreement from the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County, would like to pursue a summer dog sledding operation using some of roads that are currently used during winter months. The summer operation would involve using dog teams attached to a wheeled sled and would be limited to the roads only, thereby excluding some of the narrower trails that are used during winter. As proposed, the operation would use routes on both the Breckenridge Sanitation District open space parcel, owned by the Town, and the Parkville property, which is owned jointly by the Town and the County. As with other licensees on open space, a portion of the operation's revenues are paid to the Town, providing a funding source for the Town open space program.

Orion will be at the meeting to make a brief presentation. Staff requests feedback on the appropriateness of this proposed license agreement on Town open space.

### **Snowflake Ski Back discussion**

As discussed at the 2/9 BOSAC meeting, the Snowflake Homeowners Association has requested BOSAC consider improvements to portions of the F&D Placer to enhance the ski back experience for residents and guests in the area. As directed by BOSAC, staff spoke with Rick Sramek of the Breckenridge Ski Resort, who indicated that the ski area has no interest in working to improve the ski trail through grooming or snowmaking because the trail is a 'ski-back' trail, rather than a 'ski trail'. The distinction is important because the ski area manages and improves ski trails for skier use, but the 'ski-back' trail is a residential benefit and responsibility for any improvements would be borne by the residential owners.

Given that the ski area does not intend to assist with any route improvements, the same two questions remain for BOSAC consideration:

- 1) Is BOSAC supportive of bridge construction or other efforts to improve the grade of the ski back?
- 2) If so, is BOSAC willing to contribute funds to the construction of such a structure?

A representative of the HOA has been invited to attend the BOSAC discussion. It is unclear a representative will be able to attend.

Staff recommends that, if possible, commissioners ski the Snowflake ‘ski back’ trail prior to the BOSAC meeting to refresh their sense of the trail’s grade and facilitate the discussion.

### **East Adams trail**

Leigh Girvin approached staff regarding the formalization of a social trail (recently blocked) along the East Adams right of way, which is located uphill and east of Adams Street. Ms. Girvin correctly pointed out that the trail has been in existence for many years, and the Town owns the property as part of a dedicated right of way. The previous social trail crossed onto private property, whose new owner closed the social trail through the property.

Staff seeks BOSAC feedback regarding the formalization of the trail along the East Adams right of way. Given the steep grade of the parcel, the trail would have to be reconstructed durably (e.g. Lincoln Trail) or switch backed (e.g. Washington Trail) to be sustainable. The current social trail connects only to Highland Terrace, but the Town land ownership could allow for a connection uphill to S. Gold Flake Terrace, thereby meeting a primary goal of the Town Trails Plan to provide multiple connections from the Town core to outlying areas.

Staff seeks BOSAC’s answers to the following questions:

- 1) Is BOSAC supportive of adding the formalization of the East Adams trail to Highland Terrace to the 2009 workplan, at a cost of approximately \$8,000 (preliminary staff estimate)?
- 2) If so, should the trail be formalized just to Highland Terrace (shorter and less expensive) or uphill farther to S. Gold Flake Terrace (longer and more expensive)?

### **Jesse Road/ Backdoor grooming**

Staff has been working to secure a 20-year special use authorization from the U.S. Forest Service for the Gold Run Nordic Center grooming operations in the Golden Horseshoe. The routes under consideration are those included in the current, temporary grooming authorizations from both Summit County and the USFS. Those routes include Gold Run Road to the Jumbo Overlook, Extension Mill Road, Draw, Sawmill and Turnpike. Recently, staff has received verbal permission from John Cooney to groom across the Dry Gulch property, and down Jesse Road (formerly known as Backdoor). As a result, staff has included Jesse Road in the application for grooming authorization from Summit County and the USFS. If approved, grooming of this additional, existing route would occur for the 2009-2010 nordic season and thereafter.

This agenda item is intended to help inform BOSAC of the efforts staff is undertaking to meet the intent of the Golden Horseshoe winter recommendations regarding the ‘nordic bubble’.

### ***Roll Call***

Matt Stais called the February 9, 2009 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included Jeff Cospolich, Monique Merrill, David Rossi, Ellen Hollinshead, Dennis Kuhn and Scott Yule. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Scott Cline, and Peter Grosshuesch. Art Girten from OSAC was present. Bill Foundren, president of the Saddlewood Homeowners Association, was also present.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes were approved as presented.

### ***Approval of Agenda***

The agenda was approved as presented.

### ***Public Comments***

There were no public comments.

### **Staff Summary**

Ms. Andersen: There will be a ribbon cutting for the Hoodoo Voodoo trail on 2/14 at 11:30 am (with a 10:00 am time trial). BOSAC should also know about the upcoming joint Town Council/BOSAC meeting at 6:00 pm on 3/10.

### **Open Space and Trails**

#### **Snowflake Trail**

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the grade issues related to the ski back on Snowflake Trail. The trail currently requires homeowners and short term renters to shuffle or walk to continue down the ski trail. Homeowners have requested consideration by BOSAC as follows: Should the trail on the F&D Placer (Town open space) be modified by bridge or other means to improve the grade? Is BOSAC willing to help fund such an effort?

Bill Foundren: I represent the Saddlewood HOA along the Snowflake Trail. We need a more constant pitch to get down the trail. Last summer, I spoke with Rick Sramek and he offered two solutions: 1) Approach the Town, since the route crosses Town property. 2) Anticipated improvements to C Chair could improve the overall grade in the area. For us, this is an issue of getting off the mountain. The dam appears to go uphill. We could potentially regrade that slope as well. Snowflake serves nine different subdivisions and the Snowflake Lift. There is a considerable amount of traffic on that run. We are receiving complaints from renters, ResortQuest and homeowners about the grade and request BOSAC consider a bridge or other approach to help address the issue.

Mr. Stais: There are some similarities between this and the access to Grand Timber Lodge. The agreement was that the BSA would groom, but there would be no snowmaking. The ski resort is maintaining this run for ski in access, not to get to the bottom of Snowflake. Perhaps we need to work more closely with representatives from

the ski area to research this issue more fully. You could potentially improve the grooming to improve the grade. The ski resort grooms all these trails. Clearly, this does not function optionally. A dialogue with the ski resort is the place to start.

Mr. Kuhn: Any associated costs should be borne by the homeowners, not the open space program.

Mr. Rossi: I agree.

Ms. Merrill: I don't think this really falls under our purview or our budget.

Ms. Hollinshead: This does not need a bridge. We don't want to encourage more summer use there. This is a winter-only trail that needs a winter-only solution.

BOSAC directed staff to work with the ski area representatives to pursue grooming solutions to this problem. There also may be some wetland issues to be considered with additional snowpack in the area.

### **COSA Conference**

Ms. Andersen: The Town of Breckenridge is hosting the Colorado Open Space Alliance on Sept 20-22, 2009. BOSAC members are encouraged to attend sessions and help lead field trips.

### **French Gulch Trail**

Scott Reid outlined the proposed trail changes along French Gulch Road at the Wellington Neighborhood. Those include a new connection from the corner of Reiling Road and Wellington Road, straight across to Rodeo Drive, and a second new trail paralleling French Gulch Road, which on the current workplan is intended to be crusher fine, with no winter maintenance. In visiting the site with Public Works staff, the question arose of whether the portion up to Midnight Sun should be paved.

Mr. Rossi: My concern is losing more trees. The main goal should be to address the dangerous three-way corner.

BOSAC directed staff to work with Public Works to pave the connection between the junction of Wellington Road and Reiling Road, to the junction of Rodeo Drive and Olivia Lane. The remainder of the trail proposal (the second trail along French Gulch Road) will be removed from the work plan altogether.

### **BOSAC Retreat Discussion**

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the proposed BOSAC retreat on 2/12.

BOSAC approved the draft agenda for the retreat.

### **Commissioner Issues**

Mr. Cospolich: There are lights on in the Wellington Oro Water Treatment plant. Can we get that light taken care of? (Staff will check on this issue again.)

Ms. Hollinshead: I like the sign on Sallie Barber. Can we put one on the top of Sallie Barber as well? I am concerned about losing the Sisler Trail, the hillside across from Vista Point. We need to get special use authorization for that route, in case the USFS exchanges that land out of public ownership.

BOSAC directed staff to pursue construction of the Sisler Trail, including within the right of way in front of the Johnson's property and on the National Forest land across the road from Vista Point.

***Next Meeting***

The BOSAC retreat is scheduled for 2:00 pm on 2/12 at the Gold Run Nordic Center clubhouse.

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on March 9, 2009 in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Ms. Hollinshead motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Yule seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

The BOSAC retreat was held at the Gold Run Nordic Center between 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 12, 2009. Although the discussion was wide-ranging, addressing philosophical goals of the group, the minutes and action items have been broken down into several agenda items below.

All BOSAC members (Matt Stais, Monique Merrill Scott Yule, Ellen Hollinshead, David Rossi, Dennis Kuhn and Jeff Cospolich) were present, as were staff members Peter Grosshuesch, Mark Truckey, Heide Andersen and Scott Reid.

### **Trails and Open Space for Locals and ‘Visitor’ Benefits**

BOSAC discussed the various guiding documents that help direct the overall open space and trails program, with a specific focus on the public beneficiaries of the program. The question of whether the program was designed to benefit local residents or visitors was discussed in depth.

BOSAC decided that the Town open space and trails program is designed to benefit the public as a whole, with no distinction made between local residents or visitors. BOSAC also opted to not advise the Town Council to revise the existing guiding documentation because the documents already express the idea that the open space and trails program benefits the general public.

### **“Regionally Significant Mountain Bike and Nordic Destination”**

BOSAC discussed various Town documents that set a goal of making Breckenridge a “regionally significant mountain bike and nordic destination.” Some BOSAC members speculated that this goal has already been attained with regionally and nationally significant races (e.g. points-based nordic races, the Firecracker 50 as a national championship), while others thought that “regionally significant” implied an overnight stay and questioned whether this goal had really been attained.

BOSAC opted to defer to Council and hold a joint BOSAC/Council meeting to discuss whether these goals still exist, and if appropriate, what types of efforts should be undertaken to attain these goals. Most BOSAC members felt that the “regional destination” issue was a marketing policy and was generally a decision for the Town Council to make, whereas BOSAC was most interested in the affects of events, etc., on the open space and trail resources.

BOSAC also recommended that staff initiate a revision of the Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan, last approved in 2001, with the goal of updating the document with recent progress and outlining future goals for skiing opportunities in the Upper Blue Basin.

### **Decision-making Efficiency/BOSAC Involvement in Daily Operations**

BOSAC reviewed the Town leadership model, which involves guiding policy direction documents (i.e. the Comprehensive Plan, Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan, etc.) that allow front-line Town staff to make educated management decisions without having to refer to a supervisor or a commission.



BOSAC directed staff to balance bringing any sensitive issues that necessitate committee review with making efficient daily management decisions. BOSAC requested additional information in the packets, noting that more information provide up-front could avoid questions at BOSAC meetings. The BOSAC agreed to discuss as a group whether or not to delve into project details before proceeding with a discussion on project details. BOSAC also agreed to appoint a BOSAC representative or sub-committee to handle specific project details when necessary to avoid overall BOSAC involvement.

**BOSAC Structure and Role of Council Liaison**

BOSAC discussed the existing role of the Council liaison and potential options for improving communication between Council and BOSAC.

BOSAC agreed to recommend to Council that the liaison structure be retained as it currently exists, and also agreed to consider moving the BOSAC meeting dates to off-Council meeting dates so that the BOSAC minutes could be reviewed by BOSAC members and included in Council packets.