

Roll Call

Matt Stais called the March 9, 2009 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:44 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included Jeff Cospolich, David Rossi, Ellen Hollinshead, Dennis Kuhn and Scott Yule. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, and Peter Grosshuesch. Art Girten from OSAC was present. George Baumer of the Saddlewood Homeowners Association was present, as were Michael McCormack, of the Breck Epic, and Orion Paiement.

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

Preservation Village

Ms. Andersen outlined the Preservation Village proposal, including Summit County's process for identifying potential affordable housing sites, including this parcel. Council reviewed it and requested more information regarding the wildlife values of the property.

Mr. Stais: At the UBPC meeting, the County was focused on identifying sites with development potential. They weren't necessarily focused on the wildlife values of this particular property.

Alan Evans and Scott Fisher were present, representing the Braddock Hills Board of Directors. According to Mr. Evans, he sees fresh elk and deer trails going down to the water from the Gold Hill and Fourmile Bridge area across the road. He is concerned about the proposed Preservation Village. He believes that a 20 foot tall berm is problematic. He concluded by commenting that their HOA just wants to learn more about this project. He pointed out that he sees the value of affordable housing, but thinks that this particular parcel is problematic.

Ms. Andersen: Laurie Best and Matt Thompson from the Town Planning staff are handling the projects from the Town's planning perspective (reviewing the project for annexation).

Mr. Rossi: Council reviewed the site plan a few weeks ago and the berm. The largest concern from Council's perspective was whether or not the wildlife issues could be resolved. They also had concerns with sprawl and traffic.

Mr. Girten: The property was for sale and may still be. It is a good town separator. I would like to see it acquired as open space.

Ms. Andersen: The Town and County have worked to preserve and protect that area through acquisition (Tatum Tracts, Fourmile Bridge and the Blue Danube County properties) and other means, such as obtaining the wetlands just to the south of the project that were dedicated as a part of the Highlands subdivision.

Open Space and Trails

Breck Epic

Mike McCormack provided an overview of the proposed Breck Epic special event. The Greenspeed Project oversees a few events that will benefit the community, including the Town, Summit County and USFS. Events cause trail impacts. The event runs Sunday evening through Friday, the week after the Fourth of July. It is proposed to be a small race on large loops. Approximately 250 people would compete daily with finishers completing the loops in over 4-5 hours. Our area has very little beginner or intermediate terrain and a very short riding season. We are also targeting a high end user- one who is very experienced and will spend money in Town. A portion of the proceeds from the events will go to help the area trails. It is targeted to be a small event that can make a big splash in terms of public relations and recognition. Mike's group plans to provide signage prior to the race to let people know which trails will be affected. They will provide Town, County and USFS with approximately \$15,000 in money or volunteer time. Rigid cutoff times will help ensure the course is cleared by 4 pm so that locals can have their trails back by the time they get off work. Alternate rain courses will be considered.

Mr. Kuhn: I am concerned about the three passes and potential overuse on Nightmare on Baldy after the Firecracker and this event. Will any of the loops impact Cucumber Gulch? (No)

Summer Dog Sledding Proposal

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the summer dog sledding proposal. The use would be limited to roads only (mostly on Summit County rights of way) – mainly the Middle and South Fork roads.

Orion Paiement: We train dogs for sledding during the summer. Dog sledding trips in the winter are successful, allowing 8,000 people per year to go sledding. Improved cart technology now exists with suspension, so that this sort of thing can be done in our part of the country. Previously, it was limited to Alaska and Wisconsin. We are not sure how many trips we would plan to do each day exactly. Eight daily trips would probably be the maximum (with two carts running) - about one third of the guest capacity of winter months. Only routes that are open to motorized use already will be utilized. We are not motorized.

Ms. Hollinshead: Are you concerned about safety with the dog interaction with dirt bikers?

Orion Paiement: We are already training them on these routes. We have not had any problems with any users. It would cost about the same cost (\$75 for adults, \$35 for children). We will offer customers more of a behind-the-scenes education about the art and science of dog sledding.

Mr. Kuhn: How do you handle the dog waste?

Orion Paiement: As we already do, in the summer, we will monitor the main “poop spots” and keep them clean. It behooves us to take care of these sites as well. We’ll take care of it.

Mr. Rossi: Is heat a problem?

Mr. Paiement: When it is hot, we reduce speeds and increase dog numbers on each cart. Part of this proposal is to get a creek splash, which cools the dogs down. We are also good land stewards, and will continue to be.

Mr. Stais: What types of revenues are we talking about? (approximately \$6,000 for winter license agreement).

BOSAC agreed that the license agreement seems appropriate and directed staff to continue with the license agreement for the use.

Snowflake Ski Back discussion

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the Snowflake ski-back issue and the previous BOSAC discussion.

Mr. George Baumer, representing the Saddlewood HOA, separated the issue and focused on the grade of the dam. We are trying to be responsive to our members, who have some issues with renters. Is it ski in and ski out? The dam grading made the proposal more difficult. Regrading just past the dam would be a good solution. Minimal regrading could cost a few thousand dollars, spread among a number of residences. Creative snow moving could help with this issue. I don’t want the first issue to die, but I think we should focus on the easier and cheaper solution.

Mr. Yule: Changing the grade just past the dam seems to make sense.

Mr. Cospolich: If \$0 from the Town budget will be spent, I am totally in favor.

Mr. Kuhn abstained from the discussion.

Otherwise, BOSAC was in unanimous agreement to pursue the regrading approach this coming summer, with the HOAs funding the work.

East Adams trail

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the trail issue on the east end of Adams Street.

Ms. Girvin: I have seen this used for years and the scenario has changed. We should reestablish this route for dog walkers and other public users. There will be a trail there anyway, so you should probably formalize it.

Mr. Kuhn: I propose making this an early spring site visit. I see that it only gets people to Highland Terrace.

Mr. Yule: Is there a problem with leading a trail to a dead end or an unsecured trail access?

Mr. Reid: We could pursue getting easements for the social trail, but given the number of landowners that would need to agree to it, it is possible that we would end up losing the trail altogether. Sometimes its better to leave it as it is.

Ms. Hollinshead: I am all for little neighborhood trails.

All agreed that there should be a BOSAC site visit in April to reassess this issue.

Jesse Road/ Backdoor grooming

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the Town's efforts to secure a 20-year special use authorization from the USFS to groom many of the currently groomed Nordic routes in the Golden Horseshoe. Mr. Cooney has indicated support for grooming across the permitted road in Dry Gulch, which would give access to the Jesse Road. This would create a loop in which one could ski up the Jesse and Backdoor routes, across on the Dry Gulch Road to Preston, and back down Gold Run Road. The Forest Service was supportive of including the Jesse Road in the existing application.

BOSAC was supportive of including this element in the existing Special Use Permit application to the Forest Service.

Commissioner Issues

Ms. Hollinshead: Unfortunately, I think that the Sallie Barber sign is gone.

Mr. Stais: There is a social trail that runs behind my house that I would be willing to help try to get into the Town trail system.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on April 13, 2009 in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Ms. Hollinshead motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Yule seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Matt Stais, Chair