

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the September 28, 2009 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:43 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jeff Cospolich, Monique Merrill, Peter Joyce and Scott Yule. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Tony Overlock, Diane McBride and Peter Grosshuesch.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Two items were added to staff summary: The Roadless Area review and Gold Run Nordic Center update.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Hidden Gems Update

Ms. Andersen: Council will review this topic on 10/22. Alternative designations will be reviewed at that time. This topic has proven to be pretty contentious.

Mr. Joyce: It seems like the advocates for the wilderness bill should just adjust the boundary if they don't want to consider alternative designations.

Roadless Area Review

Ms. Andersen outlined the roadless area review process, including the original Clinton-era rules subsequently changed by President Bush to allow states to create their own rules. Hoosier Ridge (also under Hidden Gems) is the only designated roadless area in the Upper Blue basin. The state of Colorado oversaw a consensus-based process to develop rules, but Governor Ritter is getting pressure to consider reverting back to the Clinton-era rules. Comments regarding the state level roadless management are due this weekend. A letter will be prepared for the mayor's signature. Issues include watershed protection, mining, logging and recreation in these areas. The collaboratively-developed state version that defers to the Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Wildland Urban Interface boundaries is much more tailored to our current forest conditions in Colorado. Staff will draft a letter for John's signature and get a copy to BOSAC. Summit County supports the task force-developed option.

Gold Run Nordic Center

Ms. McBride: Gold Run is looking to reduce the Town's subsidy for the Gold Run Nordic Center. An RFP this summer yielded no external interest. Reduction in staffing levels and terrain (5k reduced- Pegasus, Silver Star) will occur. Hoodoo Voodoo and Preston Loop will be open. Town is in the process of hiring staff right now. December 3rd through Easter Sunday will be the season. Most Town-sponsored events will be cut. High school and NRL races will hopefully be retained, though. Operating hours will be 7 days a week between 9 am- 4 pm. Daily trail fees will likely be increased nominally (approximately \$2), in coordination with Breckenridge and

Frisco nordic centers. This needs to be approved by Council still. There will be no direct mailing this year, only online registration for season passes. Grooming frequency will remain the same: 7 days for primary routes; 5 days for outlying areas.

Mr. Joyce: Most visitors will not recognize the cutbacks. There may be a slight inconvenience to the user, for a cut of more than 50% in the budget. The area will operate closely to what it was before. These changes are similar to those in the Town-wide budget.

Open Space and Trails

Special Events in Cucumber Gulch Preserve

Mr. Reid outlined the history and practice of limiting group sizes in the Cucumber Gulch Preserve.

Mr. Yule: Spectators for races could be an issue. We need to be wary of people trampling all over the place to watch other competitors.

Ms. Merrill: I am supportive of the limit. Would it be easier to define which trails could be used? Perhaps no races on Toad Alley, but it would be alright on Gold Digger. Starting versus ending a race in the Preserve makes a big difference. People are more aggressive at the beginning of a race.

Mr. Cospolich: I am not supportive of running the Peaks Time Trial in the Preserve. Keep the policy as it is.

Mr. Joyce: I think we should keep the policy as it is.

Mr. Yule: I am in favor of races crossing the Preserve, but we should have some restrictions on starting and finishing races there. It is alright to use the system as a pass through. Starting and finishing within the Preserve is not good because there are impacts associated with that. Some trails are alright, some are not. What is the status of the Breckenridge Nordic Center and the future of Tim Casey's property? (Staff updated BOSAC on the proposed lease of Cucumber Creek Estates property and the Nordic center construction proposal from the Daytons.)

Mr. Joyce: The question is one of long term maintenance. The Town is not interested in obligating itself to a long term maintenance expense.

Based on BOSAC's direction, staff will continue with the group size and event limitations within the Cucumber Gulch Preserve.

Middle Flume 2010 VOC Project

Mr. Reid introduced the 2010 Middle Flume Trail project and some of the concerns that have been expressed regarding that proposed project.

Mr. Yule: Something needs to be done to that section of trail. However, we should try to maintain speed and increase the radii of those turns. Skiing, I tend to wander off the singletrack and find my own line. It is OK to ski and ride a trail differently.

Ms. Merrill: There are a lot of turns in one location. Turning radii are important. The turns should not require braking. I would like to go longer and faster. Better, longer sweeping turns are what I seek.

Mr. Overlock: I think we can make this trail a sweeping fun singletrack and the soil issues west of the existing alignment are problematic.

Mr. Joyce: This is an important project to take on. The existing alignment is challenging and not enjoyable. The realignment will retain the intermediate ability level, which is important. Alignment-wise, I agree with sweeping turns to accommodate good riders and intermediates. I think skiers will go where they choose come winter. How much use does this trail already get in winter versus summer?

Mr. Cospolich: I echo the sentiments about skiers straight-lining trails. Most people ski where they want, which will happen to Turk's and Middle Flume trails. The land seemed like a peninsula with drop-offs on both side. The bikers definitely use this much more than skiers. I think we should give the crew more discretion in the design.

Ms. Merrill: My concern is maintaining the mountain character of the trails. Some of the trails have character and historic folklore and should be kept. It might be alright to retain an unsustainable alignment because it has been there awhile. Are we trying to construct trails to last 50 years?

Mr. Yule: Are there other projects that we could look at, such as Aspen Alley realignment? (USFS and private property issues place a hold on that trail project currently.)

Staff agreed to evaluate the proposed realignment to address some of the concerns expressed.

Mountain Bike Branding Document

Mr. Reid outlined the need for the attached document and requested BOSAC feedback on the draft.

Mr. Joyce: Providing a public map of the system would be useful under point number 8.

Ms. Merrill: Number 6 needs to be edited to make it clearer.

Mr. Joyce: A trail map with recommended loop options would be ideal. Field marking is necessary as well.

Mr. Truckey: We should outline the easiest trails in number 4. We should list the bike path, B&B Trail, River Trail as easier options for beginner visitors.

Mr. Yule: The Town trail system is relatively well marked, but the greater trail system is less well marked. We should make that clear in the document.

BOSAC asked staff to revise the document and bring it back for review during the October meeting.

VERP Questions

Ms. Andersen introduced the monitoring program in Cucumber and asked BOSAC about their opinion regarding future monitoring efforts.

Mr. Yule: Perhaps three years is a better timeframe given the pace of change here. A strong management presence could evolve over time. I have concerns regarding the development that goes on around the Preserve and impacts the gulch. It is time to put Cucumber where it needs to be from a management perspective. I am concerned about the Boulder Ridge drainage and the other development around the gulch. Could Christy put a development hotspot section in her report?

Ms. Merrill: I agree with Scott Yule. A shorter timeframe would be better, and we could see what the trail counters read.

Mr. Cospolich: I think a shorter timeframe makes sense, but I am worried about costs.

Ms. Andersen: The only portions that would be redone every five years would be the visitor experience and trail condition assessments. Everything else is done annually.

BOSAC agreed to retain the five year schedule for additional monitoring (visitor surveys and trail evaluation).

Executive Session

BOSAC agreed to wait another month to discuss the property issues.

Commissioner Issues

There were no commissioner issues.

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 19, 2009 in the Administrative Conference Room in Town Hall.

Ms. Yule motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Merrill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair