

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Monday, March 15, 2010
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, BRECKENRIDGE TOWN HALL
150 Ski Hill Road

- 5:30 Call to Order, Roll Call
- 5:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – February 15, 2010
- 5:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda
- 5:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)
- 5:50 Staff Summary
- Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan Update
 - Hidden Gems Update
 - Dog Waste and Other Signage Update
- 6:15 Open Space and Trails
- Breckenridge Ski Area Hiking Proposal
 - Cucumber Gulch Preserve Presentation
 - Summer Trail Map Update
 - Sustainability Task Force
- 7:30 Commissioner Issues
- 7:35 Adjourn

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

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 15, 2010 meeting

Staff Summary**Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan Update**

The committee has been meeting every two weeks to address the Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan revision. The last two meetings have been focused on analyzing focus areas in terms of their characteristics and values; risks, needs, and limitations; and proposed enhancements. The first of these meetings addressed the Gold Run Nordic Center, the Peabody Placer area, and the nordic expansion area. The meeting last week evaluated the ungroomed focus areas on the east side of the Upper Blue, and the next meeting will be highlighting the Breckenridge Nordic Center and Peak 7. Minutes are available from these meetings if any other BOSAC members not participating would like to review them.

Hidden Gems Update

Things have been moving forward with the Hidden Gems proposal. Staff has met with the USGS to discuss post-fire erosion probabilities and corollary watershed protection needs. These needs have been evaluated with respect to the wilderness proposal boundaries. Staff has also been working with both Hidden Gems Campaign staff and IMBA staff to discuss possible companion designation language. Progress is definitely being made as both groups are reaching philosophical agreement. At the March 9th Town Council meeting, Mike McCormack from SFTS and Jay Heeter from the Colorado Mountain Club came together to inform the Council that the two groups were working collaboratively now and that the SFTS is close to a point of endorsing the proposal. Staff will continue to work out the language of the companion designation and this item will likely be going to Town Council for an endorsement of the wilderness boundaries as they now stand with the concept of a companion designation being a work-in-progress in the next month.

Dog Waste and Other Signage Update

Staff is coordinating efforts with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to fabricate dog waste educational signage. Staff has also worked internally to estimate the cost of installing dog waste stations (with bags and a small trash receptacle) and servicing those stations weekly. The estimated cost annually is \$1500 per station. Staff will work to get the B&B Trailhead signage, bag dispenser and trash can installed this spring.

Open Space and Trails

Breckenridge Ski Area Hiking Proposal

Attached, please find a written proposal from the Breckenridge Ski Resort to initiate a summer hiking program to include trails within the Cucumber Gulch Preserve. As discussed last fall, the ski area would like to begin this program in summer, 2010, and is requesting permission to use trails in the Preserve. A BSR representative will be present to further outline the proposal.

Cucumber Gulch Preserve Presentation

Dr. Christy Carello will present the 2009 research findings regarding Cucumber Gulch Preserve.

Summer Trail Map Update

Staff will provide the current draft of the Summer Trail Map, which has been drafted with the assistance of the Trail Map Subcommittee. Staff seeks BOSAC's general feedback on the progress of the trail map.

Sustainability Task Force

Planning staff has been meeting with the Sustainability Task Force (a subcommittee of the Town Council) for the last year to develop a holistic plan for addressing different topics related to maintaining the sustainability of our community in the future. One of these topics is wildlife. Staff has been working to develop a report that outlines the status of our knowledge of wildlife in the Upper Blue Basin and future needs to maintain or improve their conditions. Future actions to be addressed may include data gathering, monitoring, and changes that should be made to our guiding documents and procedures to minimize impacts to wildlife populations. Staff will be working with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Christy Carello and the Summit County Open Space program to develop plans to better address wildlife and their habitats through our planning and conservation efforts.

Staff will provide an overview of the Sustainability project at the meeting.

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the February 15, 2010 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:38 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Monique Merrill, Ellen Hollinshead, Erin Hunter, and Jeff Cospolich. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, and Lynn Zwaagstra.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

An Executive Session was added to the agenda.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Hidden Gems Update

Ms. Hollinshead: There is a meeting Thursday between the Summit Fat Tire Society and the Hidden Gems organizers to discuss companion designations. This is a big step in the right direction.

Wellington Oro Water Treatment Plant Costs

Mr. Truckey: We are required via consent decree to operate this water treatment plant. We are still in an experimental phase with the plant. Staff will keep BOSAC posted on any costs changes.

Trail Map and Marking

Mr. Reid updated BOSAC on the proposal to stripe several routes around town to improve bicycling wayfinding and safety. Council has requested that BOSAC consider dedicating up to \$10,000 to the pavement marking effort to help complete the project in 2010.

Ms. Hunter: I think it is odd that Council has asked open space and trails for a project that is neither open space nor trails. Maybe we should give less than the \$10,000 needed. A quarter of the \$10,000 as a onetime cost seems reasonable (\$2,500). I think the rest should be coming from the Town's road budget. I don't think it should really be coming from open space, but am willing to contribute to make the project happen.

Ms. Hollinshead: I don't agree with the proposed striping on Main Street. I also don't think we need three striped north/south routes through town. I support a quarter of the money (\$2,500), like Erin. I don't agree with the Main Street striping at all. I don't think people should be on Main; they should ride on routes other than Main Street.

Mr. Cospolich: I am in favor of the concept. It seems odd for it to come out of the open space fund, however. But, this is a good project for the town. I am in favor of 80% of the amount needed (\$8,000).

Mr. Kuhn: I am favor of making the Town more bicycle friendly. I agree with Erin and Ellen. 25% (\$2,500) seems reasonable.

Mr. Yule: I am in favor of the whole cost. \$10,000 for the project seems like a good use of funds.

Ms. Merrill: I don't see the connection for open space here. I don't think open space funds should be spent on pavement markings.

BOSAC was unable to reach consensus regarding funding for the bike lane/ shared use marking on Town streets. Staff will bring the funding issue back to Council for consideration.

Open Space and Trails

Unpatented Mining Claims

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the issue with unpatented claims on federal and non-federal lands.

BOSAC expressed dismay with the ongoing issue and encouraged staff to take action on this issue as needed.

Dog Waste and Other Signage

Mr. Reid outlined the Leave No Trace (LNT) frontcountry program and the potential for utilizing the nationwide message to help address recreational issue, including dog waste.

Ms. Hunter: I am supportive of the LNT message. But, I think we'll have better success with dog bags and a trash can. I am skeptical of the success of education.

Ms. Hollinshead: Locals are using these trails. Signs are good, but the issue is strictly dog poop, not the rest of the messages on the Animas River Trail sign. The issue is carrying the poop out and throwing it away. Nobody is going to pick it up and put it in their car to take it home to put it in a trash can. Dog poop stations are the only way to go in my mind. I would volunteer to pick up the trash at the B&B Trailhead (one trash can only) once a week for a year. Ideally, however, I would like to see trash cans at the B&B, Reiling Dredge, Lincoln Townsite, Illinois Creek, and the Peaks Trail trailheads.

Ms. Andersen: The County is not interested in helping fund a dog waste/ trash can program. This would fall on the Town only.

Ms. Merrill: What are the costs for trash pickup? (Staff has not researched this cost yet.)

Mr. Cospolich: I agree with joining the LNT program. Education is important, but trash cans will bring compliance. But, I am also worried about costs.

Mr. Yule: I agree with Jeff. I am in favor of a pilot program to deal with this.

Ms. Merrill: Something needs to be done. People are lazy. Peer pressure could work, but I'm not sure it will.

Mr. Kuhn: I agree with adopting the message and educational approach. If that doesn't work, then work on policing and trash pick up.

BOSAC supported participating in the LNT program and working on a frontcountry message focused on dog waste.

BOSAC directed staff to try out a test trash pick up site at the B&B Trailhead. Open Space will pay for the installation of the poop bag installation and trash can. Ellen Hollinshead will collect the trash once a week for a year, starting in June. The trash bags can be deposited in the dumpster behind Town Hall.

Commissioner Issues

Mr. Kuhn: What is the status of the separate winter use signs? (Awaiting response from USFS contacts). Will the LNT message will be everywhere on the Town system now? (Selectively, yes)

Ms. Hollinshead: What happened with the Gold Run Nordic center and the progress of starting to groom Pegasus again? (Staff will contact Zeke and inquire.) Turk's Trail needs more realignment in a couple of places for skiers. Pruning trails with winter use in mind would be helpful. I think there are several places that the trail needs to be realigned. (Staff will work to plan a site visit to address these concerns.)

Executive Session

Mr. Cospolich made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a property acquisition. Ms. Hunter seconded the motion. BOSAC entered Executive Session at 7:13 pm. Mr. Cospolich made a motion to exit Executive Session. Ms. Merrill seconded the motion. BOSAC exited Executive Session at 7:27 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is on March 15, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road).

Mr. Yule motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Cospolich seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair

Hiking Proposal for the Town of Breckenridge

After working at the Alpine Slide and Fun Park for several summers and talking with folks that work for the Information center in town, we have determined a need to provide guided nature hikes for our guests. We will be providing two hour hikes starting from the top of the Colorado Chair four mornings a week.

Our main goal will be to educate our guests in such things as the importance of the Leave No Trace ethic, staying on the trail, protecting and appreciating our fragile environment, hiking etiquette, not picking the wildflowers and learning all about nature specific to our area including the pine beetle. Our guests will learn about wildflower identification, identifying wildlife and their sign and what to do when encountering wildlife, the effects of altitude on the body, being weather wary especially above timberline and a bit of our rich local history. We want to share with them the beauty and uniqueness of our area and an awareness of just how important it is to protect our natural habitats for others to enjoy.

We want to provide a fun yet safe and educational experience for our guests. Due to the weather patterns here in Breckenridge, we feel that an afternoon hike above timberline and so far from the base area would be somewhat risky because the weather can blow in quickly and lightning could play a factor. We were hoping to provide a less taxing, shorter hike at a lower altitude that would be easier to manage in case of bad weather.

We were looking in to the possibilities of Cucumber Gulch Trail and Sawmill Trail under the Snowflake chair. We spoke to Scott Reid and he informed us of the restrictions and terms for being a concessionaire. We fully understand the sensitive nature of Cucumber Gulch and very much appreciate your limiting the group size to 8 people and not allowing dogs. We want to assure you that we would take every care to protect this special place all the while educating our guests in the process.

We would like to limit it to one or two afternoon hikes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We would like to have the option of having a morning hike as well. We would need to have a minimum of 3 hikers and a maximum of 8 in Cucumber Gulch and 10 in Sawmill Creek. We would be charging \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children under 12.

We would like you to know a little bit about us so that you may feel a bit more comfortable with the care we take during these hikes.

Janet Cox and Lori Kennedy both find great delight in being able to share nature and all of its wonders with other folks. We have led 16 hut trips in all seasons as well as countless other group hikes whether it is for the Girl Scouts, teen youth groups, kids' hikes or just some folks who want to get out and enjoy nature. We have hiked or snow shoed once a week in Summit, Park, Clear Creek, Eagle, Lake and Grand counties with friends for over 6 years and have very rarely duplicated the same hike.

We have each taken many classes in wildflower identification, some edible and medicinal classes, have studied books and articles regarding wildlife and their sign, studied weather patterns and have worked with Rick Hague of the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance in regards to the local history. We are both very staunch supporters of the Leave No Trace ethic.

Janet Cox has lived here with her family for over 15 years. Both of her sons went through the Summit County School System. She has worked for Breckenridge Ski Resort for 11 years in our Guest Services Department and is an avid skier as well as hiker.

Lori Kennedy is a Colorado native who has been hiking and backpacking all over this beautiful state since she was 8 years old. She has lived here for 15 years, was the owner of an art gallery in Breckenridge for over ten years and now works for Breckenridge Ski Resort in the Guest Services Department. She has climbed all of the 14,000 peaks, many more than once, and feels little else can compare to the joy she gets from sharing the views and sense of accomplishment any new hiker gets from reaching their goal regardless of age.

We would appreciate your consideration in allowing us to lead these hikes and we assure you we would be very good stewards of the land. We would be more than happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have regarding this endeavor.

Janet Cox
Lori Kennedy
Breckenridge Ski Resort
970-453-5000