

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the September 20, 2010 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:39 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, Jeff Cospolich, Erin Hunter and Monique Merrill. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Heide Andersen, Peter Grosshuesch, and Scott Cline. Brian Lorch from Summit County was present, as was Jeff Westcott, Turk Montepare, and Gene Dayton. Larry and Shirley Weilnau and Jerry Balver of the Gols Prospectors of Colorado were also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

An Executive Session was added to the agenda to discuss property acquisitions.

Public Comments

Larry and Shirley Weilnau: We ran into Scott Reid in French Gulch this summer and Scott informed us that it is illegal to pan on open space. Given the long history of mining in Breckenridge, we would like to suggest that open space provide a place where we can pan for gold recreationally. Panning, sluicing and metal detecting should be allowed in a limited area, with no motorized use. Please provide a place to allow that activity. It's pretty basic with just a screen and a bucket. You excavate some gravels with a shovel then pan the material by the creek or elsewhere. This is a growing recreational activity that would generate money to the town through sales tax. We are members of the Gold Prospectors of Colorado and have a code of ethics that we follow when we pan. We also set up a panning demo at the Riverwalk every year. We want to get people out exercising. This activity causes very little disturbance. Nothing shows after we're done. We can show you a place sanctioned by the BLM behind Granite, CO where this is allowed. We help set up rules for the location where we can pan, then we reclaim the area by filling holes etc. Jefferson County open space also allows it (even motorized). It has proven to not disturb the open space.

Mr. O'Neil: Is the intent to pass time or to get gold and sell it?

Mr. Weilnau: It's a hobby. We don't get much gold, but we keep what we get. Motorized sluicing can be damaging but the pans would not be.

Ms. Hunter: You seek a specific area. What's an example of an area that would work for you?

Larry: Just a specific area, like the B&B Trailhead area. We seek areas that have been mined before. The dredge was inefficient and we can find gold in the existing piles.

Jerry Balver: We would police the grounds under our code of ethics. We would restore properties. It is partially an education issue for gold panners.

Mr. Yule: How large an area do you need?

Mr. Weilnau: Five acres would be ideal. Or less, like 200 square yards. No commercial guiding or anything would occur. Once people know about a designated area, word will spread.

Mr. Balver: We don't really have a place to go here in the center of gold mining in Colorado. We seek an easier, legal access in the area. www.GPOC.com is the website for our organization.

Mr. Kuhn: Staff will bring this topic to Summit County and into the legal aspect of mining on open space. We will then get in touch with you all with any decisions or progress. Thanks for coming tonight.

Mr. Montepare: The Town and County may not own all of the mineral rights; some may be owned by the Saddlerock Society. More research is needed. We may also need to evaluate any requirements or limitations within the consent decree for the B&B acquisition.

Mr. Dayton: I am here to request permission to run a gas line and electricity to Josie's Cabin from the pump house. John Quigley suggested we do this before they finish landscaping in the area. We would rent a backhoe and run a 30'' trench to run power and gas to the cabin. We own a natural gas burning stove. There was a glitch in that you can't bury a tank in the PMA.

Mr. Kuhn: Cost would be borne by you, correct? (Yes) The reason is for the comfort of the guests, right?

Mr. Dayton: We are increasingly doing tours and we are looking for a warming hut that is not in the Nordic center. We need destination places to slow people down on the trails. We also currently serve hot chocolate there for tours. I would even be willing to replace the existing drafty window. We want to continue to use it and heat it for tours. We would like to offer dinners and other things down there as well.

Ms. Andersen: You would need to get a variance from the PMA to excavate there.

Ms. Hunter: Do you have any plans to allow use all the time?

Mr. Dayton: Yes, the cabins are never locked. We run tours 2-3 times per week at nights. I would like to see more. Winter is less impactful than summer. Our largest tours are eight people. We would install both gas and power while the ditch is open. It gives you future options.

Mr. Yule: We need a management plan for year round use in Josie's cabin. I am concerned about summer use in there. I am also concerned about human waste down there.

Mr. Dayton: I propose we take out the existing, dilapidated privy and replace it with an acceptable toilet system.

Mr. Kuhn: Can we even do this in the PMA?

Mr. Dayton: Chris Neubecker looked into this already.

Mr. Kuhn: Council has asked BOSAC to review use in the Gulch and impacts on wildlife. I will ask staff to take the lead and we will get back to you.

Staff Summary

Black Loop Realignment

Ms. Merrill: When will this work occur? (This autumn, prior to ski season.)

Open Space and Trails

Hidden Gems

Ms. Andersen provided an overview of the likely wilderness bill being proposed by Jared Polis. The Summit County Wildfire Council agreed to this proposal. The Tenmile area has changed dramatically. Large portions of the companion designations were reduced. The USFS staff advised Polis staff regarding the boundaries. Colorado Springs also has significant diversions and water rights in that area. Summit Fat Tire Society (SFTS) is still negotiating with Polis' staff. Polis has expressed a willingness to change the boundaries to address SFTS concerns.

Mr. Cospolich: Where is the money coming from to manage these wilderness areas if this bill comes to pass?

Ms. Andersen: The USFS is now involved in this discussion, and the funding discussion will occur at the Congressional level.

BOSAC expressed support for proceeding in support of the proposed wilderness bill and increasing the size of some of the companion designation areas, particularly along and above the Peaks Trail area.

Event Use in Cucumber Gulch

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the special event proposal for use on the route by Josie's Cabin.

Ms. Hunter: I do not support it. This is special event creep. Every year people ask for more. I want to keep this hard to reach.

Mr. Yule: I would like to look at this after the realignment is completed and the pump house has been finalized and landscaped. After the construction, I would look it. What types of events is the real question.

Mr. Cospolich: I am in favor of allowing special events. Using this area allows staging events in downtown. Using the gondola lots or Riverwalk makes sense to me.

Mr. O'Neil: How many races are we talking about? I am open to looking at what it looks like after the construction. I am open to the idea, but only after construction.

Mr. Westcott: Two- the youth's circuit race and Fall Classic circuit race.

Mr. Cline: One from the Town's side- a Summit Trail Running Series race.

Ms. Andersen: Dr. Carello felt like a few races per summer would be alright, but too many could potentially affect wildlife.

Ms. Merrill: I like our current policy. It makes me uncomfortable to allow any more races than Westy's and Rec Center's. I would like to see the event promoter come to BOSAC on a case-by-case basis to use this. I would also like to see the new alignment.

Mr. Kuhn: I am OK with it as long as Toad Alley is excluded. I am OK with a limit to the number of events (3-4). South/north seems OK, but Toad Alley (east/west) is problematic to me.

Mr. Westcott: Winter versus summer use: Is that really as different as has been implied? I am limited in what I can do and how good it is right now. This section of trail would be a great help to me as an event promoter. This is a critical link.

Ms. Andersen: I see this as problematic from a cycling standpoint, but not for runners. You can currently get there on existing easements, but it is not ideal.

Mr. O'Neil: A case by case decision would make sense.

Mr. Cospolich: This area is heavily used. I don't see additional race traffic as causing damages here. Restrictions on early morning races should be considered. One year probationary period would make sense.

Mr. Yule: We only want low noise events. No spectator areas down there. Time of day is also important and should be limited.

Ms. Hunter: Case by case basis and probationary period makes sense to me.

Ms. Merrill: I am open to allowing use for special events on a case by case basis.

Mr. Kuhn: Let's evaluate the success or failure this time next year.

Mr. Westcott: Scott asked that we reduce the music and PA system for the kids' event. We used no PA system and used a megaphone. This is an easy way to keep our neighbors and the wildlife happy. In the Fall Classic, we used a PA and directed it away from the Gulch and the homes. 80-85 marathoners did the Breck Crest over four hours through the Gulch. Ski Hill Road use of the Peaks Trail time trail went really well in my opinion.

BOSAC agreed to allow a select number of events by Josie's cabin in 2011, and requested that staff inform BOSAC via email which events have been approved for that use. Efforts will be made to reduce the number, noise, type and impact of events. This discussion will now be undertaken by Town Council.

Commissioner Issues

Ms. Merrill: The extension from Betty's Trail is now closed and blocked. What can we do about this? (Staff is working on this issue.)

Mr. Yule: How is the B&B Trailhead going with the dog waste trash can? (It is going well, by most accounts.)

Mr. Cospolich: When will staff complete the new Peaks Connect trail? (It is completed.) I was disappointed with the way the USFS left the sites after they removed the dilapidated cabins.

Mr. O'Neil: There is a renegade trail coming into Barney Ford Trail. (Staff is aware of this and is trying to discourage its use and further development.)

Mr. Kuhn: Can we please get the Cucumber Gulch use numbers at the next meet? (Staff will provide these numbers at the next meeting.)

Executive Session

Devon O'Neil motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition. Mr. Yule seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. BOSAC entered into Executive Session at 7:36 pm. Ms. Hunter made a motion to exit Executive Session; Ms. Merrill seconded the motion. BOSAC came out of Executive Session at 8:12 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is on October 18, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road). A site visit was set for 3:30 pm to visit the Pennsylvania Gulch parcel.

Ms. Hunter motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. O'Neil seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair