

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the October 18, 2010 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:39 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, Jeff Cospolich, Erin Hunter and Jennifer McAtamney. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Heide Andersen, Peter Grosshuesch, Bree Schacht, and Mark Truckey. Brian Lorch from Summit County was present as was Turk Montepare. Kurt Kunkel from the Colorado Environmental Coalition and Pat Campbell from the Breckenridge Ski Resort were 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

Cucumber Gulch Events and Josie's Cabin Update

Mr. O'Neil: So I understand that there will be no more special events in Cucumber Gulch Preserve?

Ms. McAtamney: Council decided to try to handle everything on an equal playing field. We decided that this is a protected place and we need to remove the event issue altogether. Also, putting gas and electricity in the Josie's Cabin would just bring more people down there and we wanted to keep it as a quiet place. Council is opposed to dinners and other organized events in the bottom of Cucumber.

Mr. Reid: We found vandalism at Josie's cabin this weekend. Two windows were shattered and a chair was destroyed. We plan to fix it and lock the cabin with a combination lock.

2011 Budget

Mr. Truckey: I just want to make sure that BOSAC understands the landscaping expenditure along the Blue River the Council directed.

Ms. McAtamney: The Council saw that expenditure as open space management. The sooner we plant trees, the better. \$150,000 was earmarked for landscaping efforts along the river.

Mr. Cospolich: I would personally like to see fewer street striping expenditures and more for landscaping and bridges from the open space fund.

Open Space and Trails

Hidden Gems

Ms. Andersen outlined the current wilderness proposal by Congressman Jared Polis. She highlighted the changes that were made between the negotiations and the bill proposal,

specifically in the Hoosier Ridge and Tenmile Areas. Potential staff suggestions include designating a larger companion designation area to address motorized incursions into Horseshoe Basin and the adjacent ridge. The Tenmile Area also shrank due to the presence of mining claims. We'd like to see the companion designation area expanded here as well.

Mr. Kunkle: The USFS thought the mining claims would complicate management.

Ms. Andersen: Most of the protected land is on the Copper Mountain side of the Tenmile, not the Upper Blue. The proposal used to include Quandary and Mohawk Lakes. Portions of the Peaks Trail, Miner's Creek, Ophir Mountain etc. were to be part of the companion designation as worked out by Town staff, the Hidden Gems Campaign and the Summit Fat Tire Society. Polis wanted to submit a clear, discreet bill for immediate action, so he removed some of the land on the eastern side of the Tenmile.

Mr. Kunkle: Yes, Polis eliminated controversial portions so he could submit a neat and clean bill. We're supportive of the bill as it stands and hope to backfill in some of the parcels that are at issue. We had to make some changes to account for trail realignment, the ski area boundary, etc. We also want to evaluate and research areas before submitting them. In the case of the companion designations, we think those are the Summit Fat Tire Society's initiative, not ours, so we would defer to them to make that a reality.

Cucumber Gulch Preserve Monitoring

Ms. Andersen outlined the general goals and progress of the Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program, including the visitor use monitoring and the summer gondola hours. The questions remains: what do we do with this information? Do we change our management approach? Do we continue and repeat these studies for multiple years? Should we alter the timing of the study to account for pre-operational tests? What is the impact threshold and ultimately what should we do with this information?

Ms. McAtamney: Where did the Wilson's warbler go?

Ms. Andersen: We don't know.

Mr. Cospolich: The methodology is not right here. I think the species should be evaluated before operations and later in the summer, say in August. What was the cost and will we have to do it again? This also seems like a small sample size from which to draw conclusions.

Pat Campbell: \$11,000 or so was the cost.

Ms. Andersen: Yes, those parameters were set in part due to cost.

Mr. Yule: Cowbirds have been cited as problematic in the past. Why weren't they included in this analysis? More specificity regarding the type of birds and if they were impacted by cowbirds is needed in this study.

Mr. Grosshuesch: This study brings up two questions: What are the future studies we want to pursue and what is the policy approach to address areas of concern?

Mr. Kuhn: There are no real surprises here to me, as far as use patterns. We have established a good baseline.

Ms. Andersen: We can also graph some of the 2009 use data to help with comparison.

Ms. McAtamney: Council seeks a clear road to determining how best to preserve and manage this area. Especially given all of the development around the Gulch, are we already beyond that point?

Ms. Andersen: The motion cameras are a very useful tool. If we see reduction in the wildlife images of certain species, that may indicate impacts.

Ms. Hunter: I think anecdotal information from the trail crew or Christy's crew would also be helpful. I would also like to see the 2009 use numbers to compare with 2010 numbers.

Ms. Andersen: Also, the Breckenridge Ski Resort had very few users in Cucumber Gulch as a part of their hiking tours this summer. June- zero. July- eleven. August- two. September- zero.

Pat Campbell: These numbers are because the weather was good and allowed us up on the ski area and we did not have to use the Gulch as an alternative on wet or thunderstorm days. Our objective was to stay out of the gulch as much as possible.

Bree Schacht: The Recreation Department only went into the Preserve twice this season with very limited numbers.

Mr. Yule: We need to direct more users to the new Peaks Connect trail. We should also close the Toad Alley trail during the gondola study period to get more accurate information. Seasonal closures might be the best way to protect this area. I'd like to see fewer users overall in the area. The new Peaks Connect trail is working well, but we need a better connection across the base of Peak 8.

Ophir Mountain Forest Health and Fuels Project

Ms. Andersen outlined the U.S. Forest Service Ophir Mountain fuels reduction proposal.

Ms. McAtamney: Fuels mitigation work is popular with people because we are being proactive in addressing this concern. Please encourage the USFS to scarify the temporary roads well. Will the areas be actively revegetated? (Not likely) I am pleased that there may be funding to see this in reality.

Mr. Grosshuesch: The USFS thinks they potentially have the money to take this project on. They also think that these areas will regenerate faster if treated or cut.

Mr. Kuhn: I think it is self evident. I am supportive.

Mr. O'Neil: Is this project tied to the small but dangerous fire behind the high school?

Ms. Andersen: No, this is part of the Upper Blue Stewardship project, reincarnated.

BOSAC was supportive of the fuels reduction project in general but would like to see the letter from the Town request that the USFS scarify the temporary roads well and minimize impacts to existing system trails.

Mushing at Gold Run Nordic Center

Ms. Andersen outlined the proposal to operate a dog mushing/sled dog ride business and potentially a mushing special event to operate on the Gold Run Nordic Center. The intent is to educate people on mushing. This would also require the support of Summit County if it went into the Golden Horseshoe.

Mr. Kuhn: Is the golf course staff alright with this concept? It seems like the Frisco Peninsula is a better location than Gold Run Gulch Road.

Ms. Andersen: With some caveats, the golf course staff is OK with further pursuing the concept. The dinner/sleigh ride business has a license agreement for some of the area already, which may present a problem. It would have to be worked out if the mushers could also utilize the sleigh ride groomed trail. They would have to share the costs of grooming and give a percentage to the Town. It would be up to the sleigh ride concessionaire though.

Mr. Markey: Descending Gold Run Road would be a challenge because it is so fast.

Ms. Andersen: It may be time to have directional traffic signage anyhow (e.g. uphill on looker's left, downhill on looker's right).

Mr. O'Neil: What about one event and one weekend per month to try it out for the year?

Mr. Cospolich: I don't see this less as education and more as a business. I don't see much difference between this and what Good Times offers. I am also concerned about dog waste issues.

Ms. Hunter: I understand skijoring, but not mushing.

Mr. Yule: Do they need groomed trails?

Ms. Andersen: Yes, it needs to be packed down, I think.

BOSAC agreed to allow two weekends of use and a race event, then to evaluate the use to see pros and cons to mushing on open space.

Commissioner Issues

Mr. Kuhn: I would like to see the Royal Placer next week or some time.

Mr. O'Neil: The River Trail is in great shape. Jack's Cruel Joke needs some attention.

Executive Session

Devon O'Neil motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition. Ms. McAtamney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. BOSAC entered into Executive Session at 7:25 pm. Ms. Hunter made a motion to exit Executive Session; Ms. McAtamney seconded the motion. BOSAC came out of Executive Session at 8:19 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is on November 15, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road). A separate site visit is scheduled on October 28 at 3:30 pm to visit the Royal Placer.

Ms. McAtamney motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Yule seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair