

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the January 17, 2011 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:42 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Monique Merrill, Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, Dennis Kuhn (7 pm) and Erin Hunter. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Heide Andersen, Peter Grosshuesch, Bree Schacht, Mike Barney and Mark Truckey. Joanna Stolen, Gene Dayton, Therese Dayton, Turk Montepare and Larry Crispell were present. Brian Lorch from Summit County Government was also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The Executive Session item was removed from the agenda.

Public Comments

Larry Crispell, on behalf of the community, thanked Heide Andersen for her hard work and landmark successes during her time working for the Town of Breckenridge. Her efforts have left a lasting legacy for the Town. That sentiment was echoed by all members present.

Open Space and Trails

Breckenridge Nordic Center Evening Operations

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the nighttime operations in Cucumber Gulch Preserve and the previous discussions that occurred with BOSAC and the Daytons, as the Breckenridge Nordic Center concessionaire.

Gene and Therese Dayton handed out some additional information regarding the nighttime adventure tours (copies attached below).

Gene Dayton: We had four nighttime groups booked in all of December. This is not an every night occurrence. Cancellations are common, unless people pay up front. We find few if any animal tracks in the open areas of the Gulch during winter. There is a pump house lift station right there, a gondola running after sundown this time of year, and much residential development. I don't think what we do is causing any impact to the animals of the gulch. There are very few animals that stick around year round. We see few large mammals except moose, who are recent comers, within the last five years or so. They are doing well. The heaviest wildlife activity we witness is in the northwest quadrant, which we stay out of. For these programs, we seek the open areas to see the nighttime sky. If it's cold, the animals are not active and don't come out. I don't see us causing an effect to the wildlife. We just found what we think is a moose kill from a mountain lion. The head has been removed from the moose, though. The large population of moose has eaten off of the available willows and food in the gulch. We typically see the moose tracks alongside the ski trails, not on them. I think the moose, with their long legs, prefer the unpacked snow.

Therese Dayton: The Town Recreation Department use to offer these same trips up until three years ago or so. We already have distributed the print (brochure) for these tours, and we also do website advertising. The concierges book the daytime tours only. We stay on groomed ski trails

like Morning Glory and Gold Digger because it is too narrow on snowshoe trails for nighttime tours. We always have a guide and we stay on designated routes. These are private tours with one guide and a maximum of seven participants, and more typically one or two customers with the guide. We don't use headlamps so we can encourage night vision.

Ms. Merrill: What is the current growth rate of these tours per year?

Ms. Dayton: These are private tours only, so the group is smaller and more personal. The nighttime tours are not growing. Nighttime trips are smaller in size and shorter (1.5-2 hours). It provides a great service for our customers. It is quaint and small. The gondola is still running for most of the time we are out. We also see a lot of skiers after hours- regular users out with headlamps. We try to discourage them, but they choose to do what they will. We try to educate all of our customers about wildlife ethics and behavior. We have experienced guides and a knowledgeable staff. We also promote stewardship of the Preserve.

Ms. Andersen: The guides could also be trained by Dr. Carello to help with education of the users and promote environmental education and a stewardship ethic with the Gulch.

Mr. Yule: If this use continues, I would like to see limits on group size frequency. Human waste considerations are also my concern.

Ms. Dayton: It is a short tour. No one is encouraged to use the old outhouse.

Ms. Hunter: Is Josie's cabin open at night to anyone?

Ms. Dayton: Yes. We build a fire prior to the tour. There is no other use, at least that we have seen. It is not locked, nor do we think it needs to be.

Mr. Cospolich: How many guides are there? What are the daytime operation hours?

Ms. Dayton: There are two nighttime guides. The ski trails close at 4 pm. We leave the building at 5:15 or so and just run the occasional nighttime tour from there.

Mr. Dayton: There are groomers on ski area at night. The grooming we do below Ski Hill Road takes two hours. A lot of people are already skiing at night. We have offered the evening adventure tours for the last eight years and have built a good client base. Prior to that, we offered dinner/sleigh rides and other evening activities. This already represents a substantial reduction in amount of nighttime use that has occurred over the years. We do not use head lamps, as our focus is the nighttime sky and headlamps ruin your night vision. Weeknights are more popular, typically. Tuesday through Friday nights are the most popular sessions.

Ms. Dayton: We are also working with Council on a long term agreement to construct a new Nordic building and commit to operate the Nordic center for years to come. We feel that this is low impact and should be allowed to continue as it has for the past eight years.

Mr. Yule: I am comfortable with this programming continuing, but with strict conditions. Conditions: Tours to the cabin are OK. Four days per week maximum. The group size should be limited: no more than eight total participants, including the guide. I would also like to see some protocol for human waste disposal.

Mr. Hunter: I agree and would like to see Josie's cabin locked at nighttime when not being used. We also agreed to close the cabin entirely during the summer.

Mr. O'Neil: I am alright with continuing the use as it has been. The group size limitation similar to summer makes sense. The impact sounds minimal.

Ms. Merrill: I agree with the others. I would like an update of how many people are booked on those tours. I would also like to see Dr. Carello review these limitations and approve them.

Mr. Cospolich: I think it makes sense. People should be able to visit this site. It helps get beginner users out there. A lock on the cabin makes sense to me. A timer lock might make it easier to manage.

Mr. Dayton: Thank you for the audience. Thanks for your support.

Staff reminded BOSAC and the audience that Town Council will be apprised of BOSAC's recommendation and make the final decision.

Golden Horseshoe Management Plan

Ms. Andersen introduced the Golden Horseshoe Management Plan. We have been operating and managing the resources in the Golden Horseshoe since this plan was conceived. The Town, County and USFS collaborate well on these management efforts. Our plan reflects how things are currently working. We want to focus BOSAC's attention on the main portion of the plan and maps two and three. The appendices should be mostly familiar. The document provides an overview of the process, and the challenges we face. The policy approach is critical for the management entities and elected officials. The plan outlines the resources and provides a policy framework for future management. OSAC has already reviewed the document and staff has implemented those revisions. A joint BOSAC/OSAC meeting will be the forum for final review and approval. Travel management is a huge part of this, and this plan's true passage and implementation should come only after the USFS Travel Management Plan has been released. As we have previously discussed, management filters were applied to the citizen recommendations, taking into account legal access and sustainability issues, to create the maps. We will, of course, wait for the USFS to complete the Travel Management Plan to proceed with implementation.

Mr. Lorch: We sought one map for all uses- summer and winter. This is our best attempt yet.

Ms. Andersen: The land ownership adjustment analysis line (LOAA) outlines which lands the USFS plans to hold, dispose or acquire. This document would provide some guidance to the USFS as to future actions regarding land disposal. The three zone approach helps us manage this

area more effectively and helps reduce the likelihood of potential disposal of National Forest lands in the middle of the Golden Horseshoe.

Mr. Lorch: This change could save the town and County a lot of money because we would not have to acquire additional lands to protect them from private development in the Golden Horseshoe. This is a unique opportunity to help us clarify the future ownership of public lands in the Golden Horseshoe.

Mr. Grosshuesch: I agree. The LOAA is a critical piece of this decision. Moving the LOAA line is huge, a dream come true.

Mr. Montepare: This is critically important to clarify and complete. Our management of the area is a good indication of our commitment and the USFS is recognizing that through this map.

Mr. Truckey: Is there any commitment for a right of first refusal for these properties?

Mr. Lorch: There is already language in there, as strong as I can make it.

Ms. Andersen: We are seeking BOSAC direction at this point.

Mr. Cospolich: This looks good. Few improvements have been made that have been obvious to the public thus far. This is a step in the right direction to making a change in the Golden Horseshoe. The water treatment plant is expensive. How is it working? (Jury is still out on the success of the water treatment plant.)

Ms. Merrill: I am really impressed with the management plan. My concern is the policy/action list. I'm concerned about the money and funding all of these efforts.

Ms. Andersen: Expenditures are determined through the annual workplan process in cooperation with the USFS and County as partners.

Mr. Yule: The LOAA piece is the highest priority. The plan looks good. This has been an issue since my first open space meeting. It's good to see closure.

Ms. Hunter: It is well written. The numbered signs that are up will increase the use up there. I am concerned about people following signed routes, then getting on the unsustainable routes to be closed. It seems like the Golden Horseshoe-related content should be synthesized with the Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan.

Mr. O'Neil: It is well written and complete.

Mr. Montepare: People stay on well designed, sustainable trails. This plan will help us get there in the long run.

BOSAC was supportive of the plan's contents. BOSAC agreed with moving ahead with a joint OSAC/BOSAC meeting for approval of the plan following the release of the USFS Travel Management Plan.

Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan Revision

Ms. Andersen outlined the revision process of the Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan. It is heartening to see how much progress there was from the first plan ten years ago. The attached table contains a lot of the content from the meetings, with excess detail, perhaps.

Mr. Yule: This plan is complete. It was a productive and diverse group. The revision looks great. I am totally behind it. Thank you for your work on this, Heide.

Ms. Merrill: It is an impressive synthesis of information. I am glad that the Nordic group was so well rounded.

Mr. Truckey: This is a long term vision to be implemented as resources and political will allow.

Mr. O'Neil: Looks like 6.2.7 is identical to Fredonia language. Minor revisions are needed to make the language different.

BOSAC was supportive of proceeding with the approval of the Upper Blue Nordic Master Plan.

Commissioner Issues

Mr. Kuhn asked about the Town Council's decision regarding summer gondola hours. Staff updated BOSAC on that decision.

Mr. Yule: I think we should name a trail after Heide to recognize all the work she put in to make this program run. The proposed Above the Bench/Sluice trail at Gold Run would be a good candidate.

Ms. Hunter: There is a tracked vehicle using the road to Dry Gulch: what do we know about it? (That road and the snow coach provide access for John Cooney to Dry Gulch)

Mr. O'Neil: My favorite stat in that plan is that there are 8 miles of routes for every square mile in the Golden Horseshoe. Wow.

Mr. Cospolich: I would like to see the trail use data updates more frequently.

Next Meeting

BOSAC opted to change its next meeting date to February 28, 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. O'Neil seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Vice Chair