

Roll Call

Dennis Kuhn called the June 20, 2011 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, Erin Hunter, Jeff Carlson, Jeff Cospolich and Dennis Kuhn. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Mark Truckey and Scott Reid. Shelly Grail from the U.S. Forest Service, Jeff Zimmerman and Gary Shimanowitz 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

Reiling Dredge Stabilization Project

Ms. Hunter: I thought we decided to put that project on hold.

Mr. Reid: BOSAC did but the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance got budget approval from Town Council who is paying for it out of their capital fund.

Breckenridge Trails Website

Mr. Reid: The Town has secured the following website domain: www.breckenridgetrails.org to host the Town trails information, including trail conditions, trail maps and bicycling wayfinding. Please encourage members of the public to use this site to review seasonal trail conditions.

Open Space and Trails

Carter Park Stairs Discussion

Mr. Reid: As we discussed on the site visit, staff is proposing a staircase to formalize the social trail that climbs Carter Park. After years of trying to block the fall-line social trail, staff is considering formalizing the trail with a rock staircase to provide hikers, walkers and runners a way to ascend the hill without interacting with descending bike traffic. The trail could be a pretty iconic route for us in the long run, and rock installation would be costly up front, but would require less maintenance in the long run. We received two bids for constructing staircase. One bid was for \$22,000 including stone and the other for \$25,000 without stone. We seek BOSAC's direction on this potential trail project.

Mr. Cospolich: My concern is that people won't use the stairs. How much of the distance would the stonework be needed for?

Mr. Reid: Since the alignment is directly up the fall-line, most of it will stone, but we will strive to reduce the costs wherever possible. Since a fair amount of people use the fall line route already and we have had a few complaints regarding bikers' speeds, I think this would get a fair bit of use and could provide a good alternative to the switchbacks.

Mr. Kuhn: Budget-wise, we could use some of the Golden Horseshoe trail budget since we won't be able to do any work there until USFS Travel Management Plan is approved in August. Staff thinks there should be money left over from trails budget to do work.

Mr. Yule: When would we construct this potential staircase?

Mr. Reid: Probably later in summer or even in the fall, which is typically dry.

Mr. Carlson: I would like to see some diversion off one switchback to dissuade riders from jumping onto the stone steps.

Mr. O'Neil: What about running trail all the way to the ditch? I am in favor of taking the trail all the way to the ditch (Hermit Placer Trail).

BOSAC unanimously approved the trail project and recommended staff pursue constructing the trail up to the ditch with a flat bench area with seating.

Breckenridge Ski Area Bridge Discussion

Mr. Reid provided the background on the Peaks Connect trail and the goal of rerouting traffic from Cucumber Gulch. The Peaks Connect trail is intended to provide another way to get to Town from Peaks Trail. The biggest missing piece is getting folks across alpine slide/coaster area. This was related to the approval of gondola summer operations.

Mr. Shimanowitz: BOSAC expressed a concern with running gondola and having people ride back through Cucumber Gulch. The trail we constructed last year is mostly completed except for bridge across the alpine slide. We have done some research and found that there are some issues with it. Given our constraints, the bridge could be 160 feet long and cost \$80,000. This is much more than we anticipated.

Mr. Zimmerman: There are a few constraints for which we need to account. The state tramway board requires at least 13 feet of clearance below 5 chair. We also need safety zone above alpine slide of 8 feet and 8 feet on either side of the coaster for a safety zone. The height of the bridge would also require a 42 inch railing. The most optimal location we have found would require a clear span of 40 feet. Staying lower and crossing at coaster base is difficult because there is no room and the route would conflict with pedestrians accessing the coaster. Crossing coaster would be very costly. The best option would be to come down to base, dismount through base area, and then climb to Trygve's.

Mr. Carlson: The four-way intersection could be mitigated.

Mr. Yule: Divulged that he works for ski area and will not speak if BOSAC is not comfortable. BOSAC unanimously approved Mr. Yule's input on this topic. Look at the newly realigned trail - Swinger's Switchbacks. Maybe after Ski Watch you provide two options: take Ski Hill Road down to Town or do some climbing) and above alpine slide and contour over to the coaster underpass.

Mr. Zimmerman: The Kid's Castle will be going away in the future as part of the building 804 construction. So, this may present some opportunity for improving the crossing.

Mr. O'Neil: We need a site visit to look at this topic.

Mr. Carlson: I agree.

Mr. Truckey: What about a forced dismount at the four-way intersection? Or a chicane would also help reduce conflict.

Mr. Grail: The land where the bridge may cross the alpine slide is on the National Forest, so the new trail and bridge would have to go through NEPA analysis and would not happen this year.

Mr. Grosshuesch: What about a steady climb from the Peaks Trailhead or Peak 7 area that is more gradual to get above the alpine slide? Would that be helpful?

Mr. Yule: We need better signage for trail users to direct them, to help them avoid Cucumber Gulch.

Mr. Shimanowitz: We are working to improve all of our signs, so we are willing to fabricate and install the signs to help with that effort. Mr. Kuhn: In the short term, can Scott Reid work with ski area to get signage done by the July 4th weekend?

Ms. Hunter: How about site visit next week instead of letting summer slip away? BOSAC agreed to meet at 5:30pm at the Peaks Trailhead on 6/27/11 on bikes to evaluate the site.

Mr. Kuhn: Is there a better location for Peaks Trailhead?

Ms. Grail: We have been looking at alternative locations, but for now, the ski area will be enforcing parking there more stringently.

Mr. Cospolich: What about re-opening the trail access into the Gulch near the sediment pond and closing more sensitive Peaks trailhead area?

Ms. Grail agreed to will check with the District Ranger about Peter's approval to construct a trail connect from Peak 7 to the top of the alpine slide.

Mr. Yule: What about pursuing the option of a trail/bridge crossing farther up the hill?

Mr. Kuhn: We can look at that option also in field.

Mr. Reid: Please prepare for a longer site visit on July 18 (next BOSAC meeting) to look at the Great Ditch. It will likely start at 3 pm to give us enough time to examine the ditch.

Other comments:

Mr. Carlson: Regarding the Peak 6 expansion EIS: should BOSAC be discussing since some issues affect Gulch? Peak 6 provides wildlife connection to Gulch and the corridor coming down is last undeveloped connection to Gulch. By developing new ski runs, wildlife will be impacted. Also, water may be redirected away from the Gulch via the ski area expansion.

Mr. Grosshuesch: Staff is reviewing the DEIS and Town Council is taking lead. We could relay BOSAC comments to Council, or you could attend the public meetings and make public comments there as well.

Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on July 18, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road). A site visit to the Breckenridge Ski Resort is scheduled for 5:30 pm on 6/27 at the Peaks Trailhead on mountain bikes.

Mr. O'Neil motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Yule seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Dennis Kuhn, Chair