

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the May 20, 2013 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:34 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Ben Brewer, Chris Tennal, Craig Campbell and Jeffery Bergeron. Staff members present were Mark Truckey, Scott Reid, and Chris Kulick. Jeff Lifgren from the Breckenridge Ski Area and Brian Lorch and Katie Kent from Summit County Open Space were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

An executive session was added to the agenda. The Environmental Art Installations agenda item was continued until the June 17th meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

McCain Master Plan

As discussed at the April 8th BOSAC meeting, Town staff has been working with Council to complete a Master Plan for the McCain property. As BOSAC recalls, the majority of the 126-acre parcel was purchased by the Town in 2003 for \$1.1 million. 30% of the purchase price was drawn from the open space fund, with the understanding that the Blue River corridor through the site would be protected for open space purposes.

Since the April BOSAC meeting, Council has directed staff to remove the commercial and service commercial land use designations from the property, protect the Blue River corridor as open space, and use the remaining portion of the property for governmental uses, including open space, snow stacking, water treatment infrastructure, reservoir/water storage, solar garden, parking, and public works storage. (Please see the attached map.)

At its May 7th meeting, the Town Planning Commission agreed with Council's direction and approved the McCain Master Plan as proposed. At its May 14th meeting, Council verified its intent and Planning Commission's decision by finalizing the McCain Master Plan as presented. Staff will update BOSAC as the Master Plan is implemented.

Mr. Campbell – Have we considered re-routing the bike path to run along the river corridor? (Staff – We have discussed this concept at staff level but we are still in the master planning phase and haven't gotten to specific programming yet.)

Moonstone Forest Health Project

The forest health project tree removal work on the Moonstone parcel will begin as soon as weather conditions allow. As previously discussed by BOSAC, the goal of the project is fuels reduction and an overall improvement in the forest stand health (age class and species diversity). Portions of the Moonstone Trail will be closed to protect the public from the logging operation. Staff will keep BOSAC informed of any progress on this project.

Golden Horseshoe County Road Management

Heeding BOSAC's direction from its April meeting, Town Council and Mayor Warner recently submitted a letter to the Board of County Commissioners requesting a policy change to restrict winter motorized use on three County roads designated for winter non motorized use in the Golden Horseshoe recommendations and

U.S. Forest Service travel management plan. Staff will update BOSAC on this issue once Summit County staff has an opportunity to respond to the request.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails Dates

The Friends of Breckenridge Trails volunteer event schedule can be located on the Town website. The first event is a June 1st tree planting in partnership with the Bristlecone Legacy Forest program. Please join us to help reforest the Barney Ford open space with native tree seedlings.

Open Space and Trails

Election of BOSAC officers

To conform with Town meeting protocol, BOSAC held a yearly officers election. Jeff Cospolich was elected Chair and Jeff Carlson was elected Vice-Chair.

Breckenridge Ski Area Trail Proposal

Jeff Lifgren presented the Breckenridge Ski Area summer trail concept to BOSAC. The plan, which has been proposed to the U.S. Forest Service for NEPA review, potentially includes new singletrack trails on both Peaks 7 and 8, and the BOSAC-requested trail between the Peaks Trail and the ski area/Town trail connections. This summer, the ski area anticipates building a new beginner/ intermediate flow trail adjacent to Tryve's Run within the Town limits.

Mr. Cospolich - Will the Trygve's flow trail be downhill only? (Mr. Lifgren – Yes).

Mr. Cospolich - Will there be a re-route around the halfpipe this summer on the Pioneer Trail? (Mr. Lifgren – No, riders will have to cross the snow.)

Mr. Bergeron – Are any improvements to the existing ski area trails planned? (Mr. Lifgren - Yes, the ski area's trail system wasn't originally built to recommended standards. Through this concept we are trying to improve the sustainability of other trails and bring them up to the Town's recommended standards.)

Mr. Reid - What is the big picture with future trails at the ski area? (Mr. Lifgren – USFS is looking for ski areas to enhance summer offerings. Many new amenities are being considered from expanded and improved trails to zip lines.)

Mr. Cospolich – What is the ski area's plan to route users from the Peaks Trail through the ski area to Four O'Clock, avoiding Cucumber Gulch? (Mr. Lifgren – Jeff Zimmerman is currently working on the reroute concept.)

Mr. Brewer - Completing the Peaks connect is really important to me and needs to be a priority for the ski resort. I am supportive of tonight's proposal. (Jeff Lifgren – We have long-term plans to address the lack of trail connectivity on the west side of Town.)

Mr. Tennal – Improving the connectivity of the area and avoiding the base will lead to an improved user experience. Is there any speed control proposed for the beginner flow trail? (Mr. Lifgren – We have never considered speed limits at any of our other resorts but what we are proposing at Breck is unique because we are going after the family-friendly market as opposed to other areas that are going after the freeride demographic.)

Mr. Campbell – The proposed flow trail is great for family crowd but I would suggest you look at freeride as well.

BOSAC unanimously supported the proposed trail addition along Trygve's.

Hoosier Pass Recpath Update

Town & Summit County Staff presented the latest information on the Hoosier Pass Recpath planning process. As previously discussed, Summit County Government received a State Trails planning grant to develop a feasibility study for the Hoosier Pass Recpath. The County hired Belt Collins, a planning consultant from Boulder, to analyze the potential for a recpath alignment between Breckenridge and Alma. County staff and the consultants have hosted multiple stakeholder meetings and public open houses to evaluate the recpath concept. The final draft of the consultant's feasibility report can be found on the County website.

The Town Trails Plan, approved by both BOSAC and Town Council in 2009, identifies the Hoosier Pass Recpath as a priority to be evaluated and pursued. The Town has also contributed \$3,000 (50/50 cash and in-kind) to the County's grant and feasibility study.

Mr. Brewer - Why is the widened shoulder option so much more expensive than the separated path? (Mr. Lorch – Widening shoulders is essentially creating a three lane road, as compared to developing a 12' bike path.)

Mr. Brewer – What happened to the idea of using county roads on the Park County side? (Ms. Kent – Park County is not pursuing that option at this time for cost reasons.)

Mr. Bergeron – Is the Town of Blue River on Board with the proposed bike path? (Ms. Kent – They are supportive and currently developing a community wide master plan.)

Mr. Campbell - Do those numbers account for any landscaping? (Mr. Lorch – Those numbers are estimates only and likely do not include a full landscaping plan.)

Mr. Tennial – Do we have economic data for how this could impact Park County. (Staff – We do not.)

Breckenridge Heritage Alliance Golden Horseshoe Interpretive Sign Proposal

Recently, the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance (BHA) approached the Golden Horseshoe Oversight Committee, with representatives from the Town, County, and USFS, with a proposal to install additional interpretive signs in the Golden Horseshoe. Rick Hague presented BHA's proposal outlining the sign locations, content and design specifications. As described in the Golden Horseshoe Management Plan, the Town, County and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as land management agencies support the concept of historical interpretation to enhance visitors' experiences and offer location-based interpretation that also promotes historical resource protection goals. The eight existing interpretive signs in French Gulch are an example of successful interpretative sites on joint County/Town open space.

Mr. Bergeron - I'm concerned with the sign on the Flume blocking travel. (Staff – The sign has to be at least 4' off of the existing tread; we believe this will not impede travel on the Flume Trail.)

Mr. Hague - The more you know about a site the less likely you are to vandalize something.

Mr. Cospolich – How far out in the backcountry will these signs go? (Mr. Hague - All of the signs are in the front country.)

Mr. Tennial – How will you learn about these signs? (Staff – Tours, Maps, random discovery, welcome center, etc.)

Mr. Campbell – Will schools tour any of these sites? (Mr. Brewer – All 5th grade students tour historic sites in the County.)

BOSAC unanimously supported the BHA sign proposal.

Peaks Trailhead Management

Town open space staff, along with staff from Summit County Government and the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR), recently attended a meeting organized by the USFS to discuss management strategies for the Peaks Trailhead. Management of the Peaks Trailhead is unique because it is located on National Forest lands adjacent to the Peak 7 base area of the BSR, and straddles the jurisdictional boundary between the Town of Breckenridge and unincorporated Summit County.

For years, all three entities have struggled with management of the popular trailhead and management issues have only increased as the Peak 7 base area has developed and nordic skiers, BSR customers, employees, and guests at Peak 7 lodging properties compete with backcountry users for limited trailhead parking. Once all of the trailhead parking spots are occupied, vehicles tend to park illegally along the County road, occasionally resulting in parking tickets.

During the internal meeting, three potential management approaches related to the Peaks Trailhead were discussed. Specifically:

1. **Relocating the Trailhead and Increasing Parking Capacity** – Town staff proposed a conceptual plan to relocate the trailhead approximately one half-mile north of the existing trailhead, to provide a geographical barrier from the competing Peak 7 base area uses. The concept involved using National Forest lands to create a new trailhead and trail connection to the Peaks Trail and a potential increase in the number of parking spaces.
2. **Eliminating Vehicle Parking** – Another concept explored during the meeting was eliminating Peaks Trailhead parking during the winter season, when the challenges are most acute. Unlike most other trailheads in the area, the Peaks Trailhead is in close proximity to the BreckConnect gondola and regular bus service.
3. **Maintaining the Current Management Strategy** – The third concept discussed was the status quo: leaving the existing trailhead configuration and managing the site to preclude employee parking. This concept included enhancing public education so that users are aware of the limited parking availability, stressing backcountry access as the intent of the trailhead, and marketing the availability of free public transportation alternatives.

Ultimately, because the Peaks Trailhead is located on National Forest lands, management of the Peaks Trailhead is at the sole discretion of the USFS. However, Town staff appreciated the opportunity to provide input to USFS staff. After discussing the three approaches, USFS staff indicated relocating the trailhead was infeasible at this time for several reasons, including: cost, necessary environmental review, and a backlog of other pressing projects requiring NEPA review. Maintaining the existing trailhead configuration was identified as the preferred option at this time for several reasons, most notably because it does not increase staff resources and it is politically more palatable than eliminating winter parking altogether.

Staff sought BOSAC's input on this issue and will continue to work with the USFS, Summit County Government and BSR on this matter and update BOSAC as new details unfold.

Mr. Bergeron – The Ski Resort and Grand Lodge need to be more accountable in managing this trailhead. I suggest they hire a staff person to police the parking lot.

Mr. Tennial – I'm concerned about limited capacity at many of the other trailheads around Breckenridge and the limited capacity discouraging visitors.

Mr. Brewer - Our best short-term solution to prevent non-backcountry users from using the limited parking at the Peak's Trail is better signage.

Mr. Cospolich - Is this really a problem? Or is it a problem to 15 people, of which 10 are intimately involved with local government?

Executive Session

Mr. Brewer – Motioned to move into executive session at 7:30 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations. Mr. Tennal seconded the motion.

Mr. Bergeron – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:25 pm. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, June 17, 2013, in the Administrative Conference Room at the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road).

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair