

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the January 20, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jeff Carlson, Jeffery Bergeron and Craig Campbell. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, and Chris Kulick. Jeff Zimmerman from the Breckenridge Ski Resort was also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

The Ranch at Breckenridge Referral

At BOSAC and Town Council's direction, staff recently submitted comments to Summit County regarding the Ranch at Breckenridge development proposal. Since that time, Summit County planning staff has compiled referrals from multiple agencies and provided those comments to the applicant. Town staff also met with applicant and County representatives to clearly articulate the Town's expressed concerns. Staff will continue to communicate with the County staff and the applicant, and convey any pertinent decisions to BOSAC.

Mr. Cospolich – Can you explain how the referral process works? (Mr. Reid – It is a process through which different agencies or entities can comment on a proposal to a given agency. Typically, we respond to referrals from the Summit County Planning Department, the U.S. Forest Service and a few others on which we are referred. The referral process allows entities to solicit receive comments for consideration prior to the decision forum (e.g. Planning Commission). The comments can then be integrated with a response in the agency's staff report.)

USFS - Swan River Restoration and Colorado Chair Upgrade Referrals

Staff recently received referrals from the U.S. Forest Service regarding the Swan River Restoration project and the proposed upgrade of the Colorado Super Chair from a quad to a six-person chair. Jeff Zimmerman from the Breckenridge Ski Resort was in attendance to answer questions regarding the proposal.

The Town is a supporter and planning partner in the Swan River Restoration project, a portion of which was completed in 2013. The Colorado Super Chair upgrade is anticipated to retain the existing lift footprint, but some excavation and tree clearing will be required. As BOSAC has previously discussed, the Boreas Creek inlets beneath the Colorado Super Chair direct water to the 60-inch culvert that exits at the top of Upper Cucumber Gulch. Erosion control measures and monitoring will prevent additional sediment deposition in Cucumber Gulch. Also, staff continues to seek a base area plan from the ski area that better defines seasonal activities, including the summer fun park improvements, and the winter activities such as lift maze configurations, entertainment stage, circulation, etc. This lift upgrade referral is an opportune time for the ski area to complete a final base area plan.

Mr. Cospolich – How many trees will you have to cut? (Mr. Zimmerman – We will only cut trees if the Colorado Tramway Board requires it. We may have to replace the majority of the towers and footers to install the new lift.)

Mr. Cospolich – Any ideas for crowd control on the mountain since the installation of a six person chair will increase uphill capacity? (Mr. Zimmerman – Uphill capacity will increase from 2,800 to 3,400 an hour and we will continue manage skier traffic with the same methods we employ currently. We're confident that the increased downhill skier capacity can be effectively and safely managed.)

Mr. Campbell – Any plans for sediment mitigation with this project? (Mr. Zimmerman – Sediment mitigation will mainly comprise of reseeded and erosion control since the footprint of the footers is only 6x6. We will use a spider hoe and helicopters for removal and installation of the lift towers. We would like to reuse as much of the terminal concrete as possible. There will be no real changes in mountain drainage as part of this project.)

Mr. Campbell – What will happen with the old Colorado Chair? (Mr. Zimmerman – It may be scrapped or resold. The chairs are just a couple years old and will be repurposed at the Beaver Run Chair.)

Mr. Bergeron – How much helicopter traffic will be required for this project compared to Peak 6? (Mr. Zimmerman – Significantly less than Peak 6; all concrete will be poured over two days and towers installed over one day, at most ten days. Helicopter time is expensive it is in our best interest to minimize helicopter time with any project.)

Mr. Cospolich – Any plans for the replacement of 6 or C Chair? (Mr. Zimmerman – Most likely not anytime soon, but we do have approval from the Forest Service to replace those.)

Mr. Grosshuesch – Did you inspect the on-mountain detention ponds this summer to see how they were performing. (Mr. Zimmerman – We did not but plan to inspect them next year.)

Staff requested BOSAC provide any comments regarding these two referrals in advance of the February 5th comment deadline.

Cucumber Gulch Research

The 2013 Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring report will be presented to BOSAC at its February meeting. Next month's discussion will focus on the results of the 2013 monitoring program and the design of the 2014 monitoring program. Staff has solicited and received a proposal from Claffey Environmental to document and eradicate reed canary grass in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Staff plans to evaluate the proposal and provide it to BOSAC at the February meeting.

Mountain Lion Press Release

Staff recently received a confirmed report of a mountain lion in the area of Cucumber Gulch. A recent press release communicated this information to the public. Staff is working to educate the Breckenridge Nordic Center staff about appropriate precautions in mountain lion territory, to post informational signs at area trail access points, and to offer a mountain lion safety presentation by the local Colorado Parks and Wildlife manager.

BOSAC Meeting Location

Due to the ongoing Town Hall remodel, BOSAC meetings for the next several months will be held upstairs at the Stephen C. West Ice Arena. Please plan to attend BOSAC meetings from February 2014 through July 2014 at the Stephen C. West Ice Arena.

Open Space

2014 State of the Open Space

Staff presented a revised, 2014 version of the State of the Open Space report. Staff updated several statistics in the report to reflect progress made over the past year.

Mr. Cospolich – What is the parcel just to the west of the North Gondola lot, I believe it is mislabeled as “school property”. (Mr. Kulick – You are correct that is a wetland parcel and should be labeled “other”. We will make that correction prior to releasing the report to the public.)

BOSAC was supportive of the State of the Open Space report and recommended distributing the report to a wider audience through contacting the local paper and the use of social media.

Indiana Gulch and Pennsylvania Gulch Trailheads

Staff was recently notified about access challenges at the Indiana Gulch Trailhead in Spruce Valley Ranch, within Town of Blue River jurisdiction. According to citizen complaints, cars parked at the Indiana Gulch Trailhead have received notices threatening towing if the vehicles are not removed from the site. At a recent Blue River Town Trustee meeting, several citizens commented on the trailhead issue. The trailhead is on private Spruce Valley Ranch homeowner's association property, and is not managed by the Town of Blue River. The Blue River Town Trustees agreed to evaluate the issue further and meet with Summit County and Spruce Valley Ranch representatives to seek potential solutions to this recreational access issue.

Also, as part of the Blue River Town Trustees' public hearing, access issues surrounding Pennsylvania Gulch were discussed. As BOSAC is aware, the Town and County jointly acquired the Royal Placer in 2010. The parcel is within Town of Blue River jurisdiction and use of the Pennsylvania Gulch Road is subject to the USFS Travel Management Plan, which prohibits winter motorized use. However, despite a USFS request to install a gate on the Royal Placer, any winter motorized closure on the public open space would have to be coordinated with the Town of Blue River.

Summit County staff is scheduled to meet with Town of Blue River elected officials to discuss both of these access-related issues.

Mr. Truckey – The HOA in general is not against recreational usage but a few individual homeowners have taken it upon themselves to discourage trail use.

Mr. Bergeron – Town of Blue River representatives do not want to enforce this closure and have been really sympathetic to the trail users.

Mr. Grosshuesch – In general, the Spruce Valley Ranch HOA representatives stated that they are not against the trailhead per se. They stated that they are concerned about dog waste, trash, fire equipment access and private property rights.

Mr. Campbell – When was the Travel Management Plan adopted? (Mr. Reid – 2010, with 15+ years of public process.)

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, February 17, 2014, at the Stephen C. West Ice Arena (189 Boreas Pass Road).

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair