

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the March 17, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Chris Tennal, Ben Brewer, Jeff Carlson, Jeffrey Bergeron and Craig Campbell. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Chris Kulick. Town Council candidate Elisabeth Lawrence was also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

North Main Street Park Plan

At its March 11th meeting, Town Council reviewed the draft site plan for the North Main Street Park. Council directed staff to proceed with the construction documents and implementation of the site plan presented. Once a final design is developed, construction will occur this spring/summer.

Breckenridge Nordic Center Facility Use Request

At its February 25th meeting, Town Council discussed BOSAC's recommendations regarding the Breckenridge Nordic Center facility use request. Council approved the additional use of the facility by the Daytons and approved the majority of BOSAC's recommended conditions. However, Council did not include BOSAC's suggestion to post a docent for the duration of every event. The Nordic Center approval requires an annual renewal, which offers Town Council a chance to determine whether additional conditions are necessary in the future.

Mr. Tennal – Did Council put a cap on the number of attendees to an event? (Mr. Reid – The cap is established by building and fire codes.)

Mr. Bergeron – Why did the Council choose to not require a docent present at non-winter events? (Mr. Reid – The council did not want to initially burden the operators with so many additional requirements since the permit will be reviewed annually. If there are issues at the end of duration of the permit, additional conditions could be placed on the renewal.)

USFS Referral: Breckenridge Ski Resort Master Development Plan Addendum

Attached, please find the referral letter submitted by Town Council to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding Breckenridge Ski Resort's [project proposal](#) under its 2013 Master Development Plan Addendum. The content of the scoping letter was generated via the February BOSAC meeting discussion, a USFS site visit, a public open house, and Council direction from March 11th. Based on the comments submitted by the Town and others, the USFS will fulfill its research requirements, release a draft EIS document in the coming year, and solicit public comment once more. Staff will keep BOSAC informed of the next steps for this proposal.

Mr. Campbell – Staff's letter didn't elaborate on the lake at the base of the Lake Chutes. I would imagine the pond is critical to wildlife. (Mr. Reid – You are correct that the Town's letter did not address access to the pond but it did state a concern about above timberline recreation.)

Mr. Bergeron – I thought the scoping period was too early in the season to have individuals understand the landscape and potential ground disturbance, with all of the current snow.

Repath Mile Markers

Recently, Summit Biking, Inc. (a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance recreational bicycling opportunities in Summit County) contacted both the Town and Summit County seeking projects to potentially fund to improve the repath system. The Town and County staffs worked to develop a proposal to add repath mile markers for the entire repath system including the Blue River section within Breckenridge's jurisdiction. Generally, Carsonite mile markers and several map kiosks would be installed along the repath system to improve visitor wayfinding and distance calculations. Staff wanted to make BOSAC aware of the concept. More details will be made available as the project develops.

Open Space

2013 State of the Habitat Report- Cucumber Gulch

Following BOSAC's February review of the 2013 Cucumber Gulch monitoring program, staff requested EcoMetrics provide a FACwet status update for the overall Preserve. Staff presented a report provided by EcoMetrics that evaluates the wetland health of Cucumber Gulch and compares it to the 2011 baseline. In general, recent management and restoration efforts undertaken in Cucumber Gulch have achieved overall wetland habitat protection goals and the increasing presence of beavers in upper Cucumber bodes well for long-term wetland health. However, factors remain over which the Town has limited control (e.g. buffer capacity, habitat connectivity).

Mr. Bergeron – Is there anything we can do to increase buffer. (Mr. Reid – For the most part, the development pattern is set and Ski Hill Road is the buffer. There is very little we can do to change the buffer.)

Mr. Campbell – Should we consider reintroducing the Boreal Toad to the Gulch? (Mr. Reid – Now that we have improved hydrology we could consider a future reintroduction. A reintroduction program is contemplated in the Cucumber Gulch Management Plan. Now that the water flow has been mostly addressed, I would think we could consider reintroduction as a possibility.)

Mr. Tennal – Are there actionable items that are part of this updated report? (Mr. Reid – The original report provided actionable items, which resulted in the wetland restoration work over the past few years. Regarding actionable items, this report simply directed us to strive to address externally-generated impacts, including the water volumes and sediment flows through the 60" pipe and native revegetation efforts on the ski slopes.)

Mr. Brewer – I think it's important to continue to benchmark our progress in Cucumber Gulch with this type of report.

Mr. Cospolich – Will this report be presented to Council? (Mr. Brewer – I think it is important to present this information to Council.)

2014 Cucumber Gulch Preserve Research Plan

In 2014, the Town open space program will continue its ongoing Cucumber Gulch Preserve monitoring program, with particular focus on evaluating the upper Cucumber Gulch restoration efforts as mandated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Annually, staff evaluates all Cucumber research elements and works with consultants to develop the yearly research plan. The 2014 research program was presented for BOSAC's review.

As a consultant, EcoMetrics' measures and documents water flow, water quality, sediment disposition, and other wetland-related issues. EcoMetrics' 2014 research proposal mimics the 2013 budget with cost reductions to reflect 2013 actual expenses.

Emerald Planet and Dr. Christy Carello evaluate and document wildlife indicator species and wildlife habitat variables within the Preserve. Dr. Carello's attached 2014 research proposal is similar to the 2013 plan, but adds a comprehensive vegetation survey and the more rigorous docent program as requested by BOSAC in September 2013. The attached budget doubles the docent coverage, to be focused during the Cucumber Gulch trail closure timeframe (until July 7, 2014, the first Monday after July 4th). The comprehensive vegetation survey was once an annual evaluation that recently shifted to a three-year cycle. Dr. Carello recommends the vegetation survey in 2014 to establish a new vegetative baseline following completion of the wetland restoration work.

Based on previous BOSAC and consultant direction, staff has redoubled efforts to eradicate noxious weeds within Cucumber Gulch without the use of herbicides. In 2014, staff will hire contract labor to continue ongoing weed removal efforts targeting known locations (e.g. upper Cucumber, gondola corridor, Josie's cabin) and existing, notorious non-native species (e.g. yellow toadflax, Canada thistle, false chamomile). However, a growing reed canary grass infestation in Cucumber Gulch prompted staff to solicit a new proposal from Claffey Ecological Consulting to eradicate reed canary grass without using herbicides. The proposal, involves a persistent removal and reseeding effort over six years and a research effort to map, document, and verify removal methodology for the invasive species. The design, mapping, and project management costs decline over the six year timeframe, but involve significant labor costs for manual weed removal. Total project costs are outlined in the attached proposal. BOSAC should be aware that the \$5,000 research costs listed below accompany a \$7,500 labor expense covered elsewhere in the budget.

Based on the attached proposals, the total Cucumber-related 2014 research program costs are as follows:

EcoMetrics	\$44,060
Emerald Planet/Carello	\$37,151
Claffey Ecological/reed canary grass	<u>\$5,000</u>
2014 Cucumber proposal budget	\$86,211

Together, the cost of the three Cucumber-related research proposals exceeds the current \$80,000 Cucumber monitoring budget outlined in the 2014 open space budget by \$6,211. This cost increase is prompted by the vegetation survey, doubled docent coverage, and the reed canary grass eradication project. Staff seeks BOSAC's review of these proposals and a recommendation

regarding this year's projects and budget. Any excess monitoring costs would have to be made up from cost savings in a different part of the open space budget.

Mr. Bergeron – Should we consider approaching the Ski Resort and Grand Lodge to contribute to the ongoing monitoring of the Gulch? (Mr. Grosshuesch – Let's discuss this a bit further before approaching them.)

Mr. Campbell – What will the vegetation research information allow us to do other than understand if we are losing a battle against weeds? (Mr. Grosshuesch – It allows us to understand how effective we have been over time at eradicating weeds and if we should allocate additional funds for eradication. It also shows vegetation trends over time, and whether we should be concerned about habitat changes.)

Mr. Reid – Dr. Christy Carello also believes that this is an opportune time to reestablish a vegetative baseline, with the completion of the wetland and channel restoration. Recording a vegetation baseline now will show any future changes due to the new hydrological flows.

Mr. Brewer – Are we tracking the beaver population? I think we should. (Mr. Reid – Population and lodge counts occurred in 2013 and are proposed 2014 as well.)

Mr. Cospolich – Did reed canary grass spread because of the blow out of the dams and drying of the wetlands? (Mr. Reid – Reed canary grass thrives with the introduction of phosphates and nitrates. It is possible that elevated levels of phosphates and nitrates in the Preserve are due to the introduction of upstream fertilizers.)

Mr. Cospolich – I would like to see the monitoring budget decreased over time if possible. \$80,000 is a lot to swallow year after year even if it is good information.

BOSAC unanimously supported the 2014 monitoring program as outlined above. It is assumed that the excess \$6,211 will be covered within the open space budget without a budget amendment.

Wellington Trail Project

As briefly discussed in February, staff requested a license agreement from Xcel/Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) to cross a portion of the substation property on Wellington Road and construct a new singletrack trail from the junction of Wellington Road/Campion Trail to the beginning of the Wellington Trail, near the Town stables. Staff commissioned a survey to locate the proposed trail across the PSCo parcel. The remainder of the trail would be on Town open space property. If approved by PSCo, the requested license agreement would allow staff to pursue construction of a trail to bypass a portion of Wellington Road, provide an interpretive opportunity for the Reliance Dredge site, and better connect Town neighborhoods to the larger Golden Horseshoe/French Gulch trail network.

Mr. Cospolich – Will there be any parking or trailhead? (Mr. Reid – There will not be any parking. It will be a direct access trail like the majority of other trails around Town.)

Mr. Tennal – Where is the closest connecting trail? (Mr. Reid – Corkscrew and Vista Point Trails will be the closest connecting trails.)

Mr. Cospolich – How long is the trail? (Mr. Reid – approximately 3,000 feet.)

Pump Track Relocation

Staff has been asked to evaluate the possibility of relocating the pump track facility adjacent to the Stephen C. West Ice Arena parking area to allow for a potential parking lot expansion. Staff suggests a replacement pump track that would require approximately ½ acre of flat land, ideally with some access to water to assist with construction and maintenance.

Additionally staff suggests hiring a contractor to complete the relocation work. With a contractor, the upfront cost would be higher, but would also allow the Town trail crew to focus on other maintenance needs while the pump track gets reconstructed.

Mr. Kulick – The current pump track is well used by families and an excellent gateway to introduce biking skills to young kids.

Mr. Campbell – I agree with Kulick and recommend locating a replacement pump track near beginner trails to aid in skills development.

Mr. Tennal – I'm in support of the pump track concept but not sure it fits within the BOSAC purview. If we do manage it, we should make it blend in with the surrounding environment and appear more natural.

Mr. Cospolich – All bike friendly communities and cycling destinations have a well-designed pump track. It is very important to have a pump track in this community if we are serious about catering to cyclists.

Mr. Bergeron – I prefer the Stilson location. It is an important community asset that is very friendly to low level cyclists.

Mr. Carlson – I strongly support the pump track. Stilson is the best location and we should hire a contractor that specializes in designing pump track facilities.

Mr. Campbell – The pump track is an essential recreational amenity for the community. Stilson is a great location relative to our local population base. Let's do it right and make it look good by hiring a professional contractor.

Mr. Brewer – I strongly support a pump track and Stilson is our best option.

BOSAC recommended relocating the pump track to the Stilson property, if relocation is required by the parking lot expansion. Most BOSAC members also felt it would be good to hire a professional to design and build the pump track.

Trails Open House

This year, staff plans to host a trails open house in conjunction with the May or June BOSAC meeting. The goal of the open house would be to share with the general public the trail projects that the Town, County and USFS have planned for the next few years, and answer any public questions or comments regarding trail priorities and goals. We would like to invite County and USFS representatives to provide a broad vision for the trail work to be performed this summer and in the coming years. The timing of the open house just before the summer trail season will also provide an opportunity to educate the public on avoiding muddy trails.

Mr. Reid – Summit County Open Space is interested in doing a joint meeting and open house.

Mr. Brewer – We should invite other trail based organizations to participate in an open house, such as the Summit Fat Tire Society and FDRD.

BOSAC members unanimously supported the concept of a trails open house in conjunction with Summit County and other trail partners.

BOSAC Retreat

2012's BOSAC retreat to Aspen proved informative for both staff and open space commissioners. This year, staff seeks BOSAC's direction to determine what specific issues should be highlighted during a potential retreat. Also, based on the site visit objectives, what potential locations would be most useful to visit? The focus on trail/trailhead management continues to be a pertinent issue for BOSAC and staff, but staff seeks additional input from BOSAC regarding overall retreat goals.

Mr. Grosshuesch – Some potential topics to learn more about through a retreat are joint management partnerships between towns and counties and overall management issues.

Mr. Cospolich – I think we should consider Golden/JeffCo because of the maturity and size of their program.

Mr. Carlson – I would like to visit a place that has some co-management with Town/ County/ USFS.

Mr. Brewer – What about a retreat to Park City, UT? (Mr. Reid – Park City would be a good option if we could figure out the expenses. They have a very extensive trail network and development exaction approach. Also, the IMBA conference this year is in Steamboat Springs, which is another good example and opportunity for BOSAC members to learn about other communities and their open space approaches.)

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, April 21, 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 8:13 p.m.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair