

Roll Call

Matt Stais called the October 13, 2008 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included David Rossi, Ellen Hollinshead, Jeff Cospolich, Dennis Kuhn and Monique Merrill. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Peter Grosshuesch. Brian Lorch from Summit County was also present, as was OSAC member Art Girten and acquisition specialist Turk Montepare. Linda Kay Peterson and Rick Hague with the Breckenridge Heritage Alliance were also in the audience.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with one minor change: Mr. Reid will change the cost figure for the 2009 French Gulch trail construction cost from \$3000 to \$40,000, based on the cost of three bridge structures and VOC work.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Public Comments

Art Girten requested that BOSAC write a letter of support for referendum 1A. He stated that he has been surprised by some of the local opposition to the measure.

Mr. Rossi: Council will entertain a resolution on 10/14 to support the measure.

Ms. Andersen: Tim Gagen agreed that it was fine if BOSAC agreed to come out in favor of the measure as well.

Mr. Stais: Staff should write a letter in favor of the measure for review by BOSAC to be submitted to the Summit Daily News.

BOSAC agreed unanimously to review and approve a letter of support for Referendum 1A.

Staff Summary

Ms. Andersen updated BOSAC on the experimental pine beetle treatment in the Highlands. ArborJet is testing its product to assess its effectiveness on a Town open space parcel in the Highlands. The site has no real environmental concerns.

Open Space and Trails

French Gulch Historical Signage

Mr. Reid updated BOSAC on the current status of the interpretive sign project and some of the issues relating to the sign locations.

Mr. Hague: Site #6 is an important site to interpret. There is plenty of material to interpret based on historical maps and the site itself.

Ms. Merrill: How do you direct people to these sites? Via your website?

Mr. Hague: We have sort of received a conflicting message from Council. On one hand, they have discouraged us from attracting more cars out there, but they also approved the expenditure for the signs.

Ms. Peterson: Each sign will have 'respect this historical site' language on them. It is part of the message. I have been working with a contractor from the Mineral Belt Trail signage in Leadville. Time is of the essence and we would like to get this project completed this year. We would be happy to have BOSAC and Summit County or others review the text before fabrication.

Mr. Hague: We are OK with moving sign locations as long as it is on the same site. We could also add a thirteenth sign at the Reiling Dredge, as long as it is within the budget. Thirteen signs will be our target if BOSAC approves them and it can be handled within the existing budget.

Ms. Hollinshead: The Reiling Dredge is the centerpiece and should be where the signs should be located. If it fits into the budget, then I would be fine with putting signs everywhere currently located, and at the Dredge, which is the focal point.

Mr. Cospolich: It would be wise to put a trail counter at the Reiling Dredge entrances to assess use.

Mr. Rossi: Please proofread the signs, because there are grammatical errors on the Iowa Hill signs.

Nature/Nordic Center

Ms. Andersen: Allen Guerra Architects will not be able to present on the Nature/Nordic Center. The big question is whether or not the programming should be done now, with changes to LEED and the Town's goals. They are willing to take this on at a later date, when the Town is ready to move ahead with construction.

Mr. Cospolich: I thought the programming was intended to help define the project.

Mr. Stais: I think it is time to conclude the exercise with a deliverable to put on the shelf for use when Council is ready to proceed. The scope and the schedule are important. It is important to have Council weigh in so that future Councils will have some guidance on the project. We need a document. It is a big issue not so easily solved. The pro bono exercise should be completed with a deliverable. BOSAC is the filter for Council. It should come here first.

Ms. Merrill: This is pro bono work, right? (Yes) I agree with Mr. Stais. We should get what they have to offer.

Mr. Rossi: We should get the deliverable at this point. BOSAC should review this prior to going to Council.

Ms. Andersen: As an FYI, the Recreation Department has recommended no funding for the Nature Series in 2009.

Lower French Gulch Trailhead

Mr. Reid summarized the previous history regarding the proposed trailhead at the bottom of the B&B Trail, including the arguments for and against the trailhead construction.

Ms. Andersen: Also, OSAC has asked why the trailhead they approved has not been constructed yet.

Mr. Lorch: OSAC saw the trailhead as a done deal and were wondering why it was not yet constructed. And if not in that location, where should it go? There is currently parking on the road, which is illegal.

Mr. Rossi: Have any other alternatives been explored? If we need parking, fine. The struggle for me is the master planning of this valley. A component missing is an overall vision of the future. How do we envision people accessing and using the area? I struggle with pin prick projects. We should drive usage the way we want. There has obviously been an increase in use, but it is still hit or miss in terms of use. There is a concern regarding traffic. The parking may cause more traffic. We need a master plan of the valley. I don't like cutting back on the amount of trail we have. I would prefer not to compromise that short trail, even fifty or sixty yards.

Mr. Stais: What are the operational costs of this? Would the County plow this? (That is a plan under a loose handshake deal.) Is there a cost to clean up the area? Signs would also be needed.

Ms. Hollinshead: It is premature to put the lot in because we have not completed the Wellington Trail. It makes more sense to allow access to French Gulch and Gold Run Gulch from the stables, which accesses both of those spots. There have been a few busy days, but not many. It seems to work alright in the winter. More people will park at the Reiling Dredge TH now that it is done. It is too close to the Reiling Dredge TH. I would like to see the spot across from the current pullout plowed. It is nice to ride through the dredge rocks. I like the beginning of that trail.

Mr. Cospolich: I am personally for it in 2009. What bothers me that we don't have the clear threshold of when to move ahead. We should put in a sign from Reiling Dredge TH. I like that the proposed trailhead is visibly removed from the road. I think it is a good improvement. I saw several hundred people pedaling their bikes along French Gulch Road. I don't think it should be lower in the valley. It is a good location. This is best for the overall visitor experience. Wayfinding is a challenge in this valley. Ease of directional verbiage is important.

Mr. Stais: The County makes a good point. They spent money on this too and not all locals can ride from home to these trails. There is some parking now by Little Red. Maybe it makes sense to look at this as a whole, as Mr. Rossi suggests. We should look at other options as well.

Ms. Merrill: That road gets a lot of use by all users. I drive slowly. Shouldn't we educate the vehicle drivers, not the recreationists? Down the road, we may need a parking lot, but I don't see the need yet. You know you are going to run into a lot of recreationists.

Mr. Kuhn: I am in favor of it. I am looking for a place to park. It is easy and minimal cost. It makes good sense. I see a lot of people on that road and in that area. This will capture the lunchtime crowd.

Mr. Rossi: I don't see the vision here. We need to connect the trails from Town. We need to plan better with Country Boy and Severson's property in the mix. I haven't seen it yet. You are shortening an already short trail.

Mr. Montepare: The real issue is the private owners. We can't connect all the way through from Town because of a couple of landowners. We need to provide access. Realistically, people start there now. For the general public, this is where people start. We should not be parking people on the road, which is illegal on a County road. Perhaps you don't need a sign. It would be nice to get people off the road, though.

Ms. Hollinshead: Can't we just work it like it is?

Mr. Lorch: That pull off is snow storage. They are not plowing for us, nor are they likely to plow unless we install a real trailhead.

Ms. Hollinshead: It is a unique part of the trail. Maybe this is a temporary trailhead until the rest of the area is well planned. It is the experience that I like.

Mr. Stais: Let's do it with flexibility in the future. We could plow the berm back in. I would like to move forward with the planning for this to determine the trails in this area. Perhaps at the next meeting, we can better identify parking areas in the valley. Bring a map to the next meeting to discuss the French Gulch valley for the long term solutions. Mr. Yule is in favor of this as well. I would like to put this to a vote.

Mr. Hollinshead: Since Mr. Yule has not benefitted from this discussion, he should be here to listen then vote.

Mr. Stais: Let's return it to the agenda in November for discussion.

Pro Forma

Mr. Truckey provided an overview of the changes included in the pro forma.

Mr. Rossi: Under professional services, why does it jump in 2008? (Pine beetle planning and mitigation efforts.)

Mr. Stais: What are the changes to the audited 2007 numbers versus the anticipated numbers? (Some money that was not spent got rolled over the following year.)

Mr. Kuhn: How would we account for our budget if 1A does not pass? (It will be difficult.)

Mr. Lorch: The open space funding measure could be brought back next year, if the commissioners approve. The budget would definitely be scaled back, though, so that the money could last longer.

Trail Map Distribution

Mr. Reid provided an overview of the trail map costs and potential sources for offsetting the costs to the open space funding, including ads, suggested donations, or charging certain groups for use of the maps. The map will always be posted on line for free access, though.

Mr. Rossi: We need creative ways to cut the costs or find a way to get revenue from the map.

Mr. Grosshuesch: Won't the BRC just get more money from the Town?

Mr. Rossi: Yes, but the open space fund would not bear the brunt of the map production costs.

BOSAC recommended staying the course but to consider ads or charging for the next generation of printed maps.

Executive Session

Mr. Cospolich made a motion at 7:44 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Ms. Merrill seconded the motion. Ms. Merrill motioned to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Cospolich seconded the motion. The session ended at 8:33 p.m.

Commissioner Issues

There were no commissioner issues.

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on November 10, 2008 in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Mr. Cospolich motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Merrill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.