

### **Roll Call**

Jeff Cospolich called the August 18, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:38 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jeffrey Bergeron, Elizabeth Miller, Jeff Carlson and Craig Campbell. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Chris Kulick. Pat McShane, a Breckenridge resident, was also in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as presented.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Staff Summary**

#### **Field Season Update**

Work has continued on multiple summer projects on the 2014 work plan. The following projects have taken place since the previous 7/21 BOSAC meeting:

- Completed Upper Turk's Trail with help from the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and numerous volunteers.
- Assisted contractor with the B-Line Trail extension.
- Constructed portions of the ZL Trail extension, with the assistance of volunteers and the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.
- Initiated repairs on Sallie Barber Road with Summit County.
- Constructed a portion of the Sunrise Point trail.
- Planned and designed new trail projects for the 2014 and 2015 construction seasons (e.g. Aspen Alley, Weber Gulch, Wirepatch, and Mineral Hill).

#### **Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update**

Since BOSAC's prior meeting, two Friends of Breckenridge Trails events have occurred. The first event was our largest volunteer effort of the season, Upper Turk's Trail. As has occurred annually for the last nine years, the Town partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Summit County and was able to complete the 4,000-foot project in two days with the help of 172 volunteers. The second event was our third volunteer day for the ZL Trail project which occurred just after press time for the packet.

We have scheduled one remaining Friends of Breckenridge Trails volunteer event this season, Make a Difference Day on 9/13. Staff strongly encouraged BOSAC members to attend the season's final volunteer date and help complete an important community trail connection.

Mr. Bergeron – When we decommission trails we should keep in mind how it will affect skiing. The recent decommission of Smelly's Hill will necessitate a deep snowpack to ski it.

#### **Rocky Mountain Recreation and Wilderness Preservation Act**

The wilderness bill previously reviewed by BOSAC was presented to Town Council on 8/12 with Council generally supporting the bill.

### **Forest Health Projects Update**

There are two primary forest health projects scheduled for 2014, both of which are currently underway. When completed the Iowa Hill project will remove all MPB-killed trees, deadfall materials, and select living lodgepole pine trees from 8.9 acres of the Iowa Hill site. The larger, joint Golden Horseshoe project with Summit County Government on Gibson Hill and above Summit Estates has commenced. The project's road work is mostly completed; cutting activities should begin soon and are expected to be completed by late fall. Staff will update BOSAC on these projects until they are completed.

### **Open Space Peaks Trail Connection**

As discussed during the July meeting, staff seeks BOSAC's input on the Peaks Trail connection proposed by the Breckenridge Ski Resort under a USFS NEPA process. Following the scheduled BOSAC site visit to the flagged trail alignment, staff sought any direction from BOSAC regarding the trail design.

Mr. Carlson – In general, I like the alignment but feel it will necessitate a very skilled builder to make it a good connection.

Mr. Bergeron – By us endorsing this proposed trail, we are not endorsing the other proposed improvements at the ski area, correct? (Mr. Reid – This is a request by the ski area and USFS to see how this proposed trail alignment looks. BOSAC can endorse this proposed trail without supporting other elements of the ski area's proposal.)

Mr. Cospolich – Can you express the intent of this trail diversion? (Mr. Reid – An alternative trail alignment to bypass Cucumber Gulch was required as a condition for the approval of summer operating hours for the Gondola.)

Mr. Campbell – Is there a need or is it a desire to have an alternative route of the Gulch? (Mr. Reid – Recent studies show the current trail use on Toad Alley has wildlife impacts, at least in a localized area. We have seasonal closures currently. This trail would serve as a bypass during seasonal closures and long-term ensure good trail access between the Peaks Trail and town.)

Mr. Carlson – It would be ideal if dogs were allowed on the proposed alignment through the ski area since no dogs are allowed in the Cucumber Gulch. I spoke with Jeff Zimmerman and Shelly Grail about this point and they seemed receptive.

Ms. Miller – Were other alignments considered? (Mr. Reid – All potential alignments are dictated by control points such as achieving an elevation above the top of the alpine slide. Overall, the ski resort looked at several options that met the required control points and believed the proposed alignment was the best one, given the varied constraints.)

Mr. Cospolich – Signage will be critical to successfully diverting users.

BOSAC endorsed the alignment for the proposed trail.

### **Weber Gulch Hut Environmental Assessment Draft Decision Notice**

After a lengthy planning process, the Weber Gulch Hut Environmental Assessment Draft Decision Notice was delivered to the public on July 25<sup>th</sup>, thereby entering a 45-day appeal period. Appeals to the decision notice must be filed by the end of the appeal period, and can be filed only by groups or individuals that previously commented during the process.

Staff reviewed the Draft Decision Notice and found that the document is generally in agreement with the Town's prior comments and overall support for the project.

Mr. Bergeron – The EA dismissed considering a smaller hut based on financial reasons without taking into account different pricing structures. Also, their information drastically under counted the amount of use Baldy receives (i.e. “1-2 parties of three per day in Baldy Bowl” on pages 3-9 and 3-10 of the EA). (Mr. Reid – Number inaccuracies in background recreational use on Baldy have been discussed previously. We can certainly point it out to the USFS staff again.)

Mr. Grosshuesch – What we really need to know is if BOSAC thinks the overall decision is wrong, based on faulty information or some other reason.

Mr. Bergeron – I don't disagree with the decision, but still feel like the EA numbers for background use are laughably inaccurate. Also, my concern is that during early season and low snow periods people in boots or snowshoes are going to trash the Nightmare on Baldy ski tracks. Hut users will likely be the ones to take off their skis and walk down during low snow periods, which affects the track skiing.

Ms. Miller – What were the main issues the Town highlighted in our previous letter? (Mr. Reid – Trailhead management, better snowmobile prevention efforts on Baldy Road, and hut capacity.)

BOSAC generally favored the decision notice and did not support filing an appeal.

### **Trail Naming**

Staff presented information on the trail naming process and the rationale behind the names of the trails in French Gulch. A high priority is to simplify names as much as possible when naming trails and not introduce many unique names for short sections of trail, which makes wayfinding more difficult. In addition to these basic principles, trails jointly managed between the Town and County require naming approval from both agencies.

Ms. Miller – This proposal to merge the new section with the existing Turk's makes the most sense; it's cleaner.

Mr. Bergeron – I wish we could keep some of the historic names instead of renaming everything. (Mr. Carlson – I agree.)

Mr. Campbell – Keeping it Turk's simplifies the wayfinding.

Mr. Cospolich – I like it as Turk's, it's more straightforward.

### **2015 Budget/Pro Forma**

Mark Truckey presented the open space pro forma in preparation for the 2015 budgeting process. Overall not much has changed except for some special projects.

Mr. Bergeron – Is there any way we can push the \$480,000 for the Blue River restoration off into the future if we need more for acquisitions in the future? (Mr. Truckey – We decided not to do that because we are already in pretty good shape for acquisitions.)

Mr. Truckey – There is a good chance Open Space will be asked to contribute to a portion of the cost to stabilize the Reiling Dredge. (Mr. Cospolich – Will this be new precedent?) Open Space has had to contribute to some historic preservation projects in the past, just not in recent years.

Mr. Cospolich – Is the Wellington Oro treatment plant a perpetual line item. (Mr. Truckey – For the time being, yes.)

Mr. Campbell – The TDR revenues are robust in the next couple years, could you explain where that revenue is coming from? (Mr. Truckey – We have several projects approved that require TDRs, that is where the projected revenue is coming from.)

BOSAC generally agreed that any remaining open space fund balance should be allocated towards additional acquisitions or towards paying off debt obligations earlier (i.e. B&B purchase).

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, September 22, 2014, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road. The next meeting is scheduled one week later than normal due to staff attending the annual Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference.

Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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Jeff Cospolich, Chair