

Roll Call

Scott Yule called the September 8, 2008 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included David Rossi, Ellen Hollinshead, Jeff Cospolich, and Monique Merrill. Staff members present were Heide Andersen, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Scott Cline. Brian Lorch from Summit County was also present, as were OSAC members Art Girten and Chris Hart. Paul Semmer and Jan Cutts from the U.S. Forest Service were also present. Jenn Cram and Matt Benedict were also present for the defensible space update.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yule requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that he believed that the name Nightmare on Baldy should be retained.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Yule requested the agenda be adjusted to move the joint meeting agenda item to the first item within the Open Space and Trails section.

Public Comments

Art Girten: The County's open space initiative is on the ballot for the November election and has been combined with other County issues including energy efficiency in County buildings, affordable housing, and forest health. Passage of the ballot initiative would keep the County's open space funding ongoing for 12 more years.

Mr. Rossi: Is there language for future commissioners to divide the funding up? Should we as BOSAC send a letter of support or resolution to express its strong support for the County's funding initiative?

Mr. Lorch: The language has been fine tuned and there is a set amount as a minimum for the open space funding to stay at current levels at a minimum (currently \$2.6 million per year as a minimum). OSAC will be writing a letter of support as well, so it could be appropriate if BOSAC chose to do so.

Mr. Hart: The County's open space tax is tied to the rest of these expenditures, so any support from the open space community would be great.

Ms. Merrill: So, is there a percentage we can tell people goes to open space?

Mr. Lorch: \$2.6 million is the current revenue outlined in the language. That is the minimum and it could be increased.

Mr. Girten: Approximately half of the mill levy will go to open space.

Staff Summary

Defensible Space Projects

Ms. Hollinshead: Is there public education regarding weed infestation that follows forest clearing for defensible space and otherwise.

Matt Benedict: Yes, we promote that information.

Mr. Rossi: Many of the infestations are on public rights of way, so we'll have to clean up our backyards before we tell others that they have to clean up their weeds.

Introduction of new District Ranger

District Ranger Jan Cutts from the USFS was introduced and provided a brief overview of her background, interests and goals as the new District Ranger.

Open Space and Trails

Joint Meeting Follow Up

Ms. Andersen outlined the major consensus points from the joint Town Council/BOSAC meeting. Those items include balancing acquisitions with management, acquisition priorities (work with OSAC to understand acquisition goals and strategies) and the Nature Nordic Center- (Council will give direction for any action and the project is conceptual until 2011 and 2012 when Cucumber debt service will be paid off).

Mr. Rossi: I also think that we should increase acquisitions at a regular rate, like the trails budget. We also need to track those obligations we have such as Cucumber as given expenditures.

Mr. Truckey: We will put the pro forma on the agenda for BOSAC's October meeting.

Mr. Yule: My concern is that I heard some direction about not building new trails. Was this a consensus point?

Ms. Andersen: In speaking with Dr. Warner and Eric Mamula, we do not believe that there is a trail construction moratorium. Decisions just need to be made within a larger perspective.

Mr. Rossi: The consensus I heard was that the focus was on acquisition rather than new trail construction. So being strategic in expenditures is important.

Mr. Cospolich: Efficiencies are important, but not always possible. Council is seeking clear direction from BOSAC, both from individuals and the commission as a whole.

Ms. Andersen: Mayor Warner requested more details regarding the different discussions and rationales from decisions when they are not unanimous.

Mr. Rossi: BOSAC needs to be more strategic because land is more expensive. I disagree that most of the land is gone. There are many opportunities for acquisition and the funding should be held for those purposes. There will be some hard choices in future.

Ms. Merrill: Site visits are very helpful, which is why I was pushing for two meetings a month.

Cucumber Gulch Preserve Access Points

Mr. Reid outlined the access issue to the Cucumber Gulch Preserve and requested BOSAC feedback on the access that leads to the base of Peak 8. The social trail remains, even after a minor closure effort related to the construction of the detention pond below the base area. Staff seeks input as to whether we should forcibly close the route, or keep it open.

Mr. Cospolich: The new construction on Peak 8 base will increase use, but that is an important connection for a lot of users.

Ms. Merrill: Could you just use a post at the access and place a fence and signage down lower?

Ms. Hollinshead: I am worried about Cucumber once the base of Peak 8 is built out. We should talk to the ski area to improve access on the ski area to drive people away from Cucumber and towards the ski area.

Ms. Andersen: Mr. Reid and I plan to meet with Lucy Kay to have that discussion.

Mr. Cospolich: The trail is mostly for locals to get to the Peak 8 trails.

Ms. Andersen: It will be a major magnet for visitors. It will also have dog access issues.

Mr. Yule: The question is big picture. Do we want that access point there?

Ms. Hollinshead: I feel sorry for those who lose access. It would be helpful to have signage explaining why it is closed. We should try to close it to protect the gulch. It is not a recreation wonderland. We are trying to protect the wildlife.

BOSAC recommended closure of the access point.

Mr. Yule: The newest issue is the access from the cul-de-sac from Shock Hill down to the sewer lift station at Josie's cabin. It may be worth a site visit by BOSAC.

BOSAC scheduled a site visit to evaluate the new Shock Hill access for the lift station. Scheduled for 9/29 at 4 pm (meet behind Town Hall).

French Gulch Trail Proposal

Mr. Reid outlined a proposed trail on the south side of French Gulch, near the Reiling Dredge, to create a loop with the existing B&B Trail. OSAC looked at the concept and agree to pursue it, with the condition of performing an environmental evaluation on the trail.

Mr. Rossi: How much will this trail cost? Is it a good candidate for VOC support? (Approximately \$30,000 and it could be a good candidate for a VOC project.)

Ms. Hollinshead: I am worried about the environmental aspect of the trail. We need experts to evaluate the impacts. Why would it have to be rerouted from the existing social trail at the beginning?

Mr. Reid: We will perform an environmental and historical evaluation of the trail before construction. The reroute of the existing social trail would be to protect the cabin sites associated with the Reiling Dredge.

Mr. Cospolich: I question how much use this trail will get, but there is support for it from BOSAC.

French Gulch Historical Signage

Mr. Reid outlined the background of the proposed historical signage in French Gulch, then deferred to Ms. Hollinshead to express the concerns she wanted to bring to BOSAC.

Ms. Hollinshead: I have had a concern about this being a driving tour and less of a recreational tour for non-motorized users. The reality is that it is not geared to people like us. People will drive up and go to them. At the Reiling Dredge TH, there will be a map. I think it is important to be useful to both recreationists and historical site-based visitors. I think it should give trail difficulty ratings. The map will also identify all of the sites, thereby encouraging people to visit all of them. Some of the signs were too close to the trail, so we moved a few of them. Site #6 on Minnie Mine should be removed because it is too far out and the historical folks don't even know what the site name or info is. There was also a sign at the dangerous intersection (#5). I suggested moving it up to the existing ditch. It would be great to get it out of the intersection. I am confused about the motivation of these signs. It makes sense to group them closer together at the Reiling Dredge. There is a void between the planning and the location of the various signs. Could we move some of the signs closer to the trailhead?

Mr. Rossi: I agree with you on #5. It needs to be moved out of there. Up on the ditch makes sense to me.

Mr. Truckey: The motivation is for historians to see these spots and for cyclists to learn about the sites they are passing. It will help with developing an ethic for protecting these sites.

Ms. Andersen: This concept was originally mentioned by Mayor Warner and he used the Mineral Belt Trail as a good example of a non-motorized historical interpretive tour. The goal is to inform both residents and visitors.

Ms. Merrill: Where else are signs similar to these? (Iowa Hill)

Mr. Rossi: The signs are supposed to be 12x12, smaller than those at Iowa Hill.

Mr. Semmer: How does this signage project relate to the greater Golden Horseshoe interpretive projects?

Mr. Truckey: There is a distinction between the frontcountry and backcountry sites. These are frontcountry sites, whereas backcountry sites may have only a post with a number (to match a brochure) or nothing at all.

Mr. Lorch: We also have equipment working on the Reiling Dredge TH. Should we have this conversation about making this trailhead larger to accommodate more than six cars? It would be a more efficient and cost-effective to enlarge the trailhead now.

Ms. Andersen: If BOSAC is going to have a consensus comment to Council, it is only fair for all BOSAC members to see the site.

Ms. Hollinshead: My major point is to move sites five and six to make it more recreation friendly.

BOSAC agreed to leave the parking lot size as it is for now.

Ms. Merrill: I would like more information on the numbers of people they foresee using these trails to see these signs.

Mr. Rossi: The Council has asked BHA to be careful and not market this site to drive more people there. I am concerned about driving more motor traffic up into French Gulch. We should look into making the trail connection from Town to the Reiling Dredge.

Mr. Truckey: It is part of the BHA's portfolio, but they have gotten the message not to make this a primary focus.

Mr. Rossi: Some of these trails are very technical and challenging. We should encourage people to take the long road and not just get out of their cars to learn something.

Ms. Hollinshead: I think it will be a neat experience, but I think most people will focus on the far uphill end. I would encourage people to see the various sites, particularly site number five.

BOSAC requested a copy of the map of historical sites. BOSAC will get comments to Council in time for the Council meeting on the 23rd.

Mr. Yule: No major issues here. If we move a few signs, I see no big deal. People will drive there. That is not remote backcountry.

Historical Stabilization Projects

Mr. Reid outlined the stabilization efforts in the Golden Horseshoe (Jesse and X10U8 ore chute are complete) and the proposal to spend an additional \$6,000 of Town funds to place a roof over the jig at the Lucky mine site.

Mr. Rossi: Why isn't this coming out of BHA's budget?

Ms. Merrill: I think it should come from the BHA budget, not the open space budget.

Mr. Lorch: There is a line between stabilization and restoration. OSAC was comfortable with this project as stabilization.

Mr. Cospolich: I think we should defer to Council on the expenditure.

Mr. Yule: I would partner with this project. After this, the BHA should make a presentation to BOSAC about the various projects, the costs and what role BOSAC should play.

Mr. Rossi: Stabilization is important, but slowing deterioration is not as important. It is not looking at pending collapse. Town Council has been spending money on these projects and should be taken out of Town general fund, not open space.

Ms. Andersen: This from the first mine site inventory, that had a list of endangered mine sites. The BHA is not soliciting money. Instead, staff is following through with existing directives from BOSAC.

Mr. Rossi: Since they are new, can we shift some of the responsibilities to the BHA? The Town general fund can pay for these expenditures.

Mr. Hart: Paying for projects gives you the clout to direct the discussion with the BHA.

Mr. Lorch: This discussion is important to have.

BOSAC chose to defer to Council to decide if this is a priority and from what fund it should come from. It is also worthwhile to look at potential future stabilization expenditures coming from a fund other than open space.

Executive Session

Mr. Rossi made a motion at 8:27 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Mr. Cospolich seconded the motion. Mr. Rossi motioned to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Yule seconded the motion. The session ended at 9:15 p.m.

Commissioner Issues

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 13, 2008 in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Mr. Rossi motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Merrill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.