

Roll Call

Matt Stais called the July 14, 2008 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. Other BOSAC members present included David Rossi, Ellen Hollinshead, Scott Yule, Jeff Cospolich, Dennis Kuhn and Monique Merrill. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Scott Cline, Jenn Cram and Peter Grosshuesch. Jeff Westcott, Mike Zobbe, Jim Nextall, Ray and Maria Huff and Gary Gallagher were also present in the audience. Eric Petterson from Rocky Mountain Ecological Services and Brian Lorch from Summit County were also present. Gary Green and Mark Benedict from Red White and Blue Fire Department were also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with minor edits.

Approval of Agenda

An Executive Session item was added to the agenda.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Workplan Update

Mr. Kuhn: I had a chance to ride the new Chantilly trail on Western Sky Ranch and it was great. How will they prevent motorized use on that trail? (The Town has made suggestions on gates and fencing. The trail has not technically been dedicated to Summit County yet. Some of the trail has been temporarily obliterated by tree removal work, but it will be restored before dedication.)

Open Space and Trails

Breckenridge Crest Marathon discussion

Jeff Westcott of Maverick Sports Promotions requested a realignment of the Breck Crest Marathon (Sunday August 31) course to go through the Cucumber PMA. Pertinent issues include: one last hill on the ski area is difficult for athletes at the very end of race; construction at Peak 8 base is a real challenge; only 76 participants competed in the full marathon last year and they were spread out over the course between four and eight hours, so it is unlikely that the eight at a time rule will be exceeded; the competitors are on foot, so they are the lowest impact group. We are just asking for one year PMA variance for this race. The closest feed station would be at the end of Peaks trail in the woods before road. No dirt bikes would be used to sweep/monitor course. Half marathon and 5k do not need to go through the Gulch. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of trail within the PMA would be affected.

Mr. Reid: The route could be managed, but BOSAC needs to consider any precedent that is set by their decision.

Mr. Kuhn would like copy of Cucumber Gulch Recreation Master Plan.

Mr Cospolich sees this as an opportunity to raise awareness of Cucumber Gulch Preserve and supports the proposal.

Ms. Merrill: I agree with Jeff Cospolich.

Mr Yule: I am in favor of running the race through the Preserve, but want to ensure that there is no impact at the end of the race. There should be a condition that the race promoter cleans up any litter immediately after the race- especially because there is a feed station just before the PMA.

Mr. Grosshuesch: We should we check with Christie Carello and make any approval subject to her review and comfort level.

Mr. Yule: I move to recommend to Council a variance to group size to Breck Crest event for 2008 that would take into consideration approval of Christie Carello, clean up at feed station, education and awareness for race participants with an evaluation of the route after the event to determine any impacts. There would be no cap on the number of participants. This is recommended to be a one time variance and future decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Merrill: I second the motion.

Vote: Unanimous 7 yes votes

Summit Huts Cabin discussion

Mike Zobbe, representing Summit Huts, provided an overview of a potential new hut site on the flanks of Bald Mountain. Summit Huts has a committee looking for new hut sites. The ridgeline between Weber and Black Gulch is a favorable site and they have put forth a proposal to USFS. The USFS asked if the hut could be placed on private property first, including open space. The USFS asked about Black Gulch (county/town open space parcel). This potential site has problems with Mt. Meadows Homeowners access and with skiing terrain and avalanche issues. The vision is 12 to 14 people in hut with passive solar. Access would have to be finalized to make it work. First question: would Town and County entertain this idea? Second: If so, would OS want to sell property or do long-term lease? Third: Overnight parking and trail access would need to be finalized to get up French Gulch. USFS NEPA evaluation would be required on the National Forest. I have been working with Christie Carello on where to put in trail from wildlife perspective. I request that BOSAC keep this idea on its radar in case the USFS denies the preferred location and we have to move to Plan B (Black Gulch area). I have talked with historical structure experts on Black Gulch and it is possible that we could perform some preservation efforts on the Columbine mill site as part of this work.

Mr. Stais: I suggest you do what you can to keep the site away from avalanche zones

Mountain Pine Beetle assessment

Eric Petterson provided an overview of Mountain Pine Beetle assessment of open space properties. Those properties close to homes make most sense for priorities in treatment. The best treatment is to cut the trees down. Properties with easy access will be prioritized.

Jenn Cram: The town also has a grant to partner with the Red, White and Blue fire department to plan and implement a fuels reduction strategy with a public education element. We need to create defensible space. Some possible fuel break candidates would be on the edge of subdivisions (e.g. the Highlands). We are focusing on reforestation efforts. We have a September 1 grant deadline for the implementation of some of our projects. We plan to complete our mapping project by November. This would help direct future wildfire protection efforts.

Mr. Kuhn: What is the width of a fuel break? (Typically, the width is three times the height of the tallest trees.) Ski trails could serve that capacity.

Mr. Petterson: The course level analysis would be done utilizing GIS technology/ CAD. We will identify potential project sites, then get on the ground to figure out priorities. We will also have to engage the USFS, which will require NEPA analysis for any work.

Mr. Cram: We have a proposed fuel break around Discovery Ridge on Town open space tract. It would be a series of patch cuts. Eventually the patch cuts will need to be thinned to avoid doghair stands from developing.

Mr. Cospolich: Is there a model in Grand County?

Mr. Petterson: Removal efforts in Grand County are mainly being done on a private level. In Summit County, it's going to be expensive to perform these projects because loggers have plenty of work right now. Vail is a little ahead of Summit County in terms of infestation. They are cutting fuel breaks right now as well.

Ms. Hollinshead: Will lodgepole regenerate in poor soils? Does soil need to be burned or are soil amendments needed?

Mr. Petterson: Lodgepole will regenerate fine in poor soil and soil additives not needed.

Gary Green: If we had the patch cuts in place they could use those areas to work out of in fighting a wildfire.

Mr. Stais: What about Cucumber Gulch?

Mr. Petterson: I studied the area and concluded it is best to leave it alone because it is a sensitive wetland area, not dominated by lodgepole. Low impact access across wetlands

is a big issue. Helicopter the only sensitive access solution, but it is too costly. I recommend not treating for MPB in that area. Let the natural processes run their course.

BOSAC requested copies of the finalized MPB assessment when it is available. BOSAC will be updated on any potential future wildfire efforts as the information is available.

Ms. Cram: The proposed Discovery Ridge project will go to the Planning Commission on 8/5, then on to Council. We want to start work in September. Our match to \$45,000 grant is about \$15,000 (other jurisdictions will also be part of it RWB, Highland Green). The funding for this will be out of the general fund, not open space.

BOSAC agreed that the proposed Discovery Ridge project is a good start. Staff should continue with the planning effort.

Pro Forma discussion

Mark Truckey presented the pro forma with various scenarios for BOSAC consideration. Several large expense items (e.g., acquisition of Cucumber Wedge/Claimjumper parcels, construction of Wellington/Oro treatment plant) have placed a strain on available funds and the pro forma needs to be regularly monitored to ensure funding remains for planned projects. Another potential impact to revenue projections could occur if revenues from anticipated TDR sales never materialize or are delayed several years.

BOSAC recommended that staff reorganize the pro forma document, particularly to provide focus on management, acquisition and administration costs. BOSAC also requested more information on the forest management costs.

BOSAC prioritized the miscellaneous land acquisition line item, such that, if any cuts need to be made, those cuts are spread across other areas (trail construction, 5% expense increase assumption, administration) so that land acquisitions can remain well funded. Staff will check with Finance regarding whether the 5% annual cost increases can be decreased.

Paperless Packets discussion

Mark Truckey presented the details on Mayor Warner's paperless packet initiative.

BOSAC generally agreed with the goals and the implementation of the initiative, but requested a handful of agendas be printed out for the meetings, both for the public and commissioners.

Executive Session

Mr. Cospolich made a motion at 8:59 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss property acquisitions. Mr. Yule seconded the motion. Mr. Rossi motioned to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Yule seconded the motion. The session ended at 9:23 p.m.

Commissioner Issues

BOSAC agreed to evaluate the issues outlined in Ms. Hollinshead's email at the August meeting.

BOSAC agreed to hold a site visit on 7/28 to assess the Gold Run Gulch route.

Mr. Rossi: We need to work with Mr. Middleton about preventing construction access up Gold Run Gulch Road.

Next Meeting

The next BOSAC meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on August 11th in the Town Hall Auditorium. (A site visit is scheduled for 7/28, meeting behind Town Hall at 5:30.)

Mr. Cospolich motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Merrill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.