

### **Roll Call**

Jeff Cospolich called the December 15, 2014 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:40 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Chris Tennal, Elisabeth Lawrence, Jeffrey Bergeron, Jeff Carlson, Craig Campbell and Elizabeth Miller. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Chris Kulick and Tony Overlock. Mayor John Warner, Breckenridge Town Councilmember Ben Brewer, Brian Lorch from Summit County Open Space and Trails, Shelly Grail from the U.S. Forest Service and Breckenridge resident Matt Powers were also in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as presented.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Staff Summary**

#### **Tailor Lode USFS Referral**

Staff presented a U.S. Forest Service referral related to a proposed driveway easement for the Tailor Lode, a 10-acre private mining claim located on the Breckenridge Ski Resort between Peaks 6 and 7. BOSAC also reviewed a draft response letter for Mayor Warner's signature.

Mr. Campbell – How do they enforce seasonal access and other permit conditions? (Ms. Grail – If they violate the conditions of the seasonal requirements, they will lose the easement.)

Ms. Grail – The U.S. Forest Service is required to provide private property access to landowners with inholdings. (Mr. Bergeron - Can they give access strictly through the ski area instead of use the Breckenridge Nordic Center?) We are striving to provide the most logical access on existing routes wherever possible. The administrative access via the green gate and the access road to the Kensho Chair is the most direct existing route.

#### **Monte Cristo Road Plowing Conditional Use Permit Application**

Town of Breckenridge staff responded to a Summit County referral regarding a Conditional Use Permit application to plow portions of the Monte Cristo Road, on the southeastern flank of Quandary Peak. An area landowner has requested permission to plow the road for driveway access and has more recently attempted to deny public access to a historic County Road and recreational route. The Town's comment letter requests that the applicant maintain four inches of snow on the road when plowing (for recreational users) and that the applicant acknowledge public use of the road. The proposal will be further discussed at the December 18<sup>th</sup> Summit County Upper Blue Planning Commission meeting at the County Courthouse.

### **Open Space**

#### **2015 State of the Open Space**

Staff presented the third edition of the State of the Open Space report, which provides detail on the Town open space program's successes since the 1996 passage of the open space tax. This status report is intended to provide an annual update of the program for BOSAC, Town Council, and the general public.

Mr. Campbell – I think it will be helpful to add the Open Space Mission Statement for context at the beginning of the document. (Mr. Kulick – We will incorporate the Mission Statement at the beginning of the document.)

BOSAC recommended posting the State of the Open Space on the Town website and broadcasting its existence via social media and a press release.

### **Field Season Review/Trail Use Data Report**

Staff provided an overview of the Town trail crew's 2014 field season, including new trail construction projects, volunteer contributions, and maintenance tasks. Mr. Overlock also summarized the trail use data collected in 2014.

Mr. Powers – I have heard several times from out-of-town users that they definitely appreciate the care and maintenance we put into our trails. The trails crew's work does not go unnoticed and our trail system pales in comparison to many others.

Mr. Bergeron – It may be a good idea to place “paid for by Open Space” signs at prominent trailheads to promote how the program is wisely using its funds to benefit trail users.

### **Town Council Report**

Town Council Member Elisabeth Lawrence outlined Town Council's discussion regarding BOSAC's program recommendations for a potential future open space fund surplus.

Ms. Lawrence – We are considering a bridge to improve aquatic of the river habitat at Coyne Valley Road. We will bring more information on this potential project in 2015 and the Council will want to hear feedback from BOSAC on all the potential options.

Mr. Tennial – Could a bridge at Coyne Valley have enough height to accommodate wildlife? (Staff – Although the height may be sufficient, the main beneficiaries of the bridge would be fish, since the primary wildlife corridor in that area is down Barton Creek and along the Blue River to Fourmile Bridge.)

Mr. Tennial – Some of the philosophical struggles BOSAC has had previously is the gray area between acquiring backcountry land and developing in-town park space. (Dr. Warner - We are clearly in a gray area when it comes to relief from development and developing in-Town park space but we are getting really positive feedback from the community on those type of acquisitions.)

Dr. Warner – I would love to use some of our Town open space funds to maintain some outlying trails (e.g. CO Trail, Blair Witch, Red Trail, Burro Trail, Baker's Tank) on USFS land and bring them up to our standards. (Staff – If that is direction from BOSAC and Council, then we will investigate assisting with maintenance on trails on the National Forest.)

Mr. Brewer – In-town open space purchases comply with the Open Space plan as long as we don't use open space funds for infrastructure improvements. Also, I feel strongly that we should sunset the parcel's density. It is a good thing to take the density out of the backcountry and bring it into the urban center which eliminates sprawl and lessens the community's development footprint. We are in

a race against time to acquire open space before land prices rise to a level that make acquisition costs prohibitive.

Mr. Bergeron – Do we get the value out of a park that is only used a couple months of the year compared to open space that is used year round? (Dr. Warner – The relief from development of the park is appreciated year round.)

Mr. Cospolich – Has there been any recent consideration of an indoor playground? (Ms. Lawrence – Council may relook at that concept.)

### **Pro Forma Update**

Recent revisions to the open space pro forma have indicated a fund balance surplus, primarily due to increased sales tax revenues. At the November meeting, the BOSAC had a long discussion regarding areas where these surplus dollars could be focused. The BOSAC identified four focus areas to which they recommended additional expenditures be allocated: paydown of debt associated with the B&B property loan, habitat/river restoration, land acquisitions, and trails construction/Hoosier Pass repath. BOSAC's reviewed a revised open space pro forma that includes four additional expense line items in bold that address each of these program priorities.

Mr. Brewer & Ms. Lawrence – Suggested returning the Open Space fund contribution to the McCain river restoration to 30% of the total project cost from a potential 50% contribution reflected on the draft pro forma. (Mr. Bergeron – I agree that it should be 30%.) (Ms. Miller - I prefer the 50% allocation because it would enhance the river restoration.) (Mr. Grosshuesch- Given the in-town location of the project and the Town Council and BOSAC support for allocating more resources for river restoration projects, staff suggested the increase to a 50% share of the project cost.)

Mr. Campbell – I would like to spread the total sum of the proposed 50% over several river restorations instead just allocating it to McCain. The Swan River is considered part of town. It is accessible, just up Tiger Road, and I think we should support all local river restoration projects as a program. (Staff – Only the McCain and the Swan River restorations are ready to implement during the next few years.)

Mr. Lorch – The County seeks a \$300,000 contribution from the Town to match the County's contribution. The County is contributing \$250,000 to the project from the Denver Water Board settlement and an additional \$300,000 from the recent water quality ballot measure. We are seeking a matching \$300,000 from the Town for the Swan River restoration, as I understand that the Town is using its Denver Water Board settlement funds for the McCain restoration. (Mr. Carlson – I think the Swan River restoration is just as important as the McCain. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Miller – Agreed.)

Mr. Bergeron – Should the County contribute to the McCain restoration? (Mr. Lorch – The Swan restoration is on joint land, and the McCain is not.)

Mr. Truckey – Since the BOSAC has recommended to maintain the 30 % contribution on McCain, the "habitat/river restoration" line item could be adjusted to \$150,000 per year. This would be adequate to support the Swan River project and other projects.

BOSAC recommended using the first two years of this line item, a total of \$300,000, for the Swan River restoration.

Mr. Carlson – Is the Hoosier Pass Recpath a realistic project to have as a line item? (Staff – The intent would be to establish a reserve fund to incentivize the construction of the trail, at least to Blue River, in order to provide an additional recpath amenity and a commuting route to and from Blue River.) (Mr. Tennal – The worst case scenario is it becomes a fund reserve, so I am supportive of retaining a line item.)

BOSAC – Recommended supporting the Swan River restoration project at \$150,000, per year, over the next two years, fund 30% of the total cost of the McCain river restoration, and spread the remainder of the projected budget surplus on the other focus areas (i.e. acquisitions, debt paydown, and trails).

### **Reed Canary Grass Eradication Update**

Staff presented the inaugural report on the reed canary grass eradication effort in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. As BOSAC knows, 2015 was the first of a five-year plan to remove this invasive species in the area, along with several other noxious weeds. Given the restrictions on the use of herbicides in Cucumber Gulch Preserve, the reed canary grass eradication effort is planned to occur via manual removal over a five-year period (i.e. mowing and digging up of root mass). If successful, the eradication project will also serve as model research for other entities seeking to eradicate reed canary grass without using herbicides.

The report indicates reasonable progress in the first year of the eradication effort, as well as the need to continue the mowing, digging, and reseeding efforts for several more years to accomplish the objective.

BOSAC encouraged staff to continue the eradication effort.

### **Friends of Dillon Ranger District and Colorado Fourteener's Initiative Grant Requests**

In 2014, BOSAC recommended providing grant support for two trail-based volunteer organizations to support work in the Upper Blue basin. The Friends of Dillon Ranger District (FDRD) received \$10,000 to complete several trail maintenance projects in the Upper Blue basin related to trails of interest to the Town (e.g. Peaks, Mountain Pride, Pinball Alley, Quandary Peak, and Colorado Trails). Also, the Colorado Fourteener's Initiative (CFI) received \$1,000 in 2014 for peak steward volunteer projects on heavily-traveled Quandary Peak. Both of these grants were reviewed by BOSAC and recommended for approval. The Town Council grants committee then approved BOSAC's recommendation

BOSAC reviewed two trail-related grant requests from FDRD and CFI for 2015. Both applications are similar to 2014, and have increased in amount (\$12,000 and \$2,500, respectively). BOSAC's final recommendations regarding these applications will be reviewed for approval by the Town Council grants committee.

Mr. Bergeron – Are we satisfied with the quality of work from the FDRD? (Staff – In general we are, and think it is important from a community standpoint to support FDRD's efforts.)

Mr. Bergeron – Can they focus their efforts in 2015 on Horseshoe Gulch and the trails by the Keystone ranch (e.g. Red Trail, Colorado Trail) like Mayor Warner mentioned? (Staff – It may be possible, but it is out of the Upper Blue Basin. We will look into it.)

BOSAC – Supported both grant requests under the condition that both entities provide a detailed written report (preferably with before and after photos) on the trail work conducted.

**Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, January 19, 2015, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

Mr. Tennal motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Carlson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Jeff Cospolich, Chair